ECOMPANY AND A LONG AN

10-YEAR MILESTONES

ADVANTAGES OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

ENDOWING OUR CHURCHES



George Schreck has once again provided our cover photograph. His theme for this issue is our local wildlife. To accompany our red squirrel "cover girl", he has snapped photos in the wild of other furry neighbors. Find them tucked within our interior pages. George resides in Franklin Forks, PA. He teaches the Salt Springs Digital Photography Club which meets monthly at Wheaton House in Salt Springs State Park. He can be contacted at williguy@epix.net.

Jason Legg is Susquehanna County's District Attorney and serves on The Foundation Board of Directors. His column, "From the desk of the D.A." is a regular feature in area newspapers. Jason was raised in the Choconut and Silver Lake area and is a graduate of Montrose High with degrees from the University of Scranton and Albany Law School. In response to several tragic local DUI homicide cases, he established a County DUI Task Force and soon after established the Law Enforcement Fund with The Community Foundation. www.SusquehannaCounty-DA.org.





Jonathan Blattmachr was an early advisor to The Community Foundation, and we welcome his article to this edition of our Foundation magazine. He is a member of the Alaska, California and New York Bars, and a partner in the law firm of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP. He has served as a lecturer-in-law of the Columbia University School of Law and as an Adjunct Professor of Law at New York University Law School and Pace Law School. Mr. Blattmachr is author or coauthor of five books and over 300 articles on estate and tax planning topics. He is a co-developer of Wealth Transfer Planning, a software system published for lawyers.

Sean Oliver was raised in Montrose, PA, where he attended Montrose Area Jr.-Sr. High School, graduating in 2005. He is currently in his Junior year at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Economics with concentrations in Marketing and Retailing. This summer, he will be working for Microsoft Corporation in Seattle, WA as an Associate Product Management Intern in the Windows Product Marketing team. He hopes to become an entrepreneur some day, and to raise a family.



helping dreams come true

36 Lake Avenue

Montrose PA 18801 | T 570.278.3800 or 570.836.4444

foundation@epix.net | www.community-foundation.org

F 570.278.9608

Marian S. Miskell Editor

Neil Fessler, Jim May Lavout and Design

Montrose Publishing Printing and Distribution



Inside this Edition:

From the Editor1
Foundation Milestones2-3
Philanthropy4-6
Education8-9
Memorial Funds10-13
Religion14-15
School Districts16-17
Community
Legacy Societies
Affiliates
Funds
Foundation Headquarters26-28
Artists Celebrate Foundation29
Website

Board of Directors:

Earle A. Wootton - Chairman William R. Lewis - Vice Chairman Arthur Sherwood, M.D. - Treasurer Marguerite Cartwright - Secretary Robert J. Brown **Thomas Chamberlain** Charm Goff Giangrieco Jason Legg James May Marian S. Miskell

Foundation Staff:

Earle Wootton - President

Peter Quigg - Director of Development

Jerry Golis - Technology Director

Angela L. Frystak - Accountant

Sally Arnold Ayres – College Scholarship Selection Volunteer

FROM THE EDITOR



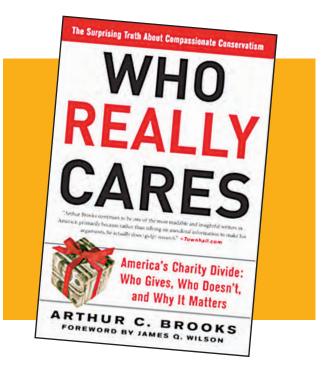
Marian S. Miskell *Editor*

Those Who Give... Receive If you think compassionate conservatism is dead, that religious people aren't caring for the needs of this world, or that liberal people are more "liberal" with their personal donations, I can recommend a book that may surprise you: Who Really Cares by Arthur C. Brooks of Syracuse University.

He reports that conservatives are more apt to donate money and volunteer time to charitable causes (even non-religious causes) than liberals. In addition to the conservative-liberal giving gap, Brooks reports the fact that religious people, from both liberal and conservative congregations, give 3.5 times more to charities than "secularists" who earn exactly the same amount. The Council on Foundations looking even closer at religious donors says that rural church-goers in particular show much higher donations per capita than those in urban areas.

We highlight the generosity of some of our own local congregations within these pages. The Foundation this year has seen the development of several exemplary funds set up by church members to sustain their local churches and perpetuate their church's good works in this community.

This giving is often done anonymously and quietly, yet consistently. All that giving does have its rewards. Brooks has accumulated piles of research on personal benefits that givers accrue. Givers are 43 percent more likely to say they are very happy than non-givers; volunteers are 42 percent more likely than non-volunteers to say they are very happy; and givers are 25 percent more likely than non-givers to say their health is excellent or very good. Concerned about longevity? Senior citizens who volunteer enjoy a full 40 percent lower probability of dying in a given year than people of the same age and health level.



"The data tell us that the conventional wisdom is dead wrong. In most ways, political conservatives are not personally less charitable than political liberals—they are more so." Excerpt from "Who Really Cares".

The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it. William James

Philanthropy in America

In 2006, Americans donated \$295 billion in the form of private gifts:

- Corporations4%
- Foundations12%
- Bequests 8%
- Individuals76%
- 75% of these gifts came from homes making \$70K or less per year

FOUNDATION MILESTONES

Ten Years of Growth and Commitment

May 1	1997	Foundation idea proposed by William Lewis; Board-in-progress formed.			
January 27	1998	Foundation created as an affiliate of Williamsport Lycoming Foundation.			
July 1	1998	First grant received from First Union National Bank, \$5,000.			
February 11	1999	First annual grants presented \$4,125.			
February 19	1999	Charities Distribution fund approached regarding merger.			
December 31	1999	Endowment assets surpass \$50,000.			
April 1	2000	Charities Distribution Fund merges with Foundation.			
May 18	2000	Second year grants total \$59,903.			
December 31	2000	Endowment assets \$249,440.			
April 1	2001	Joe Burke hired as Program Director.			
May 22	2001	Third annual grant presentation: grants \$12,500; Charities Distributions \$44,000.			
August 9	2001	First endowment exceeding \$100,000 established.			
December 5	2001	Board selects formation of United Way as primary project.			
December 31	2001	Foundation assets are \$410,414, grants are \$64,854.			
	2002	Foundation becomes an independent corporation			
December 31	2002	Foundation assets are \$333,404; grants are \$84,481			
January 26	2003	First Advisory Board.			
February 15	2003	Ruth Donnelly hired as accountant.			
December 31	2003	Foundation assets \$533,032; grants \$66,824.			
December 31	2004	8 students from 2 school districts receive scholarships amounting to \$3,950.			
December 31	2004	Foundation assets \$668,199; grants \$147,368.			
February 1	2005	Earle Wootton becomes President.			
April 15	2005	Peter Quigg becomes Director of Development.			
October 1	2005	Service area extended to include Wyoming County, name changed accordingly.			
December 31	2005	Twenty students from 6 districts receive scholarships amounting to \$5,450.			
December 31	2005	Foundation assets \$908,487.			
September 1	2006	Building restoration and expansion begins.			
December 31	2006	Twenty students from 6 districts receive scholarships amounting to \$9,100.			
December 31	2006	Foundation assets \$1,707,681, grants \$187,745.			
December 31	2007	227 students at 7 K-12 districts and 12 Pre-Ks receive \$200,000 in scholarships.			
December 31	2007	Montrose High receives \$8,000 in assistance for computer lab upgrade.			
December 31	2007	EITC 5-year program totals \$504,279 to students.			
December 31	2007	Foundation assets \$2,620,619, nearly one million dollars of asset growth.			
December 31	2007	Foundation grants \$200,000, revenues \$1,315,671 (all income & gains).			
December 31	2007	25 new funds created to total of 80 funds.			

FOUNDATION MILESTONES HIGHLIGHTS OF 2007

- During 2007 the assets of the Community Foundation increased over 50%, from \$1.7 million to \$2.6 million.
- The assets increased nearly 700% between 2002 and 2007.
- In December 31, 2007 the Foundation had 80 funds, 25 created that year, an increase of 45%.
- Revenues in 2007 exceeded \$1,315,000; operating expenses were 5%.
- The amount available for grant making from permanent endowments is \$131,000 annually.
- The Community Foundation has awarded over \$500,000 in scholarships through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program.
- The Community Foundation provided \$8,000 for Montrose Area School District computer labs during the past year.
- During 2007, 60 students from 7 school districts received post secondary scholarships amounting to \$43,350.

- The average investment return for the past five years has been 12%.
- For the 2007-2008 school year, the Foundation provided K-12 Scholarships to 111 students in 9 schools.
- In 2007, 27 college scholarships funds made awards to 47 students which were worth a total of \$43,350. In 2006 we awarded a total of \$9,095.
- Many of our college scholarships qualify for state matching funds which the Foundation administers.
- In 2007 the Foundation made over \$155,000 available for scholarships for Pre-K and K-12.
- The total value of all scholarships awarded in 2007 exceeded \$200,000.
- For the 2007-2008 school year, we are providing preschool scholarships to 81 students in 13 Pre-Schools.
- At the end of 2007 the Community Foundation completed ten years of service, five years as an affiliate of the Williamsport-Lycoming Foundation and five years as an independent nonprofit financial institution.

Year	Assets	Grants	COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
1998	\$ 5,000	-	\$3,000,000
1999	\$ 50,000	\$ 4,125	\$5,000,000
2000	\$ 249,440	\$ 59,903	\$2,500,000
2001	\$ 410,414	\$ 64,853	
2002	\$ 333,404	\$ 84,481	\$2,000,000
2003	\$ 533,032	\$ 66,824	A 200 000
2004	\$ 668,199	\$ 147,368	
2005	\$ 908,487	\$ 157,468	\$1,000,000
2006	\$ 1,707,681	\$ 187,745	
2007	\$ 2,620,619	\$ 200,000	\$500,000
			\$0

Giving is the highest expression of power. Vivian Green

Advantages of Community Foundations

© 2008 by Jonathan G. Blattmachr. All Rights Reserved.



Mr. Blattmachr is a frequent visitor to Susquehanna County, and is the son-in-law of Dick and Eloise Masters of Kingsley. He was a very early advisor to our founders Bill Lewis and Earle Wootton. At that time he emphasized the importance of retaining a full-time Director. That was a daunting suggestion at the time, but proved to be key to our early success. He also kindly participated in our first community meeting, held at the Masters' home, to help introduce the concept of a community foundation to our first potential donors and supporters. In his professional capacity as an estate and wealth transfer expert in New York City, Mr. Blattmachr has worked with many of this country's oldest and largest foundations. He is also Counsel and a supporter of the Alaska Conservation Foundation. The ACF provides grants for wild lands, waters, and wildlife, which sustain diverse cultures, healthy communities, and prosperous economies in that vast state.

Jonathan G. Blattmachr – A nationally recognized authority on charitable giving.

An Introduction to Charitable Giving

Our federal, state and local laws encourage charitable contributions. One of the principal reasons for favorable treatment of charities is that they carry out functions that otherwise would fall upon the government. These include education, the arts, medical care, the protection of children and the disabled, and the promotion of amateur sports. Our tax law also treats legitimate religious groups as charities. Although our form of government requires the separation of "church" and "state," church charities in the United States often carry out functions, such as alleviation of poverty and education, that would otherwise be carried out by government. On average, charities in the United States are twice as efficient in promoting and supporting charitable programs than is the federal government. One of the most efficient types of charity is the Community Foundation.

Unfortunately, the United States tax law is the most lengthy and complicated law in the world, and it includes horribly complex rules on charitable giving. There are so many exceptions, limitations, and special rules, that taxpayers must be cautious in making any substantial charitable gift. Deduction amounts depend upon the type of charity that receives the gift, the type of property given, and the taxpayer's income tax basis in the property. In many cases, a charitable contribution may be denied in whole or in part resulting in no income tax deduction for the taxpayer. As unfair as it may sound, he or she may be required to pay gift tax on the value of a contribution.

The tax law divides charities into two broad categories: private foundations and what are called "publicly supported" charities. Some charities, such as educational institutions and churches, are automatically treated as publicly supported ones. But, generally, whether a charity is treated as a private foundation or not depends upon its sources of support. Those which receive their funding from a small group of taxpayers (such as members of a single family or one business) are treated as private foundations. Even a small charity may be a private foundation. Much of the annual income of many small private foundations disappears in taxes, administrative and legal fees. By and large, the tax law is much more favorable to publicly supported charities, and it is preferable to avoid private foundation status. Community Foundations offer their contributors the maximum income tax deduction allowed under the law. And unlike private foundations, they do not have their resources eroded by income taxes.

Ways to Use Community Foundations

As the name indicates, Community Foundations are charities formed to support other charities in a particular community, such as a city, county or region. They almost always are operated by an uncompensated board consisting of people with long term public commitment to the community they serve.

Contributors to Community Foundations have several choices in making their donations. One is simply a contribution to the Community Foundation for its general purposes at the discretion of the board. Another choice is to establish a Designated Fund which benefits charities named by the contributor. These might be a local non-profit hospital or certain schools. Designated Funds are especially useful to contributors who wish to support particular organizations but do not wish to make an outright gift or endowment. Field of Interest Funds are more general. The contributor specifies a charitable purpose or purposes, such as relieving illiteracy or promoting the arts or conservation, and the Community Foundation selects the local organizations that best match those goals. Since scholarship funds require a surprising amount of specialized knowledge and attention to detail, contributors may find it best to establish one through a Community Foundation.

Donor-Advised Funds allow contributors to suggest each year uses of the donated funds without incurring any administrative responsibility. They are an effective buffer for wealthy contributors who want to know the effect of their gifts, but do not want to take on such tasks such as reading applications for donations or investigating charities seeking funding. A business may also create a Donor-Advised Fund.

Establishing a Designated Fund, a Field of Interest Fund or a Donor-Advised fund is now routine at most Community Foundations. It can be done quickly and at any time.

Types of Contributions to Community Foundations

Those who create such a Fund during their lifetime may make current or later contributions to it with cash, publiclytraded securities, closely-held business interests, real estate, personal property or life insurance. The gift or gifts are made entirely at the contributor's convenience. A taxpayer may, for example, make a tax-deductible gift this year and distribute grants to other charities in the community later, but the gift to the fund must be irrevocable. A contributor may also make a deferred gift – one that is planned now but completed later – to start or enlarge a Fund.

Individuals may also bequeath cash or property to a Fund, or may provide for a percentage of their estates to pass into a Fund. Transferring a life insurance policy to build a Fund generally is a straightforward and simple gift to arrange. The contributor may deduct the value of the policy when it is contributed and, if he or she continues to pay the premiums, may deduct them as well after the policy has been transferred to the Community Foundation.

"A Community Foundation provides its contributors with the maximum benefits under the tax law, is an efficient charitable institution and is sensitive to the needs of the community it serves."

Contributors may also make gifts to Community Foundations through a charitable remainder trust. Such a trust makes annual payments to individuals for life or for a fixed period of time. When the annual payments to individuals stop, what remains in the trusts then goes to charity. Charitable remainder trusts provide three benefits. First, the contributor may gift appreciated property (such as land) which may be sold by the trust free of income tax. Second, because there is no erosion of the sales proceeds by income taxes, it may provide a larger base from which to make payments each year to the beneficiaries. Third, an income tax deduction is permitted for part of what is contributed to the trust - and although charity will not receive anything from the trust until the interests of the beneficiaries end, the income tax deduction is permitted at the time of the contribution.

Continuity: Another Advantage of a Community Foundation Gift

Another advantage that Community Foundations may offer those who want to benefit charities in their geographic area is continuity. Where a single charitable entity might fail over time, a Community Foundation administers Designated, Field-of-Interest and Donor-Advised Funds in perpetuity and the Foundation's board may change a Fund's specific purpose if the contributor's original intent becomes unnecessary, impossible or inconsistent with the charitable needs of the community.

Summary

Community Foundations represent an important means for individuals and businesses to promote charitable causes in their geographic area. Contributions may be made for a Foundation's general purposes, for an area of interest (such as education or promotion of children's causes) or to a Donor-Advised Fund. With a Donor-Advised Fund, the contributor or members of his or her family advise the Foundation each year how the income from that contribution should be directed. A Community Foundation provides its contributors with the maximum benefits under the tax law, is an efficient charitable institution and is sensitive to the needs of the community it serves.

What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.

Albert Pike

<u>philanthropy</u>

Sean Oliver on Discovering Himself



Sean Oliver, a 2005 graduate of Montrose Area High School, currently a junior at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, compares investment strategies with Warren Buffett. Sean visits the Community Foundation regularly with updates on how he is making his dreams come true.

While I have always known that I wanted to pursue a career in business, I have not always been sure which of the many paths to a successful business career would be best for me. College has been an opportunity for me to discover who I really am, and more specifically, how I can best contribute to society while still being the happiest person I can be. As I see it, college is for those who need to "find themselves" and understand how to become that person that they found.

At Wharton, I have come to know people from a vast cross section of economic, cultural, and geographic backgrounds. I have friends from Singapore and India, from Kenya and Japan, from France and Russia. Through my friend from Russia I had the opportunity to meet Warren Buffett, one of the richest men in the world (pictured). I have gone white water rafting in the Colorado River, I have been shopping – or at least browsing – on Rodeo Drive, and I have met business leaders like Steve Ballmer (CEO, Microsoft) and Kevin Roberts (CEO, Saatchi & Saatchi). My time at Wharton has exposed me to an invaluable number of opportunities and experiences. These have given me a stronger understanding of who I am and where I want to be.

I never thought that I would have these opportunities after growing up in "small town U.S.A." (i.e., Montrose, PA), but I have found that my relatively modest upbringing has been nothing but an asset for me in life. If it were not for Montrose, I do not think that I would have the enthusiastic curiosity to explore every new opportunity with such fervent passion. I do not think that I would have challenged myself as I have. Every new experience I have had has pushed me further out of my comfort zone.

For young people, I believe that simply attending college is not sufficient to achieve this level of self-discovery. Young people must relentlessly pursue new opportunities and experiences in a way that challenges them and forces them to think differently about the world, and about themselves.

"I never thought that I would have these opportunities after growing up in "small town U.S.A."... If it were not for Montrose, I do not think that I would have the enthusiastic curiosity to explore every new opportunity with such fervent passion."

There are no great people in this world, only great challenges which ordinary people rise to meet. William Frederick Halsey, Jr. A Family Advised Fund at the Community Foundation allows families to support the needs they believe are most important.

Extending Family Values ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

The tradition of giving to our local community is perpetuated as a family decides which charities have the greatest need.



All Aboard! CAFE goes to Washington

Since the 1960's Blue Ridge Elementary 6th graders have enjoyed a four-day spring trip to Washington D.C. to learn about American government and history courtesy of a local nonprofit known as CAFE, Creative Adventures for Education. To ensure that Blue Ridge School District funds are not tapped for the trip, parents contribute, and all through the year CAFE organizes fundraisers, often selling local products to gather the \$300 per child needed to pay expenses.

This year The Community Foundation has provided scholarships, and joined many other area sponsors in seeing that no child was excluded because of financial need. People's National Bank, New Milford Community Men's Club, Hallstead and Great Bend American Legions and VFW, Big M, Burger King and Susquehanna Beverage of Hallstead/Great Bend, the United Way of Susquehanna County, McDonald's, Reddon's Drugs, Rob's Market, Craig's Phototique, and United Health Service have all supported CAFE.

The three-bus CAFE caravan stops in Harrisburg to visit the State Capitol, Mt. Vernon to lay a wreath in honor of George Washington, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, all the veterans' memorials, the White House, the Pentagon Sept. 11th crash site; they see the original Declaration of Independence, Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, and if possible meet US Representatives or Senators; they visit Fords Theatre where Lincoln was assassinated, the Naval Museum and get on board a Navy destroyer.

It's an educational whirlwind that brings American history and ideals alive for over 100 student travelers each year, even inspiring a few to enlist in military service. Tom



Blue Ridge 6th graders in Washington D.C. thank donors.

Chamberlain, a Community Foundation and Peoples National Bank Director has been a CAFE chaperone and officer for 20 years. One of his fond volunteer memories is of a bear hug he received from a young US Marine home on leave. The soldier remembered Tom's efforts to keep him in line during his own CAFE adventure. "You really cared!" he said.

For some children, the CAFE trip is their first step outside the boundaries of Susquehanna County. For these four days it doesn't matter if your parents are unemployed, if your family lives in a FEMA trailer, or if you don't have spending money. "It's about kids, not us; we're just the mechanism. It's their trip," stresses Tom. "It takes a community to raise children. We treat them all with respect and we get their respect back." CAFE has had very few problems with the large group over the years. And the report card from the kids: 'A' plus. It's THE BEST!"

More Young Scientists Attend Camp Invention

Camp Invention Program Director, Lisa Burgess is able to offer up to 15 Community Foundation scholarships this year to aspiring young Tunkhannock students in Grades 1 through 6. Thanks to increased EITC dollars made available by area businesses, these scholarships are up 50% over the last two years. This summer science enrichment program has 53 enrolled so far, with a potential of up to 110. The program is developed by the National Inventors Hall of Fame and the US Patent and Trade Office.

Creative hands-on challenges this year will include asking the students to "Save Sludge City" by designing nonpolluting vehicles and clean landfills. They'll also use their imaginations to create a sculpture garden involving freeform mobiles with symbolic messages, and a Native American totem pole, using authentic icons. Some older Camp Invention students will arrive armed with recycled appliances and containers. They will be given a Rube Goldberg team challenge to solve a mechanical problem. This, plus a visit to Planet Mars in their own space ship and Martian Rover, should keep them exhilarated for the five days of intensive classes.

Lisa reports that these children are approaching their PA State Science Assessment Tests with a head start based on the skills they are learning each summer. They arrive "wideeyed and can't wait to get involved in science." Good for them! And good for the future of the U.S.

EDUCATION

Waste Management "Recycles" Dollars for Scholars

Waste Management has made a \$5,000 donation to The Foundation to help support a scholarship program for local low-to-moderate income families who send their children to tuition-based kindergarten through 12th grade schools and programs.

Waste Management is based in Houston, Texas, and is North America's leading provider of waste and environmental services. Their job is to manage the four and a half pounds of garbage per day produced by each person on the continent. Their subsidiaries provide collection, transfer, recycling, resource recovery, and disposal services. They own waste-to-energy

and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the US, and are the largest provider of recycling services in North America, including municipal solid waste recycling. Community Foundation Director of Development, Peter Quigg, states "these scholarships have proven very beneficial to families in our two-county service area, and we greatly appreciate Waste Management assisting us this year. The corporation has shown genuine concern for local education." Joe Williams, of Apex Waste Services/Waste Management adds, "We are very pleased to contribute to these very worthwhile scholarships, and we wish all of the students well in their endeavors."

For the current school year, 192 students attending 22 schools in four counties will receive financial aid. In the five years The Community Foundation has provided these K-12 scholarships, in conjunction with pre-

school scholarships, more than \$500,000 has assisted nearly 600 students attending 40 schools.

We would again like to thank all our corporate contributors to this program:

- Community Bank & Trust
- Milnes Companies
- Peoples National Bank
- Waste Management
- First Liberty Bank & Trust

ERICA

- North-Eastern PA Telephone Co.
- Pump N Pantry Convenience Stores
- Frontier Communications
- Pennstar Bank
- Storeroom Solutions

What parents say about Camp Invention:

"Fun; too short!"

"He's had a wonderful experience with Camp Invention two years in a row. Keep up the good work!"

"I'm appreciative of the fact that she was so excited about each day of Camp Invention and wished it lasted through July! A renewed interest in science has emerged, thank God. A great experience!"

"Loved it!"

"A very nice opportunity for children not inclined to sports. Great!"



MEMORIAL FUNDS

Forever Friends



Albert Bertsch and Chris Lake were friends for almost twenty years. That friendship will be celebrated forever in a memorial fund that will benefit Interfaith and Trehab. When Albert returned home to Susquehanna County each summer on his break from teaching math in Connecticut, he and Chris enjoyed playing on a softball team. They also

Albert Bertsch

played golf, and generally hung out. "He was full of life, a great guy and we got along so well," recalls Albert.

Chris died suddenly in June of 1996. When Albert retired from teaching and resettled at Lake Raylean in Bridgewater Township, he considered plans to establish a charitable fund with The Community Foundation. He decided to honor his happy times with Chris by providing permanent annual support to both the Susquehanna County Interfaith Agency and Trehab Agency. Albert hopes that others who appreciate the mission of these agencies will help to build the fund. "They do a lot to help people in the community who are going through difficult times," he says.

The Bertsch family has a tradition of community service. Albert's dad, Dr. Monroe Bertsch, was a general surgeon at a local hospital, and his mother Sarah has been active in the First Presbyterian Church where for many years she has played the organ. Chris Lake's own mother, Joyce Blaisure of South Montrose, was very moved by Albert's idea and was an early contributor to the fund in her son's honor. "I think it's wonderful," she says, adding that there's never a day she doesn't think of him. "Everybody loved Chris. He had a warm personality and I don't remember him ever being mean to anyone." She remembers Chris being an avid basketball player at Montrose High, and playing on the South Montrose baseball team. "He was devilish" and quite a handful to raise at times. Chris eventually worked as a truck driver. He was married and had a daughter Sarah who will soon be married herself, and a son, Christopher, Jr. Chris' sisters, Cheryl, Paula, and Cathy, are all graduates of MASD.

Interfaith programs include providing emergency assistance to local victims of fires or floods, providing clothing, shoes and boots, Thanksgiving luncheon for mental health patients, food and gifts for the County Christmas Bureau.

Trehab provides treatment and professional care to chemically dependent persons and their families, home care giving to the needy, training and technical support to fledgling entrepreneurs with modest income, workforce development for adults and youth who need jobs, and weatherization services to reduce home energy costs.

emaining in the Hearts o Behind

A Memorial Fund is a perpetual reminder of the values and commitments of a loved one.

A dedicated web page tells the story of a life's achievements. A series of photographs illustrate those special moments and accomplishments.

Contact The Community Foundation for Information

MEMORIAL FUNDS

Autism Support Group Receives Grant

In 1992 only 1 person in every 10,000 was identified as having autism. Today autism is the fastest growing neurological disorder with 1 in every 150 children and almost 1 in every 94 boys diagnosed.

Elk Lake High senior Alison Kwader's interest in autism comes from her love for her brother Benjamin, age 14. Ten years ago much less was known about autism and the Kwader family "had to fight with doctors for a diagnosis," she explains. They would say, "He's a little slow." Alison's mom, Patty, having raised two children. other noticed unmistakable differences in this baby. He wouldn't nurse; he made no eye-contact; he wouldn't smile or respond to her cooing and coddling while



Support group meets at Holy Name of Mary Parish Hall monthly.

changing him; and at age four, he barely spoke.

Autism's cause or causes are still unknown. It is thought to arise from genetic or environmental factors. The questions still surrounding it thrust families into a search for information that can sort out quackery from treatments that work.

> Doctors at Geisinger Medical Center finally diagnosed Benjamin. That triggered intense and critical early treatment. Today Benjamin's BOCES vocational training gives him hope for some future independence.

Church offered their Parish Hall. There Alison leads groups of 10 to 15 families, provides child care, and free educational speakers every second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM.

This year an anonymous Foundation donor family has recognized the exceptional effort of this young woman with a grant from its Memorial Fund. Alison will now be able to invite some well known speakers to get the word out to more families, and to plan a field trip for the group. Other interested donors should contact The Foundation. Families may contact Alison at 570-278-3055 or by email at akwader@yahoo.com

Support helps, judgment hurts:

Many autistic children have no apparent disability. On occasion in public places too much stimulation can cause them to "throw a fit" (Alison's words). Scolding, spanking, or stern discipline only make matters worse. Judgmental glances or "advice" such as "Can't you get that child under control!" do not help. Understanding and patience do.

Benjamin demonstrates special gifts, as well as special needs. He rapidly taught himself reading, comprehends and recalls what he reads with phenomenal accuracy, and enjoys being quizzed on facts such as world records. "He

memorizes encyclopedias," Patty notes, meaning that quite literally, and he is an infallible speller. People who have seen the movie Rainman might recall talents that the autistic man played by Dustin Hoffman exhibited.

The Kwaders recognized that the 35 plus families with autistic children in Susquehanna County could gain life-changing benefits from a support group. Alison's commitment to make this happen became her senior project. Holy Name of Mary

Farewell to Ken Leasure



Ken Leasure

The Community Foundation officers, staff and directors were saddened by the recent passing of an inspiring gentleman. Mr. Kenneth Leasure, an early and enthusiastic supporter of The Foundation, died peacefully in Florida in early April. We have created a Memorial Page in his honor on our web site where friends may learn more about his quiet accomplishments. Mr. Leasure memorialized his own late wife

Mary with an elegant yet simple public bench set in her favorite place beside Falls Brook at Salt Spring State Park. Many visitors to the Park may well have rested there and enjoyed the sound of the cascading falls, as she once did.

Mr. Leasure established three of this Foundation's earliest funds. One was to provide for the perpetual maintenance of Mary's bench, the second for the ongoing operations of Salt Springs Park, and the third fund is directed by the Board of the Foundation to serve the most important needs of Susquehanna County. Mr. Leasure was a decorated veteran of World War II receiving the Silver Star and Purple Heart. He flew 50 missions as a navigator on a B-24 bombing the oil fields of Rumania. After his military service, he entered the University of Michigan earning both a Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degree. He founded the law firm that still bears his name, Leasure, Gow, Munk and Rizzuto. He served in the New York State Legislature as Assemblyman for Broome and Tioga County. Working with three local partners he developed Longford Lake in Brackney as a residential community. Ken Leasure created a lasting impact on our area and will be missed by many.



Lieutenant Ken Leasure, front row, left, with members of his B-24 creu after receiving the silver star for heroism. (July, 1944)

Kindness is a hard thing to give away; it keeps coming back to the giver. Ralph Scott

A Trusted Advisor, Angelo Ventresca

"

By Peter Quigg, Director of Development

It is with sadness and respect that I mention the passing of Angelo Ventresca, a long-time financial advisor from the Montrose area, and a friend of The Community Foundation. Shortly after I began my responsibilities here Angelo and I had a very informative discussion about the Education Improvement Tax Credit program we administer. His advice and observations were quite helpful. In some ways Angelo could be considered indirectly responsible for the more than half million dollars in assistance this program has provided local students and families in the last five years.



Furthermore, Angelo's wife, Judy Albert Ventresca, generously established the Albert & Ventresca Families Fund with us last year to benefit the Susquehanna County Women's Resource Center. This couple has shown obvious care and concern for the less fortunate of our region and they are to be thanked for their efforts. Angelo will be missed by many. His family has requested that those wishing to honor the memory of Angelo, and to strengthen Judy's efforts to assist The Women's Resource Center, may make memorial contributions to the Albert & Ventresca Families Fund. I didn't know Angelo long, but I have a feeling he may have been the type of person to believe that the work of life must continue.

Photo courtesy of George Schreck

RELIGION CHURCH FUNDS GROW

The Foundation would like to highlight in this edition of our magazine, the long-standing and ongoing generosity of people of faith in our area. We have been honored in recent years to assist several local churches in furthering their charitable missions. Also, we are grateful to some church members, now deceased, who have established perpetual endowments through The Foundation for the purpose of church support - paying for heat and utilities, repairing and maintaining the buildings of their life-long parish or community church.

In a time when some churches are closing or consolidating, becoming unsanctified for commercial use, or falling into disrepair, donors have concerns about church endowments. They wonder if some day their donation might be absorbed into the coffers of a distant regional church and spent in a direction they would not choose, in a place or city where they have no family roots.

Through a fund agreement with The Foundation, you can provide specific direction regarding how your endowment will be used, even if your own church is closed for any reason. You can provide an alternative direction for your church gifts, such as support of a favorite local charity or school. Here are some examples of funds supporting local churches.



The Feed a Friend Fund was established by an anonymous Foundation donor in 2005 to feed the hungry in Susquehanna County. The fund supports St. Joseph's Food Pantry, a collaborative mission of St. Joseph's Church, the Silver Lake Presbyterian Church in Laurel Lake, St Augustine's Church in Brackney, and the Silver Lake Ladies Club.

The Food Pantry distributes to the needy in Silver Lake and Choconut Townships, and sometimes Forest Lake and Friendsville. It is run by Rosalynd Perlick of Brackney. She reports that since spring of 2007, the number of people being assisted by The Food Pantry has doubled, and she adds, "I'll let that statistic speak for itself."

The Feed A Friend Fund has been providing a pre-holiday-season grant to the Food Pantry. Also, each spring the Brackney Post Office helps by collecting goods left at mail boxes. In summer and fall local gardeners bring produce and winter squash. When summer residents are heading home, they gather what's on their shelves and bring it to St. Joseph's.



St. Joseph's Church



Silver Lake Presbyterian Church



St. Augustine's Church

RELIGION CHURCH FUNDS GROW

Many of our small community churches are under financial pressure to provide for upkeep, utilities and operating expenses. Mary M. Umlaff of Lanesboro recognized this need before her death, and in her will established a generous bequest to benefit Lanesboro Community Church. Unfortunately her gift languished for some years in a bank account where inflation and bank fees, structured to cover management expenses of the very largest of accounts, were eroding away her principle. As the years passed the monthly grants from her endowment shrunk, while expenses went up through the bell tower. In 2005 parishioners moved the fund to The Community Foundation. Since that first year they have experienced a 15% increase in payout from the Umlaff endowment. Like all our funds, our church endowments are invested to ensure a perpetual and consistent 5% annual grant, through good years and bad.



Lanesboro Community Church



Fred and Jeanne Kintner of Mehoopany have established The Kintner Family Fund to provide permanent annual support to the Mehoopany United Methodist Church. Fred and Jeanne are the parents of our Wyoming County Advisory Council member, Ed Kintner, and we appreciate Ed's informing his family about how we can help them achieve their long range charitable goals.

Mehoopany United Methodist Church

In addition to their religious mission, churches in our rural area provide shelter and meeting space for activities that knit together residents of all faiths or non-faith to make a cohesive community. They host public forums, political debates, educational speakers, family celebrations, 4-H clubs, AA meetings, and emergency flood relief efforts. Our churches are models of the sharing that transforms real estate into community. Just one specific example is the establishment of the Autism Family Support Group. Holy Name of Mary's donation of their parish hall space for monthly meetings eliminated the final barrier to making that dream a reality. Your support of our churches with lasting endowments is support of our entire community, its values, and its future.



Holy Name of Mary Church



St. John the Evangelist Church

The Evelyn Brush Memorial Fund made its first annual grant to St. John the Evangelist Church in Susquehanna Depot just in time to help pay the heating bill. Foundation Advisory Council member, Myron DeWitt established this fund last spring following Mrs. Brush's wishes.

Peter Quigg knocked on the door of St. John's rectory to deliver the first endowment check just one day after the new pastor, Fr. Albert Leonard, reported to work. Fr. Leonard that day had opened the mail to find a staggering oil bill. Peter's timely apparition was thereafter referred to as "St. Peter visits St. John's."

We like Peter very much, but the real "saints" in this story are Mrs. Brush, the generous donor, her estate attorney, Mr. Myron DeWitt who advised her well and executed her wishes, and parishioner Mary Snyder who is working to encourage more parishioners to remember St. John's in their wills.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Tunkhannock Booster Club Funds Musicians



The Tunkhannock Area School District Band Boosters Club has established an endowment fund to assist 5th Grade music students from low-income families in renting musical instruments. It is hoped that by fostering an interest in musical performance at a young age, the students, who otherwise would not be able to afford instruments, will continue their musical interests throughout their school years and beyond. Many studies have proven that music education strongly enhances the overall education of students.

This new fund is a component of The Tunkhannock Area School District Foundation, an Affiliate of The Community Foundation. Tunkhannock Music Teacher, Mr. Ryan Zellner was key to establishing this new fund. Last year he assisted in establishing the Purdy College Scholarship Fund which honors retired Tunkhannock music teacher Albert Purdy. The Purdy Fund will this year grant a \$500 award to a Tunkhannock graduate who will major in musical performance. Both of these worthwhile endowments can benefit from tax-deductible donations to help assist future generations.

The miracle is this - the more we share, the more we have.

Van Fleet Scholarship Awarded at Lackawanna Trail

The Matthew Van Fleet Memorial Automotive Scholarship recently granted its first award to a Lackawanna Trail graduate. This scholarship fund was established in early 2007 to honor the memory of Matt who at the age of 21 perished in an automobile accident. Matt had a passion for cars, and for nearly everything mechanical. This scholarship was established by the family and friends of Matt to assist Lackawanna Trail graduates who go on to study automotive technology.

"

The 2007 graduate to receive the award from this scholarship is Jonathan Lindsey who is enrolled in Wyoming Technical Institute in Blairsville, Pennsylvania. Due to the diligent fund raising efforts of Matt's parents, Sue and Bruce, his sister Sara, and students and teachers of Lackawanna Trail, in conjunction with the investment policies of The Community Foundation, the 2008 award from the Van Fleet Scholarship will increase more than 125% above last year's award.

Despite the loss of their son at a much too early age, the Van Fleets are to be recognized for their obvious care and concern for the young people of our region.



SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Tourje Fund supports Blue Ridge Nature Trail

The Tourje family of Forest City has provided a grant from the Jessie Osgood Tourje Memorial Fund to help benefit the development and maintenance of the new Nature Trail at Blue Ridge School District. This will serve as an outdoor classroom for students and will also be available to local residents. The Tourje grant helped reach a threshold the district needed to achieve to apply for further matching funds. The Tourje Fund can also provide grants to the Forest City Regional, Mountain View, and Susquehanna Community School Districts for similar special projects.



Photo courtesy of George Schreck

Mountain View Alums Golfing for Grads

Mountain View School District Alumni Association has contributed \$4,000 to its scholarship fund from proceeds raised at last summer's golf tournament. Present plans call for the 2008 summer's tournament proceeds to benefit the Robert Klenk scholarship that the Alumni Association also established with The Foundation. Association Executive Committee Member, Maryanne Teed, deserves a tip of the hat for all the work she does for the tournament. These scholarships continue growing, and combined with The Community Foundation's participation in a state-funded matching grant program, they will be helpful awards for Mountain View graduates.



MASD Computer Lab gets Green Light

We extend sincere gratitude to the Directors and Officers of Peoples National Bank especially President & CEO, Richard Lochen, and Executive Vice-President, Debra Dissinger, for their recent donation of \$30,000 to help renovate the Computer Lab at Montrose Area Junior/Senior High School.

We also want to thank State Representative, Sandra Major, for her assistance with this project, and also School District Superintendent Mike Ognosky and Technology Teacher Craige Owens for their input and participation. We expect that when this project is complete Montrose Area School District will have one of the premier Computer Labs and Long-Distance Learning Facilities in the region. More news about this project will be forthcoming as it develops.



"...And a little child shall lead them." Isaiah 11:6

by Jason Legg



I lost count of how many times people warned me that my life was about to change. I would politely smile, laugh or nod my head. In my ignorance (or was it arrogance), I pretended to comprehend their words. In the end, I understood nothing.

On December 3, 2007, my wife gave birth to our first child, our daughter, Alyse Catherine – and our world changed. I am not speaking of the social change in our lives, such as less sleep, diapers, feedings, and all the other necessary chores. While these changes are physically the perfection of love. Even though I have already been blessed with a loving family and wonderful wife, this little girl has taught me more in five months about love than I had known in the previous 36 years. She has made real to me the transcendent power of love. Given the opportunity, love can grow beyond our self-imposed boundaries and, as it grows, it teaches and transforms us. As we allow love to grow in our hearts, we are brought closer to God – for God is love.

As I think about the things Alyse has already taught me, I realize how much more I need to learn. We are all called to serve and love each other as we love our God. Too often, this obligation seems a burden or an unwanted labor. In



demanding, especially for my wife, they are small when compared with the profound changes Alyse has made within my heart.

Each day presents new miracles. Each day is filled with wonder and awe. Simply put, as predicted, my world has changed – and changed for the better. The same people who predicted this fateful change now ask me how everything is going. I foolishly smile and say "amazing", "wonderful", "terrific." The prophets now warn me to enjoy these shortlived moments while they last – before they are replaced by a demanding child who tries the patience of her parents. I have again decided to ignore these predictions – I prefer things just the way they are.

I lack the words to articulate the depth and breadth of the alterations in my life, but I recognize a common theme: reality, it is an opportunity to allow our hearts to grow strong with the love we give to others. With our busy lives and uncertain financial times, we struggle with our own problems. It is easy to forget our neighbors and their needs, and to never awaken compassion for them within ourselves.

The Community Foundation provides a powerful vehicle to serve each other not only today – but forever. When a fund is created with the Community Foundation, it represents a gift of love to not only this generation, but succeeding generations as well. Charity is an important part of love and it is good medicine for the heart. As Bob Hope once said: "If you haven't any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble."

COMMUNITY

Gas Well? I Woulda... Shoulda... Coulda.

Our sometimes sleepy counties have been shaken up by the news that we are sitting 7,000 feet atop billions of dollars worth of newly accessible natural gas reserves. Anyone owning an acre, a small local business, sitting on a school board – has been bolted upright, eyes-wide-open. Landmen swarm the countryside, hundreds pour into Penn State and Farm Bureau seminars, neighbors are organizing

like posses, hiring lawyers and building websites. And now, the profiles of well derricks rise against our green mountain horizons; the gears are turning, the trucks are rolling. We hear tales of a spider-web of pipe lines stretching to the Atlantic.

This boom has the potential to leave some of us holding cash that will not arrive again in our lifetimes. But, to avoid

any "I woulda... shoulda... coulda" kind of regrets, The Foundation's board members and advisors encourage people making gas well decisions not to be pressured. First, take your time to get qualified legal advice before signing any lease. Your rights and our natural environment need to be protected. Next, get reliable tax advice. Even if you choose not to sign a lease, your property values, or estate values may have swollen to new levels of tax liability and complication. Third, seek reputable financial advisors. Finally, if your financial plans include philanthropy, remember The Foundation.

Stories of our donors within this publication demonstrate the limitless creative and personal ways they choose to direct their wealth. They create scholarships, perpetual endowments, memorials honoring deceased loved ones, funds to thank and

honor the living, funds that sustain organizations they have given time to all their lives. They improve schools. churches, hospitals, libraries, parks and green open space; they help families with special children. needs adults with abuse. struggling addiction or unemployment, volunteer fire companies, food banks and more.

Most landowners of this community have worked very hard to acquire, and pay taxes on their land, and have been good stewards for decades. These mineral rights may provide an opportunity for you to dream big for your community, as well as for yourself and your family – the moment to create an enduring charitable legacy worthy of your lifetime effort.

What Remains Behind



Matthew White

When life is throwing you hardball curves, you'll want The Foundation on your team. In a single year, Tammy White suffered a workplace injury, she lost her home, her relationship, and her son Mathew was killed in an auto accident. Establishing a \$2,500 scholarship fund to honor him was a challenge she felt driven to accomplish. She and many friends went to work raising funds and succeeded.

Soon after, Tammy moved from the area saying, "I'm going somewhere to sit by the ocean. It's like heaven to me; you can't see the other side." Over the years, as she moved and rebuilt her life, The Foundation lost track of Tammy This spring, out of the blue, Tammy called. She is remarried and living in South Carolina. On Labor Day 2008 it will be five years since her son died. She is happy and healthy, and appreciates that we have kept the scholarship active and running. She intends to make contributions to build it up, and has arranged for a friend to present the 2008 award to a MASD graduate.

Next year, because Mathew's fund is still in place, still growing, still giving to the community, his brother Ryan can deliver the fruits of their mother's devotion into the hands of one of his own classmates. They were by his side, all just age 12 or 13, when he suffered the loss of his brother.

19



EGACY SOCIETIES

The Perfect Partnership

A Legacy Society is a partnership between The Community Foundation and a charity. Its purpose is to encourage the charity's supporters to establish an endowment for the exclusive benefit of that organization. As they do so, they become Legacy Society Members and are recognized for their commitments. Members include a planned gift of their choice in their will, and then inform The Foundation by means of a simple Legacy Society form available from The Foundation.

One by one, as the organization's supporters make their planned or deferred gift, they are recognized in The Foundation magazine, on our web site, and in other forms of publicity. Individual Societies may also plan annual recognition events, and promote their Legacy Society in their own newsletters and publications. This encourages others to join and consider lasting gifts.

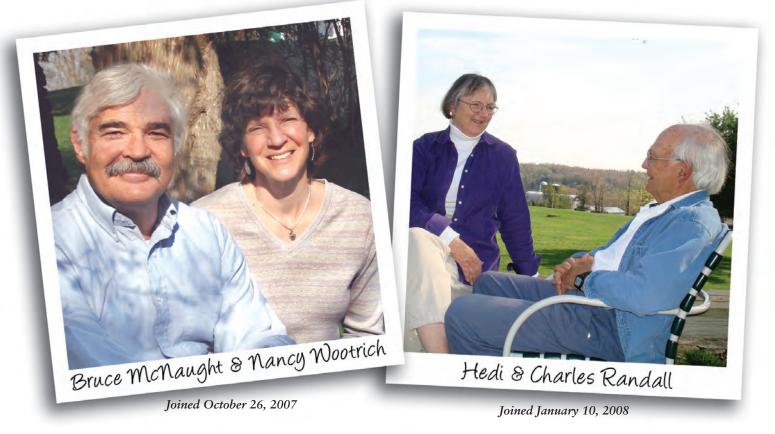
There is no minimum amount required to be left to your Legacy Society charity. Donors may include specific instructions on how the money is to be distributed, or directed, for example, to a particular program, or to operating funds of the charity. Gift amounts need not be disclosed in advance. When a member's estate is settled, a permanent fund will be established with the Community Foundation to benefit the selected charity. Alternatively, donors may direct their executor to contribute to an existing fund that already benefits the charity. Foundation funds provide annual grants of 5% of their total value.

Besides bequests, Legacy Society gifts may be left in the form of 401K/IRA plans, insurance policies, charitable trusts, or a signed deferred pledge. All will qualify a person for membership in a Legacy Society.

The Foundation assumes the responsibility to accept the money when it is available, provide all necessary accounting and investment decisions, and make distributions according to the donor's directions. The Foundation will also host events with the charity to help increase awareness of the Legacy Society, and will maintain a list of Legacy Society members in order to encourage other donors.

To learn more about how a Legacy Society can benefit your charitable organization contact Peter Quigg at The Foundation.

Friends of Salt Springs Legacy Society Members





LEGACY SOCIETIES

At a time when all charities are facing financial challenges, the Community Foundation is proud to offer a partnership that will provide perpetual help.

~ Each Legacy Society benefits a single charity. ~

~ The funds are provided by bequests that are made by members and other supporters of the charity. ~

~ The Foundation will provide all of the support needed to establish a planned giving program. ~

Contact The Community Foundation for Information

AFFILIATES

Blue Ridge School District Foundation

The Community Foundation manages Funds that provide scholarships to Blue Ridge graduates, as well as Funds that provide support for educational projects in the district.

Elk Lake School District Foundation

The Community Foundation manages funds that provide scholarships to Elk Lake graduates.

Lackawanna Trail School District The Community Foundation manages funds that provide scholarships to Lackawanna Trail graduates.

Montrose Area School District Foundation The Community Foundation manages Funds that provide scholarships to Montrose Area graduates.

FUNDS

Focus on New Funds

We thank Mrs. Sarah Bertsch of Montrose for establishing our 82nd fund. The Dr. A. Monroe & Sarah Bertsch Family Fund will provide annual grants to charitable endeavors as recommended by Mrs. Bertsch and her family. Many will recall the late Dr. Bertsch who was a highly regarded surgeon at Montrose General Hospital.

The Jackson Cemetery Association Endowment Fund has been established thanks to the efforts of Association Treasurer, Reverend Leland Pease. The endowment had existed for a number of years at an investment house, and was transferred to us for local management. This is the second historical cemetery association to join The Foundation. The Montrose Cemetery Association established an endowment with us in 2007.

We are pleased that the Board of the Susquehanna County Historical Society & Free Library Association has decided to transfer its endowment to The Community Foundation for local management. The endowment assists

Mountain View Alumni Funds

The Community Foundation manages Funds that provide scholarships to Mountain View graduates and assists the Alumni Association in developing strategies to strengthen alumni relations.

Susquehanna Community School District Foundation Scholarships The Community Foundation manages funds that benefit the

The Community Foundation manages funds that benefit the district's students.

Tunkhannock Area School District Foundation

The Community Foundation manages Funds that provide scholarships to Tunkhannock Area graduates, and has consulted with district officials about forming an Alumni Association.

with the expenses of operating the Historical Society in Montrose and the Library branches throughout the county. The Association has launched an ambitious campaign to build a new Library on land donated by the Montrose Area School District. In order to insure that the new facility remains affordable, it is essential that the endowment fund grows and keeps ahead of inflation. Fundraising for capital to construct the new building is ongoing. Donors may also choose to donate to this Library endowment fund as well.

The Harold & Frances Ely Fund was established in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Ely by their children and grandchildren. The fund will provide assistance to the Endless Mountains Health Systems and to the Susquehanna County Library. Gerald and Carol Ely established this fund as a gift to Gerald's parents, in lieu of Christmas presents. They also wanted their children, Harold and Frances' grandchildren, to experience "the gift of philanthropy." The fund demonstrates to the children that their family values include supporting important community projects.

A Great Retirement Gift Idea

In lieu of plaques or certificates of appreciation to honor two of its retiring officers, the Montrose Area Kiwanis Club has made donations to two charitable funds which those officers have established with The Foundation. Your favorite retiree need not have a fund with The Foundation for this to work well. Among our 82 funds, some benefit local schools, fire fighters, churches, hospice, women's resource center, the library, the garden club, scholarships for athletes in many sports; some funds support music education, help diabetic students, assisting breast cancer patients etc. etc. Check out our Funds List. You will very likely find one that is a good match for your retiree. In the Kiwanis example above, a donation in honor of retiring President Debbie Crisman was made to the Danny Crisman Memorial Fund. That fund provides a scholarship to a Montrose High graduate who will go on to study performing, visual, or literary arts. A donation honoring retiring Treasurer, Greg Myer was made to the Myer Family Fund which assists low income families with housing projects. This is very thoughtful and innovative way to recognize retirees, and it is worth repeating.

Albert & Ventresca Families Fund for The Women's Resource Center of Susquehanna County

Established by Judy Albert Ventresca to assist deserving women making an effort to improve their circumstances.

L. Carter & Elizabeth Anderson Fund

Supports various charitable needs of Susquehanna County as determined annually by the Anderson family

Daniel Arnold Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established in memory of Daniel Arnold, killed in action in Iraq in September, 2005. Provides a college scholarship for a football player from Montrose Area High School, Daniel's alma mater.

Raymond L. Bennett Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established in memory of Dr. Ray Bennett, a long-time Montrose physician. Provides a college scholarship for a Montrose Area High School graduate who has maintained an 85 GPA during High School and has participated in interscholastic athletics.

Dr. A. Monroe & Sarah Bertsch Family Fund

Established by Mrs. Sarah Bertsch of Montrose, this fund will provide annual grants to various local charities as recommended by Mrs. Bertsch and her family.

Albert Bertsch Fund in Memory of Chris Lake

Established by Albert Bertsch of Montrose in memory of his good friend, Chris Lake, who passed away unexpectedly. This fund provides support to the Trehab Agency and the Interfaith Agency.

Blue Ridge School District Foundation Superintendent's Fund

Personally established by Superintendent Robert McNamara. Supports the educational programs of the Blue Ridge School District.

Norman Brunner Memorial Fund

Established in memory of Norman Brunner, who in the 1950s, founded the Susquehanna County Charities Distribution Fund, the forebear of The Community Foundation. Provides grants to the United Way of Susquehanna County.

Evelyn G. Brush Memorial Fund for St. John the Evangelist Church of Susquehanna Borough

Established by the estate of Mrs. Brush, this fund provides annual grants for St. John's Church.

Deborah A. Burke Breast Cancer Fund

Provides assistance to breast cancer patients.

Choconut Valley Elementary School Wellness Fund

Established by a family from the Choconut area to support student health and wellness initiatives in the elementary school as designated by the Principal.

David Clark Memorial Scholarship Fund Established in memory of David Clark, a High School graduate who passed away in 2005. Provides a college scholarship to a Tunkhannock Area High School graduate who has overcome personal adversity to graduate from High School and go on to college.

The Clemens Family Fund

A donor advised fund for charities and land preservation in Susquehanna County.

Community Foundation Operating Endowment

Established by The Community Foundation's Board of Directors. Supports the administrative expenses of The Foundation.

Bradley David Conklin Memorial Scholarship Fund



Established in memory of Brad Conklin, a High School student killed in an automobile accident. Provides a college scholarship to a Blue Ridge High School graduate who excels in academics and exhibits exceptional basketball talent.

Countryside Conservancy Endowment Fund

Supports mission of land and water protection in and around Tunkhannock Creek Watershed.

Daniel Crisman Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established in memory of Daniel Crisman, who was killed in the World Trade Towers on September 11, 2001. Provides a college scholarship for a Montrose Area High School graduate who exhibits exceptional artistic talent and will study the visual, performing, or literary arts.

Crossley-LaBonte Family Fund

Established by Jane Crossley LaBonte, this fund supports various Susquehanna County charities and non-profit organizations as decided upon annually by Mrs. LaBonte and her family.

Jack Daniels Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established in memory of Jack Daniels, a gifted Junior High School student/athlete who passed away in a swimming accident. Provides a college scholarship for a Tunkhannock Area High School graduate who exhibits exceptional talent in interscholastic athletics on the Track & Field team, the Cross Country team, and maintains an outstanding academic record.

William Dean Memorial Fund

Supports Susquehanna County non-profit organizations as determined annually by the Dean family.

Gil Depew Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established by the family of Mr. Depew to provide a college scholarship for a diabetic student from one of the six Susquehanna County High Schools.

Joseph Dohrer Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established by the estate of Mr. Dohrer when he passed away in 1985. Provides a scholarship to a Tunkhannock graduate who has maintained at lease a 3.0 GPA in High School, who has financial need for assistance, and will attend college or a post secondary degree program.

Donley Family Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established in memory of the Donley family siblings, Harry, Josephine, Maurice, and Paul. This scholarship provides assistance to a Blue Ridge graduate who displays a need for financial assistance and maintains a 3.0 GPA in college for four years.

Edwards-Napolitano Memorial Music Scholarship Fund

Established initially in memory of Johnny Edwards, a talented musician from Susquehanna. In 2007 the name of the fund changed to also honor Johnny's good friend and band-mate, John Napolitano, who has also passed away.

Cecilia C. & Glenn W. Ely Memorial Fund

Established by the Ely's daughter, Judy Kelly of Montrose, this fund will support local charities as recommended annually by the Larry and Judy Kelly family of Montrose.

Harold & Frances Ely Fund

Established in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Ely by their children and grandchildren, this fund will provide assistance to the Endless Mtns. Health System and to the Susquehanna County Library.

Paul Fearick Memorial Baseball Scholarship Fund

Established by family and friends in memory of Lackawanna Trail High School teacher and coach. Scholarship benefits baseball team member.

Feed a Friend Fund

Established by an anonymous donor to provide annual support for The Susquehanna County Food Pantry.

Friends of Salt Springs Park Fund

Established by the Leasure family, this Fund supports the programmatic needs of Friends of Salt Springs Park.

FUNDS

Friends of Susquehanna County Fund

Supports non-profit organizations in Susquehanna County as determined annually by The Friends of Susquehanna County, formerly known as The Friends of Barnes-Kasson Hospital.

Julia Frystak Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established in memory of Julia Frystak, a High School student killed in an automobile accident. Provides a college scholarship to a Montrose Area High School graduate who excels in academics and participates in athletics.

The Garden Club of Montrose, Presidents Fund

Established by the McLaughlin family. Supports the civic beautification projects of The Garden Club of Montrose.

The Garden Club of Montrose, Jean Rose Memorial Education Fund

The Fund provides support for Garden Club members' education enhancement and for college scholarships for local students.

Ferdinand Graf Memorial Scholarship Fund

Provides a college scholarship to a Blue Ridge High School graduate who exhibits good sportsmanship in wrestling.

GRW Fund

Supports non-profit organizations in Susquehanna County.

Agnes & James W. Holbert Scholarship Fund

Established by the children of James W. Holbert, who was in the Army Medical Corps during WWII and participated in the Normandy Invasion. The scholarship provides assistance to Elk Lake High School, and Montrose Area High School graduates who excel in academics, exhibit high moral character, and who will participate in the ROTC Program in college or enter a U.S. Military Academy.

David Hwang Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established in memory of David Hwang, a teenager killed in an automobile accident. Provides a scholarship to a Blue Ridge High School graduate of high moral character who has participated in interscholastic sports and whose academic achievements have led to enrollment at an institution of higher learning.

Jackson Cemetery Association Endowment Fund

Established by the Cemetery Association to assist with the expenses of managing the Jackson Cemetery.

Jones Family Fund

Supports Susquehanna County human services agencies that provide health care, mental health care, or substance abuse care.

Kingsley Civic Club Scholarship Fund

Provides three annual college scholarships to Mtn. View High School graduates who maintain a 3.0 GPA and write winning essays regarding their accomplishments.

Kintner Family Fund

Established by Fred and Jeanne Kintner to benefit the United Methodist Church of Mehoopany.

Robert W. Klenk Scholarship Fund

Established by Mtn. View School District Alumni Association in honor of Mr. Klenk, former Principal of the Elementary School and of the High School. Provides a scholarship to a graduate who will attend college to pursue a degree in education and who exhibits a need for financial assistance.

John Krupinski Memorial Scholarship Fund

In memory of John Krupinski, Montrose High School basketball star, and first Business Manager of the Montrose Area School District. Provides a college scholarship to a Montrose graduate who will major in business, economics, or the business application of technology.

Law Enforcement Fund

Established by Susquehanna County District Attorney Jason Legg to assist with the expenses of law enforcement, particularly the Susquehanna County Task Force, and the K-9 Unit.

Mary and Kenneth Leasure Fund

Supports non-profit organizations in Susquehanna County as decided upon annually by the Leasure family.

Mary K. Leasure Fund

In memory of Mary Leasure, who greatly enjoyed the beauty of Salt Springs State Park. Provides grants for the maintenance of Salt Springs State Park , and especially for the upkeep of the Mary K. Leasure Memorial Bench.

William and Deborah Lewis Fund

Supports non-profit organizations in Susquehanna County as decided upon annually by the Lewis family.

Marian and John Miskell Family Fund

Supports non-profit organizations in Susquehanna County as decided upon annually by the Miskell family.

The Montrose Fund

This fund has been established by The Community Foundation to make annual grants to the Borough of Montrose to offset lost tax revenue because of the Foundation's non-profit tax exempt status. It is hoped additional local non-profits will also contribute to the fund.

Montrose Business and Professional Women's Scholarship Fund

Provides a college scholarship to a High School graduate from Susquehanna County who will further his or her education in preparation for entering the business or health care professions, or to an adult seeking further education.

Montrose Cemetery Association Endowment Fund

Established by the Association to assist with operating expenses.

Mountain View School District Alumni Association Scholarship Fund

Provides a college scholarship to a Mountain View graduate as chosen annually by the Alumni Association's Board of Directors.

Mountain View Staff/United Way Community Service Scholarship

Awarded to a student involved with activities in and out of school that improve quality of life in the community. Supported by United Way donations of faculty and staff.

Eileen and Gregory Myer Fund

Supports assisted housing initiatives in Susquehanna County.

Peoples National Bank Fund

Supports business leadership development programs in Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties .

Morgan R. Potter Memorial Scholarship Fund

In memory of Morgan Potter, a college student who passed away unexpectedly. Provides a college scholarship to a Montrose High School graduate who exhibits school spirit and has maintained good grades.

Albert M. Purdy Music Scholarship Fund

Established by Tunkhannock Band Boosters Association to honor their retired music teacher. Provides college scholarship to a graduate studying musical arts.

Jonathan Randall Memorial Fund

In memory of Jonathan Randall, who was killed in the World Trade Towers, September 11, 2001. Provides grants to charitable agencies as decided upon annually by the Randall family.

Ricci Family Fund

Supports various non-profit organizations as determined annually by the Daniel Ricci family of Montrose.

Edward L. Rose Conservancy Fund

Supports the programmatic needs of the Edward L. Rose Conservancy of Susquehanna County .

FUNDS

Nicholas Severcool Memorial Scholarship Fund

Provides a college scholarship to a Montrose High School student who has overcome personal adversity in order to graduate and go onto a post secondary degree program.

Silver Lake Ladies Club Fund

Supports the Club's annual college scholarship presented to a High School graduate from Silver Lake Township, or other Club projects.

Andrew M. Snitzer Memorial Scholarship Fund

Provides a college scholarship to a Blue Ridge High School graduate of high moral character who will attend college to train for a career in education.

Susquehanna County Christmas Basketball Tournament Scholarship Fund

Established by the school districts in Susquehanna County to provide college scholarships to students from the teams that participate in the Annual Susquehanna County Christmas Basketball Tournament every December. This scholarship will not be awarded in 2008 while the fund matures in value. Tax-deductible donations to the fund are always welcome.

Susquehanna County Historical Society & Free Library Association Endowment Fund

This endowment has existed for a number of years, and in 2007 the Board of the Library and Historical Society transferred it to The Community Foundation for local management. The endowment assists with the expenses of operating the Historical Society in Montrose, and the Library branches throughout the county.

Susquehanna County Civil War Monument Fund

Supports the restoration and maintenance of the Civil War Monument on the Montrose Green.

Susquehanna Fire Department Fund

Assists with the operational expenses of the Susquehanna Fire Department.

Jessie Osgood Tourje Memorial Fund

Established by the Tourje family of Forest City in memory of their mother and grandmother. Provides annual grants to Blue Ridge, Forest City, Mountain View, and Susquehanna Community School Districts.

Mary M. Umlauf Memorial Fund

Supports the Lanesboro Community Church.

United Way Fund

Provides grants to the United Way of Susquehanna County.

Kermit Van Cott Horticulture Scholarship Fund

Provides a college scholarship to a Blue Ridge High School graduate who will study horticulture, botany, forestry, or agriculture.

Matthew Van Fleet Memorial Automotive Scholarship Fund

Established as a memorial by family, teachers and students. Assists a Lackawanna Trail graduate who will study automotive technology.

Vicki's Fund for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

In memory of Vicki Clary, killed by her estranged husband. Provides support to the Susquehanna County Women's Resource Center.

John J. and Ann Vitale Scholarship Fund

Provides assistance to students from Susquehanna County who are in their final year of college or graduate school and who have incurred student debt.

Robert and Katharine Warriner Fund

Supports agricultural heritage and cultural programs in Susquehanna County.

Wellness Fund

Established to encourage an understanding of complimentary and alternative health and wellness by providing support to The Self Discovery Wellness Arts Center in Montrose.

Mathew James White Memorial Scholarship Fund

In memory of Mathew White, a High School student killed in an automobile accident. Provides a college scholarship to a Montrose High School graduate who writes a winning essay about the hazards of adolescent substance abuse.

Robert Wood Memorial Scholarship Fund

In memory of Robert Wood, who in 1955 started the Montrose Minute Men Ambulance Service. Provides a college scholarship to a Montrose High School graduate who will study the medical professions or become a Paramedic.

June J. Wootton Fund for Hospice and Palliative Care

Supports hospice and palliative care in Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties.

Earle and June Wootton Fund

Supports non-profit organizations in Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties as decided upon annually by the Wootton family.

Young Musicians Fund

Established by the Music Department of the Tunkhannock Area School District. This fund helps provide assistance for 5th Grade students from low income families to rent musical instruments.

EGACY SOCIETIES

Edward L. Rose Conservancy of Susquehanna County Legacy Society

The Society members include a gift in their estate plan settlements for preserving natural resources, wildlife sanctuary and refuge, and scenic beauty.

The Friends of Salt Springs Park Legacy Society

The Society members pledge an endowment to the park by including a clause in their will and letter of instruction regarding how they wish their gift to be used.

Sally Arnold Ayres on The Encouragement Factor



Sally Arnold Avres

You know a great deal about leading children out into the world when you have taught them for 23 years, and been the staff developer of a National Blue Ribbon School. Sally Arnold Ayres, a fourth generation Susquehanna County resident, believes the secret to education is The Encouragement Factor.

She's noticed that often between the

pivotal 6th and 8th grades, kids find their core ability, a sense of themselves and what they can do. The best a teacher can do is guide them toward that realization. "After my first three years of teaching, I never really cared if they remembered what I said in the classroom, as long as they felt strong when they graduated, they could always learn the rest."

Sally listens well and she thinks one of her 7th graders got it right when he said, "I think that the only thing you have to do in 7th grade is survive." As her students battled through adolescence, sometimes butting heads with her, she recalls, "I had to prop them up and encourage them toward the realization: "I can learn!" If they got just that, she was

satisfied and knew they would do well in life.

That kind of essential "propping up" she calls The Encouragement Factor. And she sees scholarships, even small ones as a big dose of encouragement. "Being able to go away to school and say 'I got a scholarship' gives them a little esteem, a sense of their own power and ability before they hit the classroom." Sally was the recipient of a Pennsylvania college scholarship when she graduated from MASD and went on to earn her Batchelor and Masters degrees, so she understands. "It made a difference for me."

Sally's marriage to a US Navy Officer and pilot, Kermit Ayres, took her to school systems in Oklahoma, Maryland, and Virginia. Some had Community Foundations, some did not. "I just think Community Foundations fill the gaps in resources that families and schools don't have. I love seeing all the things going on in this County to bring it to life."

We welcome Sally's dedication to children as she volunteers to serve on our College Scholarship Selection Committee, and cannot imagine a better match for the job.

Jerry Golis, Director of Technology



Jerry is a graduate of Montrose Area

Jerry Golis

High School. He attended Bloomsburg University and earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in computer science. Jerry is in charge of the computer systems for both graphic and data applications at the Montrose Publishing Company where he has worked since 1992.

Jerry began helping The Community Foundation with computer applications in 2001 doing much of his work as a volunteer. As the degree of complexity increased to include the use of Internet servers and web based programs, his position, Director of Technology, became a vital element in creating an efficient Foundation.

Angela L. Frystak Joins Foundation Staff



We welcome to The Foundation staff, Angela L. Frystak. Angie will take on part-time accounting responsibilities formerly being done by Ruth Donnelly. Ruth's work as Director of the United Way of Susquehanna County now fully occupies her time.

Angela L. Frystak

Angie was born in Tunkhannock and raised in Springville. She is a graduate of Elk Lake High School and has an

Associate Degree from Penn State in Business Administration. She worked for ten years for Pump 'n Pantry at the corporate administration offices doing accounting. For the last eight years, Angie has been self-employed performing

bookkeeping services for business clients. You might also catch her in the warmer months doing lawn mowing and lawn care services at the Montrose Cemetery, which is one of two cemetery associations which have endowment funds with The Foundation.

Angie is married to Jim Frystak. They have two sons, Jesse, age 15, and Tanner, age 11. The entire Frystak extended family has been energetic in fund raising for the Julia Frystak Memorial Fund. For several years the family organized a successful annual basketball tournament at MASD to establish a scholarship in Julia's honor. Jim and Angie and their sons live in Montrose. On joining the staff Angie says, "I'm excited to be able to be a part of The Foundation and to help out."





Music lovers should not miss an outstanding summer concert featuring two international pianists and a slate of five local musicians. It will be held on June 29th at 4 p.m. at Montrose Area High School. British concert pianist Antony Peebles will perform Chopin's Ballade No. 4 in F Minor and a will also join Dr. Ruth Ann Galatas in performing Liszt's 2nd Hungarian Rhapsody. Mr. Peebles has performed in 131 countries over the last 25 years and has been a concert soloist with the London Symphony, the Royal Philharmonic, the BBC Philharmonic, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the BBC Welsh Symphony.

Dr. Galatas is considered by leading world musicians to be one of America's finest pianists. She is renowned for her versatility and will perform songs by Richard Rogers and George Gershwin, plus she will present the world premier of a major piano piece commissioned for her, 'Ruddigore Fantasie' by Sir Arthur Sullivan and Leslie Howard.

The first half of the concert will feature Johanna Reed who will present a Camille Saint-Saens piece for horn. Lee Caterson will present a trombone work of his own composition. Pianist Virginia Wilmarth will perform a favorite entitled 'The Rabbit'. Bass-baritone, Thomas Follert, a Montrose graduate who has performed at Carnegie Hall, will sing a Brahms piece, 'In Summer Fields'. Another bass-baritone, Todd Robinson will entertain with operatic selections from Rossini's Barber of Seville and Schakowsky's Eugene Onegin.

Following the concert attendees are invited to meet the performers at a reception at The Community Foundation Building at 36 Lake Avenue. On June 28th, aspiring area musicians will have the opportunity to participate in Master Classes conducted by the artists.

The concert and Master Classes are gifts to our community. All ticket proceeds will benefit the scholarship fund of Montrose Area Adult School. These events were initiated and organized by Mr. John Farmer, an Englishman who is the husband of Montrose native, Karen Casterline Farmer. John works in the Lloyds of London insurance market and has arranged concerts for the Lloyds Music Foundation which he founded in 1976. Mr. Peebles and Dr.Galatas have both given concerts for Lloyds of London, and are long standing friends of John and Karen.

Tickets cost just \$10 and are available at the door, or in Montrose at the Butternut Gallery, The Montrose Country Store, or by calling (507) 278-2006.

FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS

A Building Progress Report from Peter Quigg

Milnes Companies of Tunkhannock, and other local contractors such as Spectrum Electrical Services, painter John Stahl, and Van Cott Landscaping have been working hard for nearly a year on the expansion and renovation of 36 Lake Avenue. The project was originally envisioned by Architect, Thomas Horlacher. Mr. Horlacher fortunately bounced back from a serious illness this year, and returned to the team. A tip of the hat also goes to our local phone service provider Frontier Communications for helping set up our telephone and internet systems. The appearance of the building may be colonial, but inside it is 21st century throughout. AirTemp from Binghamton, and Fleet Transport & Trading from Montrose, provided our heating and cooling system, and our storage tank and fuel that will enable us to comfortably go about our tasks. Everyone connected with the project deserves congratulations.

Good Workers, Doing Good Works

Tom Milnes is on our Wyoming County Advisory Council and Milnes Companies made a generous donation to our Pre-School Scholarship Program this year. Eric Lewis, the proprietor of Spectrum Electrical Services in Montrose, is a member of our Susquehanna County Advisory Council. Frontier Communications continued the tradition initiated by Commonwealth Telephone by again making generous contributions to both our Pre-K and K-12 Scholarship Programs this year.



Kermit Van Cott Family: Improving the landscapes of our lives

In early April our region lost a man who in his own right could be considered an institution in our area. Kermit Van Cott was nearly 90 years old when he passed away after a lifetime of being a landscaper and nurseryman who helped beautify many local homes and businesses. Kermit's son Cooper, with occasional assistance from his brother Forrest, has been running the family's nursery business for some time now, and has been very involved with the renovation project for the building and grounds owned by the private foundation that donates our office space. A year ago the Van Cott family established a college scholarship in Kermit's honor to benefit Blue Ridge graduates who will study horticulture, silvaculture, botany, or agriculture.

We are grateful for Mr. Van Cott's personal legacy to this area, for the ongoing artistry of his sons, and for the future Blue Ridge graduates who will be trained to continue in their footsteps.

An Important Note:

The project to remodel and enlarge The Community Foundation Building at 36 Lake Ave. Montrose is being entirely paid for by an independent nonprofit organization which owns the building, The Wootton Foundation. No Community Foundation donations or other public funds are being used for this expansion. The Wootton Foundation will also provide maintenance of the property. This philanthropic arrangement ensures continued exceptionally low overhead costs for The Community Foundation, and correspondingly low annual fund fees for our donors.

ARTISTS CELEBRATE

Artists celebrate Foundation's mission



Karen and Claire at work on the final panel.

Visitors to the Foundation Building are invited to enjoy four thirty-foot tall textile hangings brightening the new stairwell. The panels represent the four seasons. The beech and maple leaves in the fall panel are reproductions of actual leaves gathered in Elk Lake and Montrose. This is the work of artist Karen Casterline Farmer with her teacher Claire Benn of "Committed to Cloth" in Surry, England.

Each panel is composed of thin cotton muslin hand treated with ten layers of acrylic paint applied using various techniques including a silk-screening method

common in the 1950s, thermo-fax. The layers were mopped, painted, sponged and silk screened onto the surface to create depth and a translucent effect.

Layered into the works' paint are the reproduced handwritten words of Earle Wootton describing his dreams for The Foundation. The words express his hopes for a perpetual legacy to the community being constantly refreshed, as the seasons refresh, with new donors, staff and volunteers coming and going, leaving space for growth and the arrival of others, who will create positive change, and develop their own potential.

Karen finds the autumn and winter seasons in this area to be the most spectacular, and has a special appreciation of our "fantastic color and beautiful texture." She says she could not imagine doing a work about this area without including its natural environment.

She discovered "Committed to Cloth" two years ago during an artists open studio event, similar to Susquehanna County's October Artists Weekend. "She turned up and looked a little bit dazed wandering among the exhibits," reports Claire. Karen remembers, "I just started shaking," as she encountered this "most wonderful community of textile artists."

"Committed to Cloth" welcomes visitors and students from our area. Discover more at www.committedtocloth.com.



Karen Casterline Farmer is a graduate of Montrose High School and Penn State University. Since the sale of her medical device business, she has pursued her interest in textile art. She is the recipient of a United Kingdom's City and Guild Certificate after completing a rigorous two-year education in textiles. She is currently working and continuing to learn at "Committed to Cloth" in Betchworth, Surrey, England. Karen is married with a son and daughter. Her family enjoys spending time at their cottage at Elk Lake.

WEB SITE

Go to our Website for updated Community Foundation:

News and Events

Scholarships

Memorials

Honorary Funds

Legacy Societies

School District Endowments

People and Purpose

www.community-foundation.org

helping dreams come true

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

of Susquehanna & Wyoming Counties 36 Lake Avenue • Montrose PA 18801 Postage Paid Presorted Standard Montrose, PA 18801 Permit No. 2 Non-Profit

Helping dreams come true