

Helping dreams come true

The Community Foundation of Susquehanna & Wyoming Counties

Newsletter Spring 2006



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Taking the Heat Off the Fire Department

The Susquehanna Depot Fire Department has established an endowment fund to offset the department’s operating expenses and thus contribute to the safety and well being of the citizens of the Susquehanna area for years to come. The Community Foundation will manage the fund to ensure its stability and long-term growth.

The fire department plans to make periodic contributions to increase the value of the fund and consequently increase the amount of the annual disbursements paid to the department.

Individuals and businesses wishing to make tax deductible donations to the fund are encouraged to do so by contacting The Community Foundation office.

“Neither fire nor wind, birth nor death can erase our good deeds.”

Buddha

The Community Foundation
of Susquehanna & Wyoming Counties

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Million Dollar Milestone

The value of The Community Foundation's assets this spring reached the one million dollar mark. This is a \$282,000 leap forward from just one year ago.

Within the world of foundations, The Community Foundation of Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties is still very small – we were 33rd out of 37 foundations in Pennsylvania at the end of both 2003 and 2004. However, our growth for 2004, as a percentage of our assets, was 35 percent, which was the fifth highest among all Pennsylvania foundations. In 2005 we improved our growth, increasing our number of endowments by 50 percent.

The average growth rate for foundations with less than ten million dollars in assets (one-half of all PA foundations) is just 13.4 percent. Larger foundation growth rates are nearly the same at 13.8 percent, with older foundations having a slightly better statistical rate of growth.

Most foundations derive a substantial part of their asset growth from investment income rather than endowment creation. The Community Foundation's investment policies have resulted in an outstanding 13.74 percent average return over the past three years. But we have also been increasing endowments at a rate well above our Pennsylvania peers.

All of this money will be used as directed by our donors to improve the lives of the people living in Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties.



Mt. View Alumni Establish Affiliation

This March the Mountain View School District Alumni Association established a formal Affiliation with The Community Foundation. This agreement will allow funds the Association raises through various events and activities to be invested with more flexibility, for permanent stability and growth.

The Alumni Association's first endeavor with The Community Foundation has been to establish a scholarship to assist a Mountain View senior who will attend college. Each year the recipient will be chosen by the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association. In addition to eventually establishing more Funds to benefit the school district, the Association will also make periodic contributions to this scholarship to further enhance the value of the award.

Parents, friends, and fellow alumni can make tax-deductible donations to this Fund by sending a contribution to the Mountain View School District Alumni Association Scholarship in care of The Community Foundation.



From left to right: Dava Rinehart-Cowan, Secretary, Class of '82, James Zick, Vice President, Class of '67, Peter Quigg, Director of Development.

Scholarship honors Minute Men Founder – Minute Men Spirit

Mr. Robert Wood has long been honored by a memorial scholarship which benefits a Montrose graduating senior who will study the medical profession or become a paramedic. We are pleased to announce that Mr. Wood's fund has been transferred to The Community Foundation for administration.

Mr. Wood was the founder of The Montrose Minute Men who were recognized as Pennsylvania Ambulance Service of the Year in 2005, when they celebrated their 50th year of service to their community.

The Minute Men today proudly provide emergency and transportation services for 12,000 people living in 320 square miles of rural territory. They are a non-profit volunteer department with nine paid and 31 volunteer members who are certified EMTs and Paramedics. They average 3,000 calls per year and they

operate four ambulances and a wheelchair van service, providing the only Advanced Life Support for Susquehanna County.

Minute Men crew members Andy Vaccaro, Duane Gruver, Nate Williams and Justin Tyler were part of the PA Task Force 3 that responded to the Hurricane Katrina disaster. "I feel we did a lot to help. I'm glad I was able to be a part of it. It was without a doubt, the highlight of my life," said Tyler.



Early ambulances. Minute Men's first ambulance is center.

Vitale Scholarship

The John J. and Ann Vitale Scholarship Fund has been established to provide assistance to a student from Susquehanna County who is in his or her final year of college or graduate school and has incurred student debt.

John J. Vitale died recently at age 88. Donations in his memory are being accepted at The Community Foundation. He established the Vitale Ford and Chrysler dealerships and owned the business for 35 years. He was supportive of various community organizations including the Library, the Humane Society of Susquehanna County, and the hospital in Montrose. He was generous with donations and helping neighbors throughout his life. Ann Vitale is a published writer. For 28 years she was the leader of the popular 4-H dog training program, was a director of the Humane Society for more than 20 years, is Vice President of the Garden Club of Montrose, and worked at her husband's side in the Vitale dealerships.

While many scholarships understandably address the financial burden of entering school and paying tuition, the Vitales chose to help relieve the burden young college graduates face at the other end of the education cycle. Their fund is a great example of community members with the vision to identify and address needs that would otherwise be unrecognized and unmet.



Board of Directors:

Earle A. Wootton
Chairman

William R. Lewis
Vice Chairman

James May
Treasurer

Jason Legg
Secretary

Robert J. Brown

Marguerite Cartwright

Thomas Chamberlain

Marian S. Miskell

Arthur Sherwood, M.D.

Michael Thornton

Steven Volker

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Businesses May Support Scholarships

For the fourth year in a row, The Community Foundation will administer in our region the Education Improvement Tax Credit program which is run by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. A business can receive 75% to 100% credit on its Pennsylvania taxes on contributions up to \$200,000. The deadline for businesses to make contributions to this program is June 30th. The applicable taxes are the following:

- Corporate Net Income Tax
- Bank & Trust Company Shares Tax
- Insurance Premiums Tax
- Capital Stock Franchise Tax
- Title Insurance Company Shares Tax
- Mutual Thrift Institutions Tax

The scholarships are available to students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12th who attend a tuition-based program (including Vocational/Technical) and who are from families with annual incomes of less than \$50,000. In 2005 The Community Foundation raised \$162,500 that provided scholarships to more than 200 students. This year we hope to assist even more families.

So far we have tax credit pledges of \$75,000 in place for 2006. Peoples National Bank and Community Bank & Trust have once again stepped forward to invest in the children of Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties. Their generous contributions of \$50,000 and \$25,000, respectively, will fund 2006 Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) scholarships for K-12 and pre-school students in Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties.

If a business owner would like to learn more about the program, or receive the simple one-page tax credit application form, please contact The Community Foundation. This is a proverbial win/win situation for everyone, and we would like to expand the assistance this program provides to families in both counties.



Angels in Business Suits

We appreciate our generous Education Improvement Tax Credit business donors listed below. We hope you consider adding your business to the list of those supporting better education for the children of Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties.

- Andre & Son Agway
 - Modern Precast Concrete
 - PNC Bank
- Commonwealth Telephone
 - Pennstar Bank
- Community Bank & Trust
 - Peoples National Bank

“If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost.
That is where they should be. Now put the foundation under them.”

Henry David Thoreau

Schools Qualified to Receive EITC Scholarships

The following schools have been recognized by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) as qualified to participate in the EITC program.



- The Endless Mountains Christian Academy, Tunkhannock
- Creative Play Pre-School, Susquehanna
- Children’s Palace Pre-School, Hallstead
- Time to Grow Pre-School, Hallstead
- Faith Mountain Christian Academy, New Milford
- Endless Mountains Learning Center, New Milford
- Angel Beginnings Pre-School, Montrose
- Treasure House Pre-School, Montrose
- Grace Lutheran Church Pre-School, Hop Bottom
- Small World Pre-School, Meshoppen
- Hearts and Hands Pre-School, Tunkhannock
- Summit Christian School, Clarks Summit
- Lake Winola Pre School, Lake Winola
- Factoryville United Methodist Church Pre-School, Factoryville
- Keystone College Learning Center, LaPlume
- St. Rose Academy, Mayfield
- Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center, Elk Lake

“Do your givin’ while you’re livin’ then you’ll be knowin’ where it’s goin’.”
Ann Landers

Curriculum Enhancement – The Next Step

The Community Foundation is offering schools an opportunity to receive state EITC funding for Curriculum Enhancement. These special school programs are innovative and above and beyond existing core studies. We have submitted proposals to Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) on behalf of Susquehanna Community and Montrose Area School Districts.

If these proposals are approved by DCED, business donors will have the option of funding Curriculum Enhancement within our schools, as well as student scholarships.



New Affiliate

Mountain View Alumni Association Foundation Scholarships and support of educational and operational needs of students.

New Funds

Susquehanna Depot Fire Dept. Fund

For operating expenses in support of the safety and well being of citizens.

Robert Wood Memorial Scholarship Fund

For a Montrose graduating senior who will study the medical professions or become a paramedic.

John Krupinski Memorial Scholarship Fund

For a Montrose student who will study business/accounting/economics.

John J. & Ann Vitale Scholarship Fund

For a student of Susquehanna County in the final year of college or graduate school who has incurred student debt.

Sliver Lake Ladies Club Fund

Provide grants to local non-profits as chosen annually by the Ladies Club.

David Clark Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Supports a Tunkhannock Area High School Graduate who has overcome personal adversity to graduate from high school and go on to college.

Helping dreams come true

Ruth Donnelly Accounting Process Earns US patent

The Community Foundation is pleased to recognize the recent professional accomplishment of our top-notch accountant and problem solver, Operations Manger and Director of the United Way of Susquehanna County, Ruth Donnelly.

In 1997 Ruth worked in the Accounts Payable Department at IBM, identifying and correcting duplicate payments. She and two other IBM employees developed a method of spotting duplicate invoices among the corporation's multiple worldwide systems, and correcting them before duplicate payment checks went out the door. Their new process eliminated over \$12 million in duplicate invoices annually, reducing reports to one-tenth their former size.

Recognizing the value of this work within IBM and perhaps for other corporations, IBM filed for a US patent in 2001 and in November 2005 it was approved: Patent No US 6,963,885 B2.

"I truly enjoy coming up with new ideas and seeing what works and what doesn't. I appreciate the opportunity to work at The Community Foundation and The United Way of Susquehanna County. Both have been receptive to trying new things and both have shown significant growth.", said Ruth.



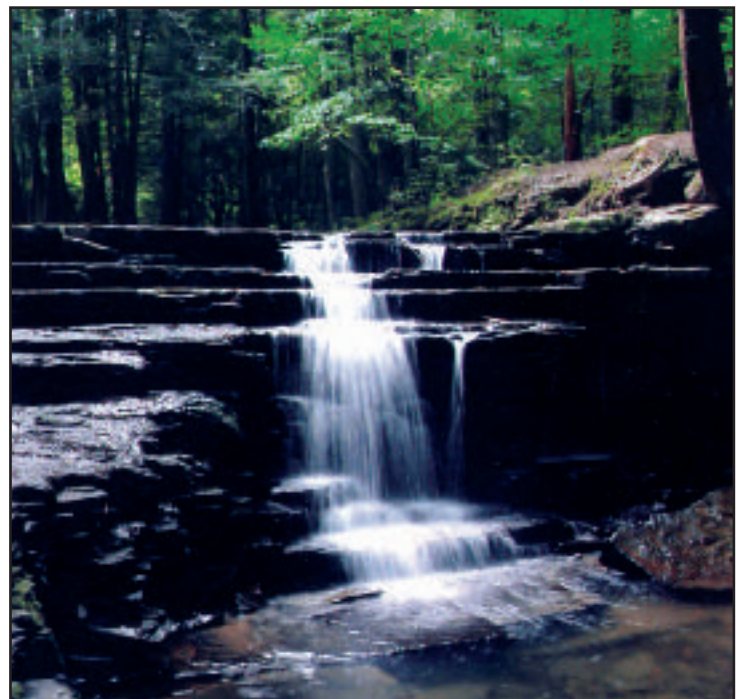
Living Memorials Support Salt Springs

Salt Springs Park and its surrounding Friend's land have hosted many generations and remain a favorite place to remember a departed loved one amidst the peace and consolation of nature.

The following three memorial opportunities are designed to ensure the long-term support of this unique area. Any of them would create a fitting memorial for yourself or a loved one who cherishes the outdoors. These are available through The Friends' affiliation with The Community Foundation of Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties. **The Friends of Salt Springs Fund** is an endowment established by Mr. Kenneth Leasure. The Fund is prudently invested and grows from its own earnings, but it grows even faster when donors add a tax-deductible gift of any amount. Each year a percentage of this Fund becomes available to be used to support some of The Friends' needs. The principle amount of the endowment remains intact, perpetually earning interest and creating a forever growing annual grant.

Supporters of the Friends of Salt Springs Park may establish their own **personally named endowment**. As a sole, or family fund donor, you and your advisors can direct its earnings to support a specific feature of the Salt Springs lands or a favorite activity. These individual funds are established with \$2,500 or more.

The Community Foundation is forming a Friends of Salt Springs chapter of its **Legacy Society**. Members of this Society will designate The Friends of Salt Springs Park in their estate plans. A simple clause in a Will stating your desire to establish such a fund and a Letter of Instruction outlining specific details, are all that is necessary to provide perpetual support of one of our area's finest natural settings.



Welcome to New Directors

In concert with The Community Foundation's 2006 expansion to include Wyoming County, on December 15th, 2005 the Board of Directors elected the following new Directors:

Marguerite Cartwright is a Board Member of the Wyoming County Cultural Center and the Tunkhannock Library. She will serve on The Community Foundation Strategic Planning Committee.

Dr. Arthur Sherwood is a physician. He will serve on The Community Foundation's Investment Committee.

Michael Thornton is the Principal of Tunkhannock Area High School. He will serve on The Community Foundation Strategic Planning Committee.

Steven Volker is a Communications Consultant for Commonwealth Telephone Co. Epix Internet Services. He will serve on The Community Foundation Marketing Committee.



Front row (l. to r.), new board members Michael Thornton, Steve Volker, Marguerite Cartwright, Art Sherwood, M.D.; back row (l. to r.), Earle Wootton, Chairman, Jason Legg, Secretary, Robert Brown, Marian Miskell, Thomas Chamberlain, William Lewis, Vice Chairman, James May, Treasurer.

John Krupinski Scholarship

At the time of John Edward Krupinski's death in 1980, his family and many close friends and colleagues established a scholarship to perpetually benefit graduates of John's alma mater, Montrose Area High School. Each year the fund provides a college scholarship to a student who shares John's goals and aspirations, has maintained a B average and will study business, economics, or the business related aspects of technology.



John was born and raised in Montrose and graduated from MASD in 1958. He was a scholar and athlete during his own high school career and participated in baseball, basketball, and concert choir. For four years on the basketball team he used his famous jump shot to score points for his team. He attended Penn State University and Pierce Business School in Philadelphia before joining the Naval Reserves and serving two years in the

Active Reserves. He was hired by Montrose Area School District as its first official Business Manager, a post he held for sixteen years prior to his death. He also served as School Board Secretary for a period of time. John was only forty when he died, leaving behind his wife, Gail and three daughters, Kathy, Amy, and Johna. His children have since all graduated from MASD as well.

John is remembered for working diligently toward perfection, and serving the public with knowledge and kindness. No problem was insurmountable to him, and he consistently handled whatever presented itself in his own friendly, good-natured way. The Community Foundation is honored to include his fund as part of The Montrose Area School District Foundation.

Affiliates

Blue Ridge School District Foundation

The Blue Ridge Superintendent's Fund
Bradley David Conklin Memorial Scholarship
Ferdinand Graf Memorial Scholarship
Andrew W. Snitzer Memorial Scholarship

Montrose Area School District Foundation

Daniel Arnold Memorial Scholarship
Dr. Raymond Bennett Memorial Scholarship
Business & Professional Women's Scholarship
Julia Frystack Memorial Scholarship
Agnes and James W. Holbert Scholarship
John Krupinski Memorial Scholarship
Morgan R. Potter Memorial Scholarship
Nicholas Severcool Memorial Scholarship
Mathew James White Memorial Scholarship
Robert Wood Memorial Scholarship

Mountain View Alumni Association Foundation

Mountain View Alumni Assoc. Scholarship

Susquehanna Community School District Foundation

Current Funds

L. Carter & Elizabeth Anderson Fund
The Norman Brunner Memorial Fund
The Deborah A. Burke Breast Cancer Fund
Civil War Monument Fund
David Clark Memorial Scholarship Fund
William Dean Memorial Fund
Directors Dedication Fund
Feed a Friend Fund
The Friends of Salt Springs Fund
The Friends of Susquehanna County Events Fund
The Friends of Susquehanna County Endowment Fund
Garden Club of Montrose Past Presidents Fund
The GRW Fund
The Jones Family Fund
The Mary & Kenneth Leasure Fund
The Mary K. Leasure Fund
William & Deborah Lewis Fund
Marian & John Miskell Family Fund
Gregory & Eileen Myer Fund
People's National Bank Fund
Jonathan Randall Memorial Fund
E. L. Rose Conservancy of Susquehanna County Fund
Silver Lake Ladies Club Fund
Susquehanna Depot Fire Dept. Fund
Mary M. Umlaff Fund
The United Way Endowment Fund
The United Way Capital Campaign Fund
Vicki's Fund, Prevention of Domestic Violence Fund
John J. and Ann Vitale Scholarship Fund
Robert & Katherine Warriner Fund
Wellness Fund
Earle & June Wootton Fund
June J. Wootton Fund for Hospice and Palliative Care Fund

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Helping dreams come true

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'Images of Susquehanna County' Returns

The return of this art show featuring the beauty of Susquehanna County is as welcome as the flowers in May. In 2004 E.L. Rose Conservancy created the first such exhibit as a fundraiser for the preservation of County land. It was an enormous success. Conservancy Director Connie Barnes remembers being "astounded with the diversity of the entries." The show attracted hundreds of visitors, young and old to view and purchase the paintings, graphics, photography, works in clay and fiber, and sculpture.

This year the Endless Mountain Council of the Arts is teaming up to assist in staging the exhibits. The show will once again be juried and awards of up to \$5,000, including a \$1,000 Best of Show, will be given. The judge for this show is Stuart Nudleman, Chairman of the Art Department at Heartwood College, a renowned photographer, art educator and critic.

'Images of Susquehanna County' will once more be held at The Community Foundation building and the Rosemont Inn, both within walking distance on Lake Avenue in Montrose. The opening reception is May 5th and the exhibit is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays through May 21st.

In the past the conservancy has helped protect lands surrounding Salt Springs State Park, fostered conservation easements, and educated hundreds of people seeking to save land from unbridled development.



The Edward L. Rose Conservancy

The Community Foundation
of Susquehanna & Wyoming Counties