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(photos available full size if requested)

## Wellfield Botanic Gardens debuts unique origami-inspired sculpture exhibit, on display April 24 through October 17

ELKHART — Wellfield Botanic Gardens announces the arrival of an exciting traveling sculpture exhibit, *OrigamiintheGarden<sup>2</sup>*, opening on April 24, on display in the Gardens through October 17, 2021.

Origami means “folding paper” in Japanese. *OrigamiintheGarden<sup>2</sup>* is an outdoor sculpture exhibition, created by Santa Fe artists Jennifer and Kevin Box, that captures the delicate nature of this paper art form in museum quality metals. Displayed within beautiful garden settings are examples of what can be folded from a single piece of paper such as soaring birds, gliding airplanes, galloping ponies, floating boats, and emerging butterflies. The exhibition features Box’s own compositions as well as collaborations with world-renowned origami artists Tim Armijo, Te Jui Fu, Beth Johnson, Michael G. LaFosse, and Robert J. Lang.

“As the spring season gives new life to Wellfield, we’re thrilled to be opening *OrigamiintheGarden<sup>2</sup>*, which was delayed an entire year due to the pandemic.” said Eric Garton, executive director. “The exhibit was originally set to complement our 2020 Year of the Island Garden annual theme but is now featured prominently in Wellfield’s 2021 theme: The Year of Peace.”

Presented by the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, *OrigamiintheGarden<sup>2</sup>* consists of 21 unique sculptures positioned strategically in 16 locations around the Garden trails and a special “Inside Out” display in the Visitors Cottage which includes wall hangings and paper models that illustrate the complex crease patterns involved with the exhibit’s origami inspirations. All pieces throughout the Garden feature interpretive signage, as well as a complimentary cell phone audio tour, in which guests can gain additional insight about the pieces from the artists themselves through audio recordings.

According to Box, “Origami presents a simple metaphor: When we begin with a blank page, what we do with it is up to us, and the possibilities are endless.”

Jennifer and Kevin Box created the exhibit in 2013. It was first displayed at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden in 2014. Since that time, the exhibition has been inspiring botanical gardens across the country, including recent exhibits at the California Botanic Garden in Los Angeles, the Tucson Botanical Gardens, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Virginia, and the Memphis Botanic Garden.

“We’re honored to be exhibiting these incredible sculptures for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of our members and the community.” Garton added. “The sculptures are unlike anything many people have experienced. They have amazing texture and details that can be appreciated because of their large size, inspired by actual paper origami sculptures that have hundreds of folds, some taking months or even years to design.”

In addition to recognizing the Community Foundation of Elkhart County for its generosity and presenting sponsorship, Wellfield is grateful to the individual sculpture sponsors who made this exhibit possible including American Technology Components, Inc., Stuart and Paula Barb, Teri and Mike Crabill, Joel and Amy Duthie, Janet Evanega and James Rieckhoff, Steve and Shelly Fidler, Eric and Jaime Garton, Doug Grant, Tonja and Frank Lucchese, Dana and Tom Pletcher, Doug and Sharon Risser, Martha Peterson and Tony Warning, Don and Cidney Walter, Welch Packaging, and sculptures sponsored In Memory of George J. Biddlecome and In Memory of Robin Jolgren.

***About Wellfield Botanic Gardens:***

Wellfield Botanic Gardens is ‘a living museum’ located at 1011 N. Main St., Elkhart, Indiana. Situated on the historic North Main Street well field, the Gardens are 36 acres in size, including 18 acres of water. The private, not-for-profit was created in 2005 to celebrate the inseparable relationship between water and life, inspire creativity and lifelong learning, foster stewardship of our natural world, and grow community. The garden is open year-round. Activities include special events and festivals, workshops and educational opportunities, a summer concert series, winter holiday lights, and seasonal programming. Facilities may be rented for private events including weddings, anniversaries, and celebrations of life. For more information visit [wellfieldgardens.org](http://wellfieldgardens.org) or call 574-266-2006.

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***Note to media:***

We welcome stories on our projects or any of the many events happening at the Gardens. We can accommodate morning, afternoon, evening, or weekend television stand-ups at Wellfield or anyone looking for a colorful feature.