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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Foundation Elects New Officers, Directors

April 24, 2007 -- The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA) on Tuesday elected a new slate of officers and a director at its 12th annual meeting

The Foundation's new officers are **Thomas F. Lyons, BankFive President and CEO, Chair; Linda Bodenmann, Chief Operating Officer for SouthCoast Health Systems, Vice Chair; Mary Louise Nunes, CPA, Treasurer; John J. Feitelberg, President of HUB International Feitelberg, Clerk; and Elizabeth Isherwood, President of Moore & Isherwood, Past Chair. Craig J. Dutra is President of CFSEMA.**

Also elected to the board is **Richard Toomey, Esq., Executive Vice President and General Counsel for Sovereign Bancorp, Inc. and Sovereign Bank.**

Outgoing Chair Elizabeth Isherwood called the Foundation "a dynamic organization that continues to change and evolve as we grow...The past two years have been a period of tremendous growth, beginning with the transfer of \$8 million in assets from the Acushnet Foundation in June 2005," she continued. "The number of funds housed at the Community Foundation has increased from 51 to 92, and our assets have grown from \$5.4 million to \$16.5 million."

"Today marks the end of my tenure as board chair, but not my commitment to the Community Foundation. It is an organization that we can all be proud of," Ms. Isherwood added.

Former Board Member **Kim Clark** also was elected as **Director Emeritus** at the Annual Meeting, joining **C. Eric Lindell** in that

capacity. Ms. Clark, a co-founder of the Foundation, served on the board from the Foundation's inception in 1995 until last year.

“Sixteen years ago, in her capacity as a trustee of the Island Foundation, Kim was active in the original steering committee that began to lay the groundwork for the creation,” said **Past Chair Peter C. Bullard, Esq.** “Kim is passionate about our mission and has been a tireless advocate for inclusiveness, integrity and accountability.”

Other Board Members who were **re-elected include Seth Garfield, Peter T. Kavanaugh and June A. Smith, Esq.** Also on the board are **Margherita Baldwin, Peter C. Bogle, Esq., Carl J. Cruz, Sister Kathleen Harrington, Richard L. Lafrance, Rev. Robert P. Lawrence, Albert E. Lees, III, Deborah A. McLaughlin, Hannah TC Moore, George Oliveira, William T. Kennedy, Calvin Siegal, Dean Robert V. Ward, Jr. and David F. Westgate.**

About the Community Foundation

Since 1995, area residents have been turning to the Community Foundation to make their philanthropic giving as effective as possible. CFSEMA is a public charity serving thousands of people who share a common concern – improving the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts.

While the Foundation's primary grantmaking focus is on the SouthCoast communities of Greater New Bedford, Greater Fall River, and Greater Plymouth County, CFSEMA is a regional foundation serving 41 cities and towns. To date, the Community Foundation has assets of more than \$16.5 million and has distributed over \$5 million from 92 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region.

To learn more about the Foundation, visit www.cfsema.org.

Biographies of New Officers and Board Members

Incoming Board Member Richard Toomey, Esq., is Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Sovereign Bancorp, Inc., and Sovereign Bank, which has about \$82 billion in assets and over 780 branches in the New England and Mid-Atlantic states. He lives in Mattapoisett with his wife, Jeanne, and son, Sam, 13. Mr. Toomey graduated from the University of New Hampshire and New York University School of Law. He began his legal career at the New York City law firm of Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, and then became Senior Counsel at Chase Manhattan Bank in NYC. In 1980, he returned to Massachusetts to be General Counsel of Shawmut Bank. Shawmut was acquired by Fleet Bank and Mr. Toomey was named Group Senior Counsel of Fleet Financial Group and General Counsel of Fleet Bank, N.A. He has also served on the faculty of the graduate program at the Morin Center for Banking Law Studies of Boston University Law School.

Incoming Board Chair Thomas F. Lyons is President and CEO of the Fall River-based BankFive. He is currently Vice Chair of the CFSEMA Board of Directors, and chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. Mr. Lyons has served on the Nominating Committee and on the CEO Search Committee. He is active on a number of boards and committees including St. Anne's Hospital, the Fall River Area Chamber of Commerce, where he is current Vice Chair, the United Way of Greater Fall River, and the SouthCoast Development Partnership, where he is Co- Chair. Mr. Lyons is a retired captain from the U.S. Navy Reserve, with 28 years of service including 7 years active duty. He lives with his wife in Middletown, R.I.

Vice Chair Linda Bodenmann is the Chief Operating Officer for SouthCoast Health Systems, and previously served as their Chief Financial Officer. Ms. Bodenmann has chaired the Community Foundation's Investment Committee for the past three years. She worked at Children's Hospital in Boston before coming to SouthCoast Health Systems. Ms. Bodenmann also serves on the Board of Fontbonne Academy in Milton, and lives with her husband in Marshfield.

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