

Helping dreams come true

The Community Foundation

Newsletter Fall 2005



Inside this issue:

Foundation Welcomes Wyoming County Neighbors	1
Peoples National Bank Funds Community Leaders & United Way ...	2
Commonwealth Telephone Gives \$25,000 for Scholarships	3
Shelter from the Storm	4
Community Bank & Trust Donates \$50,000 to Foundation	4
Dietrich Looks Forward	4
Tunkhannock: Epicenter for the Arts	5
Peoples National Bank Donates \$50,000 To Scholarship Program ..	5
Wyoming County Advisory Council	6
Banks Open Doors to Donors ...	6
Art Show to benefit United Way ..	7
Council of the Arts to Showcase Works in Wood	7
You Will Leave Your Mark on This World	8

Foundation Welcomes Wyoming County Neighbors

The Board of Directors of The Community Foundation on June 16th moved unanimously to extend its services to include its neighbor, Wyoming County. A name change to The Community Foundation of Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties was also approved. The existing staff of the Foundation - its President, Director of Development, Operations Manager, plus an expanded Board of Directors will now provide professional services to the entire two-county region. The Lake Avenue Foundation building will remain the Foundation's central location for both counties. To ensure that the Foundation services are readily available within this expanded geography, bank branches in both

counties have agreed to make their meeting space available without cost to Foundation representatives and prospective donors.

The move will significantly expand the Foundation's current potential donor base. Many of the Foundation's existing corporate donors have locations and customers in both counties and would prefer to deal with a single organization to achieve their self-directed charitable goals. Both counties enjoy a rural and small town character; without a community foundation their philanthropic needs would be underserved and overshadowed by their larger urban neighbors.

continued on page 2

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Foundation Welcomes Wyoming County Neighbors

(continued)

Wyoming County combines a population of 24,000 with Susquehanna County's 42,000. Their county seats of Tunkhannock and Montrose are only 16 miles apart and residents of both communities currently flow back and forth to shop, enjoy films, galleries, theatres and restaurants, work together on tourism and social service endeavors.

The Board's decision followed several months of meetings between Foundation Chairman Earle Wootton and Director Bob

Brown with Wyoming County business, professional and cultural leaders. A letter from many of those leaders requesting and endorsing the action.

Funds, scholarships and endowments, as always, will continue to be directed by donors' wishes. A strong, efficient Foundation will continue to provide local legal, investment and administrative support to accomplish your charitable goals.

“Goodness is easier to recognize than define.”
W. H. Auden

Peoples National Bank Funds Community Leaders and United Way

This August Peoples National Bank, for the seventh consecutive year, honored its 1999 pledge to the community to contribute \$5,000 to a Foundation fund. That fund, advised by Peoples National Bank executives, generates grants for the purpose of promoting leadership in our community. Peoples National Bank has also taken an active role in the Penn State Cooperative Extension Leadership 20/20 program since its inception in 2001. That program has graduated 48 Susquehanna County residents who have been educated and inspired to take on leadership responsibilities in their hometowns.

In addition, Peoples National Bank contributed another \$5,000 for a third consecutive year to support the United Way of Susquehanna County Capital Campaign. This campaign was created to offset the costs of starting a Susquehanna County United Way. It ensures that the United Way costs remain minimal so that nonprofits in the county receive the maximum benefit. Peoples National Bank has also pledged another \$1,200 toward the United Way's 2005 annual campaign goal of \$200,000.

The United Way wishes to thank Peoples National Bank on behalf of the hundreds of people who have directly or indirectly been affected by their years of generosity and continued commitment to the community.



Peoples National Bank President Jack Ord presents Foundation Director of Development, Peter Quigg with its latest donation.

“Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens
can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that has.”

Commonwealth Telephone Gives \$25,000 for Scholarships

The Community Foundation is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$25,000 donation from Commonwealth Telephone Company in conjunction with the PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. This program allows businesses to direct their tax dollars to meet the educational needs of their communities. The funds will be used to provide county pre-kindergarten children with scholarships to attend approved programs that will prepare them for success in grade school. "We are very pleased to be able to help the community by giving money to meet the needs of our local schools. This money will assist in creating successful futures for the children," said Steve Skammer, CT's Senior Manager of Field Operations.

Peter Quigg, Director of Development for The Community Foundation, stated, "The Foundation is very excited to have Commonwealth Telephone join us in this program this year. The Foundation's purpose is to assist the citizens of our area, and Commonwealth Telephone's donation will certainly help with our work. Deserving families will directly benefit from these funds." As this newsletter goes to press, Commonwealth Telephone Company has notified the Foundation of its intention this year to make an additional contribution to be used for K through 12 scholarships. Details will be announced as soon as possible.



Commonwealth Telephone Company presents its \$25,000 educational scholarship donation. From left, CT Senior Manager of Engineering and Construction Wayne Devine, The Community Foundation Director of Development Peter Quigg, CT Senior Manager of Field Operations Steve Skammer, and CT Engineering and Construction Supervisor Jeff Bolton.

Shelter from the Storm

The United Way of Susquehanna County is accepting donations for Hurricane Relief efforts. Currently three families have moved to the county after having their homes destroyed by Katrina, and the United Way is playing a role in helping them get re-established.

The fund will provide one student in each Susquehanna County school district with a United Way scholarship.

"I'm very pleased with the progress we are already making toward this goal," reports Ruth Donnelly. "We have a lot of great volunteers and a community that cares."

This year's United Way campaign began officially on September 1st and runs through November 20th with a goal of collecting \$200,000. Over 15,000 brochures have been mailed to contact donors, and the county's 30 cabinet members will be personally contacting over 400 businesses to solicit their help.



This year donors will have the new opportunity to contribute to a scholarship fund held at The Community Foundation.

Board of Directors:

Earle A. Wootton
Chairman

William R. Lewis
Vice Chairman

James May
Treasurer

Betty Kwader
Secretary

Marian S. Miskell

Joseph T. Burke

Thomas Chamberlain

Robert J. Brown

Jason J. Legg

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Community Bank & Trust Co. Donates \$50,000 to Foundation

Community Bank & Trust Co. has donated \$25,000 for the year 2005, and \$25,000 for the year 2006 to The Community Foundation in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. The program which has been administered by the Foundation for two years has had a significant impact on expanding access to local day care centers and nursery schools for families with incomes of less than \$50,000 per year. It has also been helping send some autistic children to special programs, and supplied tools and learning materials to vocational and technical schools.

“The proceeds of this program help give the schools the resources to make learning interesting and fun,” said William F. Farber, Chairman of Community Bank & Trust Co. “As a member of our community, I am proud to help the young people of our area.”

Community Bank & Trust Company’s corporate giving program provides the opportunity to invest in the future of the bank’s communities. The bank has partnered with various local educators to help schools and programs most in need through such endeavors as providing learning support through finance-related education programs, participating in Community Reading

Day, and providing scholarships donated through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program, administered by The Community Foundation.



From left: Earle Wootton and Peter Quigg of the Foundation receive donation from Mark Caterson, Community Bank & Trust, Montrose and William F. Farber, Chairman, Community Bank & Trust Co.

“My inner and outer life are based on the labors of others, living and dead, and I must give in the same measure as I have received.”

Albert Einstein

Dietrich Looks Forward

Several of the Foundation’s new Wyoming County Advisory Council members are active at Tunkhannock’s Dietrich Theater. Its art-deco building at 60 Tioga Street was built as a movie house in 1936, rescued by community activists in 1998, and has survived and thrived to become a regional cultural showcase featuring live theater and music performances, foreign independent and classic films, gallery exhibitions, classes and workshops for children and adults.

The Dietrich/Wyoming County Cultural Center recently negotiated a \$310,000 loan guarantee from the USDA Rural Development office so that they could purchase the old Atlantic gas station property adjoining its present facility. They were assisted by Peoples Bank, and U.S. Representative Don Sherwood who commented, “It is a great day for Tunkhannock to see this community continue to be beautified.”

Current plans call for the lot to be developed as downtown green space. Patrick Weese, president of the Dietrich’s Board of

Directors has explained that securing this financing means the Dietrich can plan expansion of the theater with greater certainty and confidence.



Tunkhannock: Epicenter for the Arts

A September article by the Philadelphia Inquirer's Frank Wilson reports that Tunkhannock is becoming an epicenter for the arts. To demonstrate his point he cites the Lizza Fine Art Studios. The former skating rink now serves patrons from the Primavera Fine Arts Foundation, New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Vatican by providing the highest quality giclee fine art prints.

The gallery continues to mount extraordinary regional and international work including crystal glass sculptures by Christopher Ries, the Czech surrealist Vojen Cech Colini, and many more.

The Inquirer goes on to mention the Endless Mountains Council of the Arts, the Wyoming County Cultural Center, the Dietrich Theater, the Blue Heron Gallery in Wyalusing, area painters Brian Keeler, James Penedos, sculptor Charles Welles , and Susquehanna County's Springville Schoolhouse Art Studios project as further

evidence that "once artists settle in, other follow."

The Lizza Gallery is graciously supporting the Foundation by making its exceptional space available for an October reception. The event will feature artist and musician Joe Weldon and his jazz ensemble, and will allow Susquehanna and Wyoming County philanthropic leaders to get acquainted.



Peoples National Bank Donates \$50,000 to Scholarship Program

For the third consecutive year Peoples National Bank has made a generous contribution to the Pennsylvania Education Improvement Tax Credit Program administered by The Community Foundation. This most recent donation benefits students in grades K-12. This needs-based scholarship provides assistance to students in public or private schools. Scholarships have also been awarded to autistic children who attend special programs, and to students who require English as a Second Language programs. Many students from the Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center in Elk Lake have also received funding for materials they require for their classes.

In the two years this scholarship program has existed in Susquehanna County it has assisted one hundred and thirty three students. Currently, as awareness of the scholarship has grown, more donations have arrived and more families are benefiting. "However," states Peter Quigg, Director of Development for The Community Foundation, "Peoples National Bank has been the most

substantial supporter from the inception of this scholarship, and continues to be our major contributor. Including this current donation, the bank has made available \$190,000 to the students of our county via the EITC Program. This truly reflects the bank's commitment to our area." The bank currently has branches in Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties in Pennsylvania, and in New York's Broome County. Scholarship Applications may be downloaded from The Community Foundation's web site at www.community-foundation.org.



Peter Quigg (l) accepts latest donation from Peoples National Bank President Jack Ord (r).

Facts at a Glance

Value of Foundation assets
December, 2004: \$ 557,601

Value of Foundation assets
August 2005: \$ 749,741

A fund supports the donor's
charity forever.

The minimum amount to start
a fund is \$2,500.

The value of the fund grows.

Donors can choose to support
a different charity each year.

Five percent of the fund is
distributed annually.

The Foundation can help
maximize tax deductions.

The Foundation receives 1%
to cover expenses.

The Foundation was
established in 1998.

Currently managing 40 funds

In 2004 awarded \$265,000
in scholarships and grants.

Established and supports
United Way of Susquehanna
County.

New Fund

The Past Presidents Fund
Of the Montrose Garden Club

To benefit the club's civic
beautification projects.

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Wyoming County Advisory Council

Extending The Community Foundation services into Wyoming County is possible because of the vision and support of the following community leaders. They will make up the Wyoming County Advisory Council which is a growing group of influential volunteers who will provide direction, work on specific assignments, and represent their community. This Advisory Council will soon nominate four of its members to serve on the Foundation Board of Directors.

It is the intention of The Foundation that the Advisory Council represents a cross section of Wyoming County interests and talents. Each Council member's support is personal, and each contributes a unique understanding of Wyoming County needs. Each member's primary affiliation is noted to demonstrate the expertise and position of trust he or she holds in the community. That professional experience makes their personal endorsement of great value to The Community Foundation, and we warmly welcome their support.

Dr. Edward Boehm, Jr. – President, Keystone College
Robert J. Brown, CFP – Owner, RJB Planning & Advisory, Blue Sky Financial
Betty Bryden – Gallery Manager, Endless Mountains Council of the Arts
Maggie Cartwright – Board Member, Wyoming County Cultural Center, Tunkhannock Library

James Depolo – Past President, Commonwealth Telephone Company
Mary Felley – Executive Director, Countryside Conservancy
Harold Flack – President, Diamond Manufacturing Company
Marcie Henderson – Logistics Administrative Assistant, Procter & Gamble
Dr. William Host – President and CEO, Wyoming Valley Health Care System
Dale Howell – Past President, Tunkhannock Kiwanis Club
Kevin Huyck – Branch Manager – Laceyville, First Liberty Bank
Edward Kintner – Vice-President, Kintner Modular Homes Inc.
Ronald Kukuchka – Owner, Ace Robbins, Inc.
Richard Lochen – Partner – Lochen & Chase, P.C., Board Member – Peoples National Bank
Hildy Morgan – Executive Director, Dietrich Theater
Charles O'Hara – Community Relations, Procter and Gamble
Julie Orloski – Past President, Tunkhannock Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Robert Scott – Vice President Academic Affairs, Keystone College
Dr. Arthur Sherwood – Physician
Sarah Sidorek – Theater Manager, Dietrich Theater
Andrew J. Sordoni – Sordoni Foundation and Sordoni Construction Services
William Sordoni – Sordoni Foundation and Sordoni Construction Services
Harold Stout – Community Office Manager, Tunkhannock Branch, Community Bank and Trust
Michael Thornton – Principal, Tunkhannock Area High School
Steven Volker – Communications Consultant, Commonwealth Telephone Company, Epix Internet Services

“A dedicated person with a rusty wrench can outperform someone who has all the money for tools but no commitment.”

Banks Open Doors to Donors

Wherever you bank, you can meet with The Community Foundation. The bankers of Wyoming County have made a very generous offer of support to potential Foundation donors in their neighborhoods. They are making branch office conference rooms available free of charge to any of their customers who wish to meet with a Foundation representative.

The conference rooms will also make Advisory Council gatherings, project and planning sessions convenient. This will make the Foundation accessible to everyone in our newly expanded two-county area by establishing a main street presence in every neighborhood. Donation of services and facilities such as the banks are providing, plus the participation of talented volunteers ensure that Foundation expenses remain exceptionally low.

Many of the banks are also providing space for the distribution of our quarterly Foundation Newsletter – helping to get the word

out to everyone with a philanthropic dream to fulfill. Here are the banks participating:

Community Bank & Trust Co.
 First Liberty Bank & Trust
 M&T Bank
 Pennstar Bank
 Peoples National Bank
 Wachovia Bank

If you would like to meet with a Foundation representative call our main numbers in Susquehanna County 278-3800, in Wyoming County 836-4444, e-mail us at foundation@epix.net or go to our web site www.community-foundation.org. A meeting will be arranged at a location convenient to you.

Art Show to benefit United Way

Area artists Chris Lathrop, Rodrica Tilley, Anna Maria Bakermans, Joe Weldon, Rita Eddy, Warren Furman, VanZandbergen and others are teaming up with Montrose student artists to benefit the United Way of Susquehanna County. The Colors of Fall exhibit scheduled for Friday Sept. 23 (3 to 7 pm) and Saturday Sept. 24th (10-4pm) will be held at the Montrose High School gallery.

“It’s been really rewarding to do something that involved everyone,” says Clarissa Plank, show organizer. “It’s going to be fun and we’ll have a great time.” Clarissa, an 18 year old 12th grader, initiated the event as her senior class project. From the annual Artists Open House weekend, friends and local connections she developed a list of potential exhibitors, and found them surprisingly responsive and generous in sharing about 24 works so far assembled.

Clarissa has personally augmented four years of art studies with Cathy Regan at Montrose High, with art courses at Keystone College and traveling to see the museums of France. She plans to settle here or in France after college.

Colors of Fall will include paintings in oil, acrylic and water color, drawings and photographs on many themes. It is free to the public and 30 to 100 percent of sales revenue from each work will be donated to United Way hometown charities.



Clarissa Plank in her 1840's farmhouse studio in Franklin Township.

“If all I’m remembered for is being a good basketball player, then I’ve done a bad job with the rest of my life.”

Isiah Thomas

Council of the Arts to Showcase Works in Wood

The Community Foundation and the Rosemont Inn Bed & Breakfast have both provided underwriting support to the Endless Mountains Council of the Arts’ upcoming fall show “Two New England Artists”. The support will allow the EMCA Center to bring to northeast Pennsylvania the work of woodcut artist Mary Azarian and barn board construction artist John Long

Gallery Manager, Betty Bryden reports that Mary Azarian, of Plainfield Vermont, is known for her woodcuts of rural life. She has created exceptional children’s book illustrations. John Long hails from Newfain, Vermont. He creates unique free-form images, often architectural,

using barn wood pieces that are one-hundred to two-hundred years old.

The Rosemont and Foundation grants will provide the means for the Council of the Arts to schedule and advertise such community activities as storytelling, book making and barn history lectures. EMCA will also be purchasing outright a selection of Mary Azarian’s books. A full set of these books will be donated to both the Wyoming and Susquehanna County libraries where they can be enjoyed by all.

The exhibit and related programs will run from October 28th through November 20th. For more information call 836.EMCA.

Affiliates

Blue Ridge School District Foundation

The Montrose Area School District Foundation

Susquehanna Community School District Foundation

Current Funds

L. Carter & Elizabeth Anderson Fund

William & Deborah Lewis 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

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

Feed a Friend Fund

Memorial Scholarship Fund

Business & Professional Women’s Scholarship Fund

The Blue Ridge Superintendent’s Fund

Vicki’s Fund, Prevention of Domestic Violence

Andrew M. Snitzer Memorial Scholarship Fund

Mathew James White Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Past Presidents Fund

The Community Foundation

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Fall 2005

page 8

You Will Leave Your Mark on This World

Everyone of us will leave a mark on this world – good, bad, or indifferent. Most of us would not consider the latter two options as our chosen legacy. Yet without periodic reflection on our mortality, we all stand the distinct possibility of defaulting to one of them.

One of Benjamin Franklin's influences, the Puritan Reverend Cotton Mather, espoused the philosophy to "never enter or leave a room without doing something good". Metaphorically, our life is that room, and most all of us really are capable of leaving it having done some good.

Not many of us go through life and can say we've made a difference. With a simple commitment and support it is easy to do so. Just one individual can control the future through the power of philanthropic funds. An individual fund is one that, once a basic contribution is made, will remain intact forever. Only the investment return is ever distributed, leaving the nest egg to grow and offer returns for the following generations. Anything the donor considers to be important can be the fund's designated purpose.

A simple interview is all it takes to set up a fund. The Community Foundation will draw up an agreement incorporating every detail of the plan and will handle all administrative aspects as directed by each donor. The most important thing is to get started...the mark you leave on this world really is your choice.



Helping dreams come true