

Helping dreams come true

Community Foundation of Susquehanna County

Newsletter Fall 2004

How Philanthropic Funds Work

How do I start a fund?

The fund process begins with a private interview, often at the 36 Lake Avenue location, with one of the Foundation executives. You express your charitable intentions, willingness and ability to endow your fund, and have your questions and any concerns answered. A contract reflecting your wishes is drawn up for your review. It specifies how the fund will be named, how the interest it accumulates will be used, when grants from the fund will begin, and who will make decisions regarding those grants. When you are satisfied that your wishes are exactly reflected, you sign the agreement and make your initial donation to establish your fund.

Most donors begin with at least \$2,500, but if a donor has less means and a sincere interest in a worthwhile charitable goal, the Foundation may identify other partner donors

with similar goals who could participate in creating that fund. The Foundation has also helped to build funds by facilitating fund raising projects that are appropriate and successful.

From the day of the first deposit into your fund, that contribution is put to work appreciating within a broadly diversified stock and bond portfolio, currently with Vanguard. From this growing base just one percent is applied to the Foundation's administrative costs. Donors fully direct their funds and participate as they choose in seeing their dreams accomplished. They receive an initial charitable contribution tax deduction, and their fund continues to grow without increasing their taxes. Donors, family, any public or private supporters interested in the fund's goal may continue to make contributions and build the fund into a more and more powerful philanthropic tool.

Honoring Brad Conklin's Life and Spirit

News of the car crash death of 17 year old Seton Catholic Central basketball star Bradley D. Conklin, broke across area headlines during the week following the May 21st tragedy. The shock was felt by his family and friends, his New Milford hometown, the church, school and sports communities which knew and loved the young man.

To commemorate his life and spirit a Bradley David Conklin Memorial Basketball Scholarship Fund has been established by the Conklin family and friends at the Community Foundation of Susquehanna



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Community Foundation of Susquehanna County

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“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”

Theodore Roosevelt

Marian S. Miskell
Editor

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Montrose Publishing
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Teaching Children About Giving

For Bill and Deborah Lewis, establishing a family directed charitable fund has been a way to teach their four children the importance of sharing, and how it can be done prudently, in a way that delivers the most value to recipients of their gift.

The Lewis children, ages six to eleven, realize that not all families are as fortunate as theirs. "We want them to have our values," says Debbie. She and Bill grew up on farms and know about hard work. Now she's a Montrose High chemistry teacher and says, "I know firsthand that not all children in this County have what we have. I don't want ours to be 'spoiled rotten,' assuming that everyone is this fortunate."

When toys and books lay idle, Debbie sees that the children gather them up to share with others who don't have these extras. At Christmastime Bill and daughter Alexandria participate in the Interfaith holiday festival which provides food, gifts and a tree for families in need. One winter the children were reminded that not everyone can afford oil to keep warm, and they filled the oil tank of a struggling working family along with their own.

Bill's work as a Financial Planner has exposed him to creative ways to use time and regular budgeted contributions to expand their family donation dollar. The couple pays quarterly premiums on a life insurance policy that will someday payout a large benefit to their Church. And they are building a family directed Community Foundation fund.

Bill envisions, "As the fund grows, so will the children. Some day we'll sit down as a family, maybe at Christmastime, think about important local needs and decide where it should go. I favor using the fund to meet basic needs. But just getting the six of us to agree will be an interesting discussion."



Debbie and Bill Lewis with children Christopher, Nichole, Alexandria and Matthew

Honoring Brad Conklin's Life and Spirit (continued from page 1)

County. It has grown from contributions and now exceeds \$38,000. It is the family's intention that the fund will generate a perpetual annual scholarship for a local student who exhibits the best of Brad's character, kindness and athletic talent. The Conklin family will select the annual recipient. Applicants lives will reflect the hard work, enthusiasm, character and kindness that Brad demonstrated.

Brad Conklin was a 6-foot-8 All-Metro basketball Player of the Year who had caught the attention of several Division I college coaches eager to sign him up for a scholarship to play. He was a player who dominated games locally averaging 23.9 points and 10 rebounds per game, but it is his kindness that makes him especially missed. He took the time to shake hands and say 'thank you' to a journalist who wrote a story on his game. His coaches report that he continued to work hard, leading the younger players, and never took his ability for

granted. Brad accompanied a buddy's 9-year-old brother to school to speak about basketball at a 3rd grade 'show and tell' class, and read a children's book to him on their way home after a game.

These are the qualities that the Conklin family wishes to honor with the Bradley David Conklin Memorial Scholarship Fund. "It is meant to commemorate his spirit and his wonderful life," says family friend Tony Cerasaro who initiated the fund.

“Be life short or long, its completeness depends on what it was lived for.”

David Star Jordan

Meet the Board: Marian S. Miskell

Marian grew up in Boston where she graduated with a degree in English and Communications from Suffolk University and Emerson College. She is the mother of three adult daughters and step parent to five more sons and daughters with her husband John Miskell.

Marian has been an owner and manager of two small businesses, a natural food store and a café and wine shop. She also worked in telecommunication sales and wrote strategic plans and marketing material for AT&T. During that period she completed post graduate courses in business.

Since settling in Susquehanna County in 2002, Marian has done free lance writing as a reporter for the Independent, and has written forestry and agricultural articles for Country Folks. She has been recognized by the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association for her article on border collie trials.

Marian is a Board member of the local League of Women Voters and a member of the Montrose Red Hatters. She and John apply their cooking experience to fund raising events for the Montrose Restoration

Committee and they also give time to support the Friends of Salt Springs Park and Lake Raylean Association where they reside. They are in the process of establishing a Community Foundation fund.



Board of Directors:

Earle A. Wootton
Chairman

William R. Lewis
Vice Chairman

Joseph T. Burke
President

Betty Kwader

Marian S. Miskell

James May

Thomas Chamberlain

Women’s Resource Center Endowment



“We knew as the years passed, fewer and fewer people who worked with Vicki and knew her personally would be around,” says Joan Griffith, Editor of The Independent and Weekender. Yet the causes of Vicki Clary’s untimely death persist in our midst. Vicki, a marketing consultant for the newspaper, was murdered in August 1999, a victim of domestic violence. Since that time her colleagues have annually held fund raisers in memory of Vicki and in support of the Women’s Resource Center. They are committed to helping prevent such future family tragedies in this community.

This year they are raising \$2,500 with a raffle featuring a signed print of artist Rich Griffith and other prizes. The proceeds of this raffle will establish an endowment with the Community Foundation “as a perpetual fund-raiser for the Women’s Resource Center”. The Center provides a 24 hour hotline, emergency shelter, crisis counseling and education programs for prevention of domestic and sexual violence.

“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”
Edmund Burke

Helping dreams come true

Bob Brown & Jason Legg to Speak for Foundation

Certified Financial Planner Robert J. Brown and Susquehanna County District Attorney Jason J. Legg are now available to schedule speaking engagements on behalf of the Community Foundation. They will customize their presentations to accommodate the timeframes and interests of your group.

Bob Brown grew up in Susquehanna County, graduated from Elk Lake High School and Bloomsburg University with a degree in Business Administration. His current practice, Blue Sky Financial, is located at 26 Maple Street Montrose. Bob is an active member and past president of the Montrose Area Kiwanis Club and in 2003 chaired the KLR Fourth of July celebration. He and his wife, Deb, have two young children.

Regarding working for the Community Foundation Speakers Bureau he says, "I see quite a lot of situations where people are just unsure of how to proceed or where to go. I know that in some situations, the Foundation can be a starting point. Once there, they have a quality organization to work with; and as their advisor, I know that the Foundation will work with me to provide what the client is looking for. That's a good feeling."

District Attorney Jason Legg was raised in the Choconut and Silver Lake area. His sterling academic career includes honors from Montrose Area High School, summa cum laude Bachelors and Masters Degrees from the University of Scranton as well as from Albany Law School. He served for three years as assistant

district attorney for Susquehanna County before being elected in 2004 as District Attorney.

Jason and his wife, Maggie, live on Lake Avenue in Montrose and are active parishioners of the Holy Name of Mary Roman Catholic Church. Jason has taught American Politics at Luzerne County Community College, served on the boards of the Drug and Alcohol Commission and End of Day, Inc.



l to r: District Attorney Jason Legg, Foundation President Joseph Burke and Financial Planner Bob Brown.

Peoples National Bank Scholarship Program

Peoples National Bank this fall replenished its Scholarship Program with a second \$50,000 contribution. The funds will be awarded in 2004, enabling Peoples to help another wave of deserving students and their families pay for education expenses. The bank's first awards were distributed to 23 students from 14 area families last April. The program will continue to be managed and administered by the Community Foundation which will provide announcements, process and screen applicants, and host an award ceremony.

Executive Vice President, Debbie Dissinger has commented that it is not often that a business can enjoy the opportunity to direct its tax dollars to benefit its own community in a way that it chooses. She sees this as one of the best reasons for working with the Community Foundation. The program also provides significant tax credits, dollar for dollar, for up to 90 percent of donations from corporations and S corporations.

The Community Foundation scholarship programs are among its most popular. They include tuition assistance, grants to provide innovative core curriculum, and funding for before and after school and summer childcare for working parents. Educational enhancements which could be made from these

donations include adding new technology, more teachers, vocational and hands-on learning programs, arts enrichment, athletic and health education improvements.



PNB President Jack Ord with scholarship winners Sandy and Dale Black and their daughters, and Executive VP Debbie Dissinger.

Philanthropists as Catalysts for Change

From an article in The Christian Science Monitor by Carl J. Schramm, president of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

By the year 2010 the assets of American foundations are projected to grow to \$800 billion, roughly a fourfold increase since 1994. In addition to demonstrating generosity with these funds, Carl Schramm believes foundations should be innovators and catalysts for change.

“The charitable foundation has entrepreneurship in its bloodlines,” he says, noting captains of industry at the turn of the 20th century who devised and adopted new technologies and production methods, built railroads, manufactured goods and marshaled resources on an unprecedented scale. “The new capitalist class applied the same innovative mind-set to sharing their wealth that they had used in creating it – and broke taboos while doing so.”

Some examples cited are Leland and Jane Stanford who applied principles of seeding and leveraging in founding Stanford University in the 1890’s and at the same time admitted women in contrast to most elite schools of the time. The Sarah Melon Scaife

Foundation backed Jonas Salk’s use of live virus to develop a polio vaccine. Andrew Carnegie built and stocked 2,500 libraries around the world, entrenching the concept of free public libraries. At a time when few parents realized preschoolers could learn ABCs watching television, the Carnegie Corporation supported a study that led to the development of “Sesame Street.” When the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation needed proven administrators for short term pilot healthcare programs, it introduced the practice of “renting” CEOs for start-ups over 30 years ago.

Schramm believes that those who lead entrepreneurial foundations must have entrepreneurial experience, and notes that much of the asset growth of foundations is coming from entrepreneurs. These philanthropists are applying the same principles they pursue in business: competitive strategies, financial discipline, risk-taking and learning from failure. “The same spirit that can drive the American economy can again steer American philanthropy, and help ensure that our material progress is matched by social progress.”

Mary and Ken Leasure Initiating Scholarships

Worthwhile new initiatives are evaluated at every Community Foundation Board meeting. Each requires a large or small early investment to cover new administrative commitments, get the word out to the public, match grant money, hire professional expertise etc. Great ideas can lift off only when a special donor, a Program Initiator, has the vision to give that quiet, unglamorous, behind-the-scenes boost necessary to get the philanthropic ball in the air. In the case of the Community Foundation Education Programs, Ken Leasure played that role.

Ken saw the potential of the program and offered to provide money from the Mary and Kenneth Leasure Fund, which he directs, to that purpose. He has the reward of having seen his project inspire great interest and be further fueled by a Peoples Bank \$100,000 gift to the program. He can now share in the joy and great financial relief the Education Program scholarships provide to many hard working families. Now in motion, the

Education Programs have new donors and new opportunities to evolve and expand.

The Foundation would like to note the particular courage and energy Program Initiators provide. They are true partners with the Board, enabling and in many ways shaping what the Foundation can pursue. It takes money, and it takes courage. For both we say ‘thanks.’



Ken and Mary Leasure

Council Members:

Toby Anderson
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Connie Barnes
Bob Brown
Joseph Burke
Chris Catterson
Rex Catlin
Thomas Chamberlain
Ed DeWitt
Myron B. DeWitt
Agnes Jones
Betty Kwader
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Ken Leasure
Jason Legg
Eric Lewis
William Lewis
Sandy Major
Shirley Masters
Rich Masters
James May
Fraser Moffat
Greg Myer
Jack Ord
Hedi Randall
Charles Randall
Dan Regan
Dan Ricci
Bud Rogers
Robert Warriner
Robert Wert
Earle Wootton

“By his deeds we
know a man.”

African Proverb

Helping
dreams
come true

Rosemont Art Project

Among the amenities enjoyed by guests of the Rosemont Inn is a growing collection of original art assembled with the advice of artist Betty Bryden. When the works caught the attention of guests and friends interested in purchasing them, a philanthropic dream was born. It is called the Rosemont Art Project and Bryden is its Director.

Betty Bryden is known for her works in ink and water color on handmade paper. She has produced notable graphic designs. Her roots are in Thompson where her grandparents lived, and she owned a gallery in Maine for 15 years.

Each year the Rosemont Art Project will select and purchase four new works. The focus will be upon local artists, but others will be included. Rights to produce limited edition quality prints will also be procured. Each print will be accompanied by a signed certificate of authenticity and information about the artist.

Patrons may choose the paper or canvas upon which their print is generated and order it unframed or framed. Prices will be under \$200, making fine regional art affordable to many. In addition to supporting and promoting local artists, the Project's net profits will be donated to the Community Foundation.

Carol Angela Brown's painting 'Railroad Crossing at Heart Lake' has been selected as the first Rosemont Art Project print. After a kickoff scheduled for November, the works will be offered on the Rosemont Inn website: www.rosemontbb.com



Foundation President Joseph Burke and Betty Bryden with Carol Angela Brown's painting.

“The fate of empires depends upon the education of its youth.”
Aristotle

Pennstar Sets the Pace

Establishing the United Way of Susquehanna County was the first major project of the Community Foundation. Pennstar Bank agreed to be a United Way Pacesetter organization, doing their company fundraising early to demonstrate their willingness to set high goals for others to match.

Almost 75 percent of Pennstar employees have this year made pledges to support the United Way of Susquehanna County. Employees from Pennstar's six branches more than doubled their last year pledges of \$1,000 to reach an unofficial \$2,219. President and COO David Raven announced that Pennstar would more than match each dollar employees pledged.

With Pennstar's corporate matching funds included, the 22 local member agencies which the United Way of Susquehanna

County supports will receive \$5,000 from the Pennstar team. Vice President Robert J. Welch says, “We are setting the pace. Let's see what others can do.”

This year the third annual United Way Campaign Kick Off was held at the Harford Fair where its members showcased their services to the community. The Campaign will run from August 16th through December 17th with a goal of raising \$150,000. Funds raised during the Annual Campaign will be allocated in grants during 2005 to member agencies serving all of Susquehanna County.

United Way Board Chair, Alice Deutsch says, “We are hoping to break all records this year and we're expecting a very positive outcome.”

Community Bank & Trust Boosts United Way

The Community Foundation has received a \$7,500 contribution from Community Bank & Trust Company. These funds will be used to build the Foundation's United Way Capital Campaign Fund. The purpose of that fund is to provide start-up operating expenses for the United Way of Susquehanna County.

The United Way of Susquehanna County funds 22 member agencies which provide

critical human services. These include child protection and care, literacy, women's resources, services to seniors, the handicapped and rural health organizations, and emergency food and shelter programs.

This donation from Community Bank and Trust Company fulfills the first half of a \$15,000 United Way Capital Campaign Fund pledge the bank made in 2003 and will be honoring throughout 2005.

“A hero is a man who does what he can.”
Romain Rolland

Wachovia Foundation Champions Hospice and Palliative Care

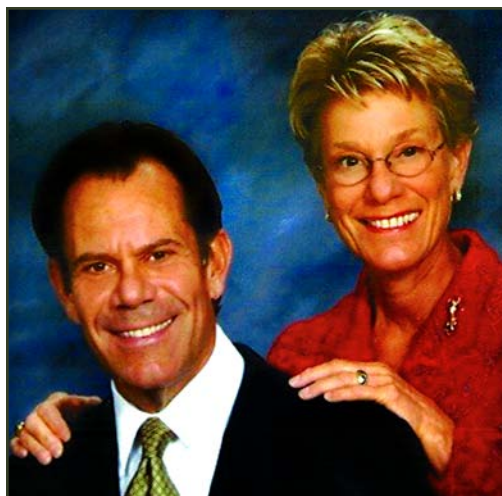
Wachovia Foundation has chosen to honor June J. Wootton and Earle Wootton's selection by the Montrose Chamber of Commerce as 'Citizens of the Year' with a \$7,500 contribution to the Community Foundation. The donation will support the June J. Wootton Fund for Hospice and Palliative Care.

“Our mission at Wachovia is to build strong and vibrant communities, improve the quality of life, and make a positive difference where we work and live. Your organization is vital in accomplishing these goals and many others. Wachovia is proud to support your organization's commitment to the community,” commented Robert Richardson, Area executive Officer for Wachovia's Northeast Pennsylvania market.

It is a fitting and appreciated tribute, given June's life of dedication to the relief of human suffering. She is a registered nurse who has worked in pediatric oncology. Her greatest commitment since settling in Montrose in 1975 has been to Broome and Susquehanna County patients and families participating in the Lourdes Hospital Hospice program. She has served for 24 years as a volunteer, and is currently co-facilitating volunteer training, volunteering

on the In-Patient Unit as well as Home Care. As an active member of the Speakers Bureau, she initiated an Annual Bereavement Service 15 years ago. In 1999 she was the New York State Hospice Volunteer of the Year.

Earle Wootton recently retired from 35 years in the publishing business. He has been a bank director for 25 years and currently serves as a director of Wachovia Bank. He has devoted much of his time in the past few years to establish the both the Community Foundation and the United Way of Susquehanna County.



Current Funds

- L. Carter & Elizabeth Anderson Fund
- William & Deborah Lewis Fund
- Montrose Restoration Fund
- Gregory & Eileen Myer Fund
- People's National Bank Fund
- Earle & June Wootton Fund
- Robert & Katherine Warriner Fund
- Mary M. Umlaff Fund
- Directors Dedication Fund
- The Friends of Salt Springs Fund
- The Mary K. Leasure Fund
- The Mary & Kenneth Leasure Fund
- Raymond L. Bennett Scholarship Fund
- William Dean Memorial Fund
- The GRW Fund
- Jonathan Randall Memorial Fund
- The Deborah A. Burke Breast Cancer Fund
- The Julia A. Frystak Scholarship Fund
- The United Way Endowment Fund
- CFSC General Fund
- The United Way Capital Campaign Fund
- The Jones Family Fund
- The Norman Brunner Memorial Fund
- The Friends of Susquehanna County Events Fund
- The Friends of Susquehanna County Endowment Fund
- Nicholas Severcool Scholarship Fund
- Agnes & James W. Holbert Scholarship Fund
- Bradley David Conklin Memorial Basketball Scholarship Fund
- June J. Wootton Fund for Hospice and Palliative Care
- Marian & John Miskell Family Fund

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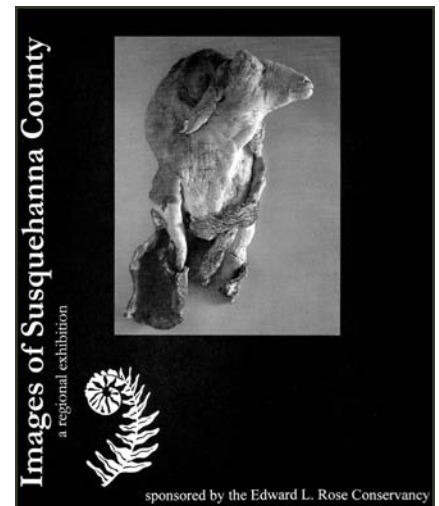
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Images of Susquehanna County Debuts

The Community Foundation and the Rosemont Inn and Bed & Breakfast were proud hosts this spring of the regional art exhibit presented by the Edward L. Rose Conservancy, Images of Susquehanna County. Conservancy Executive Director Connie Barnes was inspired to assemble the exhibit by the experience of observing a breathtaking shift of light upon the winter landscape. Her dream was to give artists the opportunity to capture such beauty and present it to the public.

With the help of artisan and thinker Betty Bryden and many others, the exhibit was a stunning hit to the hundreds of visitors who came and saw and purchased many of the 65 selected works. The exhibit accomplished its goal to raise awareness of the historic and natural assets of the county which the Conservancy works to preserve.



“It is more difficult to give money away intelligently
than it is to earn it in the first place.”

Andrew Carnegie



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