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**For Immediate Release**

**Office of Public Information**

### **Festival of Wreaths Exceeds Expectations**

**NEOSHO, MO** – The Crowder College Foundation exceed last year’s record by raising \$121,000 at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Wreaths held Tuesday, November 17, in the Elsie Plaster Community Center on the Neosho campus.

Attendance topped 450 people including first time attendees and those who have been supporters since the inaugural event in 2003. Festival of Wreaths is the Foundation’s largest single fundraising event for scholarships.

A surprising “Donate Now” opportunity during the auction boasted sixteen individuals, families and Business owners donating \$16,000 for scholarships. “We always have people who will tell us they want to make a cash donation, but to have 16 different people step up was amazing,” stated Cindy Branscum, Director of Institutional Advancement.

This year, the Foundation had 501auctions.com provide online bidding until the silent auction closed. This allowed buyers the option of bidding without being present the night of the event.

Hundreds of area businesses and supporters of the college donate items to the auction. Live auction services were provided by Bob Lasswell and Associates.

For more information about the event, contact the Crowder College Foundation Office at (417)455-5646 or e-mail: [foundation@crowder.edu](mailto:foundation@crowder.edu)