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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NEW INITIATIVE ON AGING WITH DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE**

*The Patterson Foundation partners with SCOPE for participatory research*

**SARASOTA, FL September 2, 2010** – SCOPE recently announced it has been chosen to partner with The Patterson Foundation (TPF) on a new initiative targeting the dignity and independence of older adults. SCOPE received a \$195,000 gift from TPF to fund the research-discovery phase of the initiative.

The Aging with Dignity and Independence Initiative is a multi-year project with an end goal of creating innovative and technological approaches to help people 65 years and older age with dignity and independence.

“We are grateful to The Patterson Foundation for their desire to explore new thinking through this initiative and their willingness to first begin by listening to the community – capturing the wisdom and experiences of older adults and those closest to them,” said Tim Dutton, executive director of SCOPE.

Over the next year, SCOPE is partnering with the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee to engage the community through forums, focus groups and surveys. The project is three phases: discovery, design and application. This initial exploration of community experiences will provide the foundation for subsequent phases.

“SCOPE was selected for this initiative because of its successful track record of engaging citizens across all sectors to explore, learn and do,” said Debra Jacobs, president and CEO of The Patterson Foundation. “Sarasota is a Petri dish for optimistic aging, and this initiative will inform and ignite concepts for New Realities in the aging with dignity and independence space.”

### **About SCOPE**

SCOPE is a nonprofit organization that connects and inspires citizens to create a better community. For more information, visit [www.scopexcel.org](http://www.scopexcel.org).

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