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**CONTACTS:**

**Tracy Quillin, Kansas Humanities Council, (785) 357-0359**

**Mary Beth Chambers, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, (785) 291-8869**

TO: *Kansas media outlets*

**KANSAS HUMANITIES COUNCIL TO BRING TRAVELING  
SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT TO STATE WITH GRANT FROM  
THE BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF KANSAS FOUNDATION**

The Kansas Humanities Council is kicking off a "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America" statewide initiative in 2015 thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation. Anchored by a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit of the same name, "Hometown Teams" promotes healthy behaviors through exhibitions and public programs about sports and fitness activities. The exhibit will visit six locations from January to November 2015, with an additional 16 partner sites participating in programs and activities to extend the conversation on sports and fitness to a total of 22 communities.

The Smithsonian's "Hometown Teams" exhibit will visit Ellinwood, Goodland, Greensburg, Atchison, Perry and Humboldt. The 16 partner sites that will offer additional educational and exercise opportunities are Blue Rapids, Cottonwood Falls, Eudora, Glasco, Great Bend, Hays, Independence, Jetmore, La Cygne, Larned, Lawrence, Lyons, North Newton, Oakley, Pratt and Wamego. A full schedule of events can be found at [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org).

Using the popular topic of sports and engaging local and national exhibitions as a gateway, "Hometown Teams" encourages Kansans to get moving through eight "Minute for Movement" activity stations in the Smithsonian exhibition, and fitness activities and walking initiatives in all 22 communities.

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"By bringing 'Hometown Teams' to our state, the Kansas Humanities Council is providing Kansans with a wonderful opportunity to both experience a quality Smithsonian exhibit

while considering how they might improve their own health, along with that of the community in which they live, by increasing their physical activity," said Marlou Wegener, chief operating officer of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation. "The Foundation is proud to fund this wonderful initiative and commends the Kansas Humanities Council for its vision to bring 'Hometown Teams' to Kansas."

Julie Mulvihill, executive director of the Kansas Humanities Council, said the "Hometown Teams" initiative offers something for Kansans of all ages.

"The Kansas Humanities Council is delighted to partner with the 22 host and partner sites for the 'Hometown Teams' project," Mulvihill said. "We are grateful to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation for supporting exhibition enhancements and activities to promote healthy behaviors to community members of all ages."

For more information about the "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America," visit [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org) or call (785) 357-0359.

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**About the Kansas Humanities Council**

The Kansas Humanities Council conducts and supports community-based humanities programs, serves as a financial resource through an active grant-making program, and encourages Kansans to participate in their communities. For more information contact the Kansas Humanities Council at (785) 357-0359 or [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org).

**About the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation**

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation promotes the good health of Kansans who live in the Foundation's 103-county service area. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, the largest health insurer in the state, incorporated the Foundation in 2005 as a way to further deepen its commitment to helping all Kansans lead healthier lives, an effort which both entities believe is an essential factor in keeping health care affordable. Through its giving, the Foundation focuses on key health issues that can impact the lives of many Kansans. It funds programs and activities that are, at their core, health-related and in particular, promote health improvement, health care access, health education, healthy behaviors and prevention initiatives. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas

Foundation and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Both entities serve all Kansas counties except Johnson and Wyandotte. For more information on the Foundation, visit [www.bcbsks.com/foundation](http://www.bcbsks.com/foundation).