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SMITH HAUGHEY RICE & ROEGGE MAKE \$30,000 DONATION TO NATIONAL WRITERS SERIES.

Traverse City, Mich. – April 2, 2013

Earlier this month, **Smith, Haughey, Rice & Roegge** made a **\$30,000** donation to the **National Writers Series** making them one of an exclusive group of **Founder's Circle** donors that include individuals, businesses and foundations. Founder's Circle members commit to an annual donation of \$10,000 for three years. Other Founder's Circle members include Diana and Richard Milock, the Begonia Family Foundation, Casey Cowell, Susie and Bill Janis, Ross and Brenda Biederman, and the Biederman Foundation.

Smith, Haughey, Rice & Roegge attorney and shareholder **Robert Parker** stated, "Smith, Haughey, Rice & Roegge is extremely pleased to be able to support the efforts of the National Writers Series, not only in bringing nationally recognized authors to northwest lower Michigan but in their development of the **Front Street Writers** project, both of which enrich our community and our clients."

The National Writers Series (NWS), founded in 2009, is a year-round book festival bringing award-winning authors, journalists and storytellers together with thousands of fans in downtown Traverse City. NWS was founded by *New York Times* bestselling author and Traverse City native **Doug Stanton**.

"We are thrilled to have Smith, Houghey, Rice & Roegge join the Founder's Circle," said **Doug Stanton**. "We believe the writer and storyteller must be nurtured—our motto is, A book in every hand on Front Street, and everything we do is meant to support writers as they make a life and a living through the imaginative art form we call literature. At the same time, we as readers are changed by the power of great storytelling—leaning in around the fire of a great book makes us a community, it makes us human."

Thanks to genrous donations of community members and supporters, in amounts as small as \$1 to donations like that of Smith, Haughey, Rice & Roegge, NWS is able to maintain reasonable ticket prices and offer discounted tickets to educators and students. To date, NWS has hosted more than 60 of the world's most acclaimed, award-winning, and bestselling authors.

Stanton further stated, "NWS is dedicated to bringing to life great books and authors in downtown Traverse City, events that happen only in a few select cities in the entire United States. We are enormously grateful to everyone at Smith, Houghey, Rice & Roegge in sharing this vision with us."

Net proceeds from NWS events and monetary contributions from donors and sponsors support the National Writers Series and its scholarship fund. The scholarship fund benefits college-bound writing and arts students attending Grand Traverse regional high schools. NWS, in partnership with Traverse City Area Public Schools

(TCAPS), also directs the Front Street Writers Program, a one-of-a-kind creative writing workshop for high school students. Proceeds from NWS events and contributions from donors and sponsors also support the Front Street Writers program.

In 2013 NWS will award three (3) \$2,5000 scholarships – one each in fiction, non-fiction and poetry. With the announcement of the 2013 winners the NWS scholarship program, now in its third year, will have awarded more than \$20,000 to aspiring young authors

NWS will officially announce **Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge's** Founder's Circle membership at the April 9 National Writers Series event with Blaine Harden. Harden is the author of the international bestseller *Escape from Camp 14*. Harden will be joined on stage by special guest host Lucas Wittmann. Wittmann the books & literary editor for *Newsweek/The Daily Beast*.

The remainder of the 2013 National Writers Series Winter / Spring season includes a stellar line-up of award-winning authors and publishing luminaries.

- April 25: **Gillian Flynn** / *Gone Girl*
with *New York Times* bestselling author and NWS co-founder **Doug Stanton**
- May 14: **Nathaniel Philbrick** / *Bunker Hill*
with Bibliostar.TV founder **Rich Fahle**
- May 22: **Jason Matthews** / *Red Sparrow*
with **Doug Stanton**
- June 6: **Colum McCann** / *Transatlantic*
with *O, The Oprah Magazine* books editor **Leigh Haber**
- June 24: **Temple Grandin** / *The Autistic Brain*
with Byliner.com book editor **Laura Hohnhold**

ABOUT SMITH, HAUGHEY, RICE & ROEGGE:

Smith Haughey has been providing legal services to clients across Michigan and beyond since 1941. With offices in Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids and Traverse City, the firm provides specialized practice areas to provide the most qualified and experienced counsel for a full range of legal matters. Equipped with more than 85 attorneys and counselors, Smith Haughey continues to strive to deliver superior value through outstanding expertise and exceptional efficiency. For more information, call (231) 929-4847 or visit www.shrr.com.

ABOUT NATIONAL WRITERS SERIES:

The National Writers Series, founded in 2009, is a year-round book festival bringing award-winning authors, journalists and storytellers together with thousands of fans in downtown Traverse City. The National Writers Series was founded by New York Times bestselling author Doug Stanton, Traverse City attorney Grant Parsons and Traverse City Record Eagle reporter Anne Stanton. The National Writers Series is a nonprofit organization that relies on community support for sustainability. All contributions are 100% tax deductible. For information about donating to NWS or becoming a Founder's Circle member contact NWS executive director Jill Tewsley at jtewsley@nwstc.org, or call the National Writers Series at (231) 577-6971. The National Writers Series is, in part, made possible by our sponsors, including our sustaining sponsors FIM Group, Cherry Capital Airport and Traverse City Eye. To become a sponsor or for additional information contact: Chuck O'Connor via at chuck@emgconsult.com or 231-590-2521.

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