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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Over \$340,000 Raised to Support Community Endowment of Lexington through Leslie and Colin Masson Challenge**

**January 13, 2016 (Lexington, MA)** — In November of 2015, Lexington residents and Founding Members of the Community Endowment of Lexington (CEL), Leslie and Colin Masson, agreed to match dollar for dollar, all gifts made to the Endowment through the end of the year up to \$100,000. We are delighted to announce that thanks to the generosity of the Lexington community, over \$240,000 was raised—more than double the original goal. “When CEL approached us about the matching grant we were a bit worried that there wouldn’t be enough time to make the \$100,000 goal - but it wouldn’t be a challenge otherwise! We are awed by the work CEL and the Foundation for MetroWest did to make it happen and are thrilled at the response from the citizens of Lexington,” said Leslie. Her husband, Colin added, “We love this place called Lexington and together we made it a better place.”

The Community Endowment of Lexington, an Endowed Fund of the Foundation for MetroWest, was established in 2013 by Lexington residents as an initiative to build a permanent endowment to strengthen the community. CEL supports nonprofits serving Lexington that help make life healthier and more enjoyable for residents in the areas of health and human services, arts and culture, environment and community building. In just two years, CEL has granted more than \$50,000 to nonprofits including the Lexington Symphony, Special Needs Arts Programs, and to organizations addressing teen suicide and relationship violence.

“We are incredibly thankful to Leslie and Colin Masson for their ongoing commitment to CEL, and to all those who were inspired to give in response to their love for Lexington,” said Leslie Zales, CEL Board Chair. “With the funds raised from this challenge, we can continue our work of ensuring Lexington remains a strong and vibrant community, now and in the future.”

In the coming year, the Community Endowment of Lexington plans to continue growing its positive impact in the town of Lexington through both its competitive grant program and other events. To learn about their work and get involved, visit: [www.lexingtonendowment.org](http://www.lexingtonendowment.org)

About the Community Endowment of Lexington: The Community Endowment of Lexington, an Endowed Fund of the Foundation for MetroWest, promotes a spirit of philanthropic giving to help enhance the quality of life for all Lexington residents now, and for the future. CEL is a permanent source of funding supporting community needs and opportunities, providing ways for donors to give back or leave a legacy to our community. For more information, visit [www.lexingtonendowment.org](http://www.lexingtonendowment.org)

About Foundation for MetroWest

Established in 1995, the Foundation for MetroWest is the only community foundation serving the 33 cities and towns in the region. We promote philanthropy in the region, help donors maximize the impact of their local giving, serve as a resource for local nonprofits and enhance the quality of life for all our residents. Since inception, the Foundation has granted \$11.6 million to charitable organizations and currently stewards more than \$15 million in charitable assets for current needs and future impact. To learn more, please visit [www.foundationformetrowest.org](http://www.foundationformetrowest.org) or call 508.647.2260.

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