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PRESS RELEASE

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LOCAL DONORS CONTRIBUTE FUNDS FOR FAÇADE IMPROVEMENTS IN DOWNTOWN WARREN

WARREN, Ohio-- Warren Redevelopment and Planning is excited to announce the **Downtown Warren Façade Improvement Grant** program, available to business owners within Warren's Central Business District. The Downtown Warren Façade Improvement Grant is an opportunity for building and/or business owners within the Central Business District to be considered for financial assistance to improve their building facades. Façade improvements include, but are not limited to: sign repair/replacement, repainting, and structural repair. To be considered for the grant, qualifying businesses must submit a Letter of Inquiry to Warren Redevelopment and Planning (WRAP), no later than June 30, 2015.

This grant opportunity has been made possible with generous donations from Rotary Club of Warren, Talmer Bank and Trust, and Trumbull 100. Donations from funders total \$12,500 and will be allocated to three or more businesses as a matching 1:3 grant, not to exceed \$5,000. The grant application is competitive and will be decided by a committee comprised of an architectural historian, member of the historical society, Building Department official, City Council member, Design Review representative, former grant recipient and representatives from donor organizations.

Preference will be given to businesses:

- Whose buildings are visibly contributing to the devaluation of the downtown area
- That are contributing historic structures to the downtown area
- Located in close proximity to Courthouse Square
- Whose owners currently maintain their property
- Who are considering multifaceted renovations

However, all businesses within the Central Business District are encouraged to apply.

WRAP has organized and will administer the Façade Improvement Grant as a service to the businesses within the Central Business District, with no administrative fee.

Copies of the grant's Letter of Inquiry is available on the WRAP webpage located under "Economic Development" on the City of Warren's website: http://warren.org/economic_development/warren_redevelopment_and_planning_corporation