STATEMENT OF KATHY KOLKHORST RUDDY, PRESIDENT OF THE WHALE PROJECT, IN RESPONSE TO TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE JUNEAU COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The dream of former Mayor Bill Overstreet to place a full-sized humpback whale on the waterfront in Juneau is about to be realized.

The generous gift the Whale Committee received today will make it possible to complete the foundry work and infinity pool so that the Whale will be on the waterfront for all to enjoy by the third quarter of 2015.

Because of this incredibly generous donation, we will now turn our attention to complete the final element in Mayor Overstreet's vision: the waterworks that will create the sensation of the whale in breach. Our board intends to complete all remaining fundraising by December 15.

Many thanks to our anonymous donor and to all our donors. Thank you again Mayor Bill for the inspiration you brought to Juneau on this and many other things over the years. And, thank you Skip Wallen for your creative genius which has converted Bill Overstreet's vision into a world-class sculpture.

For further information about the sculpture, visit www.alaskawhaleproject.org.