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## **Area business leaders announce launch of Three Roots Capital to support economic growth in the region.**

**Knoxville, TN**, September 13, 2016, CEO, **Grady Vanderhoofven** and the Board of Directors today announced the establishment of Three Roots Capital, an innovative investment company located in Knoxville. Three Roots Capital goes well beyond investing capital; the firm helps small and young companies prepare to raise capital, assists companies in operating more productively and efficiently, and connects companies to Three Roots' large network of co-investors and service providers.

"Three Roots has been established in response to the chronic need for more investment capital in the region," says Vanderhoofven, CEO. "Over the course of the past 15 years, many people and organizations in the region have made herculean efforts to aggregate and deploy capital in this area, and significant progress has been made, but the need for additional investment capital, focused on small businesses and young companies, persists."

Through Meritus Capital Management, Grady Vanderhoofven has co-founded and co-managed multiple venture and private equity funds over the past 16 years. Prior to that, Grady worked for ten years at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), where he participated in the creation of more than a dozen start-up companies based on technology developed at ORNL. Grady has played a role in the investment of tens of millions of dollars, and the creation and financing of dozens of companies over the past two decades.

Mr. Vanderhoofven is joined by the following members of the Board of Directors of Three Roots Capital:

- **David Bradshaw**, Chairman of the Board; Oak Ridge Area Manager for Pinnacle Financial Partners; background in banking, community development lending, former Mayor of Oak Ridge.
- **Roger Kiger**, founder of Visionary Horizons Wealth Management; serial entrepreneur.
- **Fred Tompkins**, former President/CEO of the University of Tennessee Research Foundation; former Associate Vice President for Research & Economic Development at the University of Tennessee.

"Three Roots is enthusiastically adding our capital, relationships, experience, and skill set as a collaborative contribution to the consistently-improving, regional entrepreneurial ecosystem," added Vanderhoofven, "and we look forward to working alongside others to help address some widely-recognized limitations of the regional, small business support infrastructure."

### **About Three Roots Capital**

Three Roots is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation and is a certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), working to aggregate multiple pools of capital along a continuum of capital, ranging from early-stage to later-stage, including both equity and debt. Three Roots Capital provides impact capital products and advisory services that create successful outcomes for client companies and attractive returns for financial partners. ([www.3rootscapital.org](http://www.3rootscapital.org))