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Press Release

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FROM: Maria Sych, Marketing & Administrative Associate
SUBJECT: Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Fund at MICF

The preservation of an iconic Straits of Mackinac landmark is now ensured with the help of a new fund at Mackinac Island Community Foundation. The Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Fund was established this July by Patricia "Pat" Eckenstahler of the Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society in honor of various parties who helped build, restore, and preserve the light.

Mrs. Eckenstahler and her husband, Chuck, have been with the Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society since its inception, serving in founding and leadership roles with the organization. Individuals honored through the creation of the fund include the last lightkeeper of the Round Island post, Bert Proctor, and his daughter, Gerty Rocheleau, who Pat Eckenstahler became acquainted with following an overnight stay at Round Island Lighthouse as part of an auction purchase in 2005.

Mrs. Eckenstahler is excited to work with MICF to help preserve the light and its history. "I am so happy to establish this avenue of funding for the long-term preservation of Round Island Lighthouse, which will allow the Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society to focus on fund raising and completion of immediate need projects," she explains.

The future of the light requires an endowment of funds for ongoing preservation, and the new fund will serve as support for the Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society to work with the Hiawatha National Forest Service, which maintains the location. Perpetual funding will allow the Society to utilize the help of experts who are able to carry out restoration efforts and conduct repairs, focusing on the structural integrity and exterior appearance of the lighthouse, oil house and privy, plus the protective water edge riprap.

"It likely will take a million dollars to preserve and maintain Round Island Lighthouse for the future," says Mrs. Eckenstahler, "This fund ensures that the Light will be there for future generations."

For more information on the Mackinac Island Community Foundation and its various funds, visit micf.org. A detailed history of Round Island Lighthouse and its restoration can be found at Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society's website, roundislandlightmichigan.com.

Mackinac Island Community Foundation, based on Mackinac Island, is committed to making a difference in the lives of individuals, families and organizations on Mackinac Island. Grants are provided to non-profit organizations primarily on Mackinac Island and Mackinac County for projects to enhance child development, protect natural resources, promote the arts, and build community on Mackinac Island. We invite you to learn more about the Foundation and its history by visiting our website www.micf.org.

