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CREATE Foundation James Hugh Ray Community Affiliate Award

LOFT (Lafayette/Oxford Foundation for Tomorrow), recently received the CREATE Foundation's James Hugh Ray Community Affiliate Award at CREATE's annual Fall Summit on November 7th in Tupelo. The award criteria are based on the following: an active, engaged board of directors, a giving board, growth in its endowment fund, visibility in its community, leadership role in its community, effective, publicized grant-making and board attendance at Affiliate meetings.

The award is given to commemorate James Hugh Ray's many contributions to the northeast Mississippi region and to the CREATE Foundation. "Mr. Ray served with loyalty and integrity on both the Journal and CREATE Boards and became the legal architect and advisor for establishing the CREATE Foundation," stated Clay Foster, Chairman & CEO, Journal, Inc. The award was established from a \$60,000 endowment, funded by Journal, Inc. and other friends of Mr. Ray.

LOFT has made many contributions to its community. It was established in 2002 in partnership with the CREATE Foundation for the benefit of Lafayette County. To date, LOFT has received over a half million dollars in contributions to its endowment fund. LOFT has disbursed over \$200,000 in local grants for the benefit of Oxford and Lafayette County. LOFT projects include Angel Ranch, Camp Lake Stephens Methodist Camp, Habitat for Humanity, Interfaith Compassion Ministry, Leapfrog, Oxford Community Garden Association, Oxford Film Festival, Oxford Medical Ministries, Burns Belfry, Theatre Oxford, Yoknapatawpha Arts Council, and many other projects that benefit Lafayette County.

Jean Jordan, President and Laura Parkinson, Executive Director received the award on behalf of the LOFT Board of Directors.