

Community Foundation of Susquehanna County

Newsletter Summer 2004

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Who are Donors? Why do we give?

Community Foundation donors are dreamers who do. They are passionate about our community...what it stands for...what it is, and thankfully is not...what it can become and what it can preserve.

Donors preserve what they value by supporting it for future generations. When donors work with the Community Foundation they insure their donations will compound and its good effects will ripple forever.

Donors are business leaders, neighbors, conservationists, non-profit directors planning beyond the next grant application. They are spouses, parents and kids seeing with clarity through the shocking window of grief into what really matters.



Mary's Place

No dream is too small. Near the Fall Brook trailhead at Salt Springs Park there is a shaded niche where visitors step softly onto fine bark mulch to sit beneath two towering hemlocks and enjoy white water tumbling over amber shelves of stone. It was a favorite spot of Mary K. Leasure and she and her husband Kenneth visited it together often before she died.

As a memorial to her, Kenneth worked with Friends of Salt Springs and the Community Foundation to install at that very spot a graceful and strong teak bench with a brass memorial plaque to Mary on native stone by its side. Each year, the Mary K. Leasure Fund, a donor designated endowment which Kenneth established, provides the modest necessary sum to maintain that bench with a clear coat of sealer and ensure that it will always be a beautiful place. In the spring daffodils bloom there, inviting park visitors to enter a moment of peace and feel what Mary felt beside the falls.



The Mary K. Leasure bench is a quiet treasure for the community and all park visitors. A memorial of such simple beauty and personal meaning can be established for any loved one for as little as \$2,500 which will yield its own perpetual maintenance expense of about \$125 a year. That is enough to preserve the thing your loved one loved.

“To whom
much is given,
much is
expected.”
St. Luke

Community Foundation of Susquehanna County

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Market Share Development
Design

Ben Franklin Codicil

Doctor Franklin's great legacy to philanthropy is the famous long codicil he added to his will on June 23, 1789 ten months before his death. It was a patient 200 year plan that fully exploited the generating power of compounding interest – putting money to work to build, double and redouble itself. Franklin's modest gift of 1000 pounds each to Boston and Philadelphia for loans to young independent tradesmen eventually built and equipped the Franklin Union technical school.

The remainder of the fund reinvested in 1891 amounted to about \$4 million in

1991 an amount described by his biographer Carl Van Doren as "the most munificent money gift ever made by a philosopher." The Franklin fund continues to grow and has transcended even its maker's ambitious timeframe. Today it provides grants to community foundations throughout the country. President Joe Burke is working to make our own Foundation a Franklin fund recipient.

At the time Franklin made his gift, his entire fortune was worth about \$200,000 and there was hardly an American millionaire to be found. What was most significant to his country was his example.

He lent his prestige, name and international reputation to the concept of charitable giving, inspiring future generations. Today's local philanthropic leaders are doing the same.



“A man wrapped up in himself makes a very small bundle.”

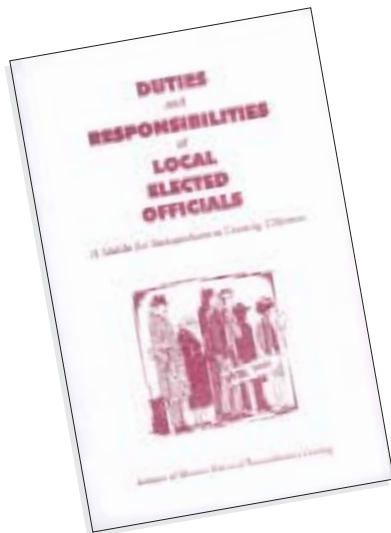
Benjamin Franklin

League Says Thanks

It's an essential citizens' reference. Duties and Responsibilities of Local Elected Officials is a common sense guide that sorts out who does what in local government. Its ten pages are a starting

point for navigating county government, the court system, municipalities and school districts. It's where you can find out what a prothonotary does, if a district justice is a judge, how sheriffs and constables differ, and the origins of townships and boroughs.

The Guide was developed by the League of Women Voters of Susquehanna County which identified the need for this information while conducting its ten-year study of the area. Their volunteer members gathered information, edited the text and did the initial layout. Local artist and League member Rodrica Tilley provided the artwork and final layout. In March 2002, a Community Foundation grant to the League helped to cover the printing costs of the project.



Community Partners

In June of 2002 'Friends of Barnes Kasson Hospital' chairperson Barbara Hinkley announced, "We believe it is time to promote collaboration at a county level where charitable giving is concerned. We hope to provide some leadership in this area."

The group broadened its mission, changed its name to 'Friends of Susquehanna County' and affiliated with the Community Foundation to take advantage of its resources and support. The Friends helped the Community Foundation establish an independent county United Way to serve local charities. The Friends are an energetic and diverse group of accomplished fund raisers, who know how to give a party, organize a mystery theatre, a Hawaiian luau or a bi-centennial celebration. Their efforts over the years have provided a chapel at Barnes-Kasson Hospital, cardiac support and a blood exchanging machine.

The Friends' efforts were doubled when an anonymous donor matched their gift to the Community Foundation.

“Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.”

Coach John Wooden

Nurturing Eagles

Jack Ord, People's National Bank president, was keynote speaker at the May 6, 2002 graduation of 14 county residents from the Leadership 2020 program. He asked graduates to remember the three C's. "A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions and the compassion to listen to the needs of others," Ord said. "Leaders are much like eagles, they don't flock. You find them one at a time."

The program is designed to encourage talented residents to stay or return after college to build and renew the County. The Leadership 2020 program is supported by a long list of individuals and businesses and the Community Foundation which provided grant money, the use of its facilities, refreshments and presenters who gave of their time.



Board of Directors:

Earle A. Wootton
Chairman

William R. Lewis
Vice Chairman

Joseph T. Burke
President

Betty Kwader

Marian Miskell

James May

Thomas Chamberlain

Forever Young

Matthew James White was a college bound Montrose High 16-year-old who died on September 1st, 2003 from injuries sustained in an auto accident. Family and friends knew him as a caring, supportive and loving son, big brother and schoolmate with a wonderful sense of humor that could make anyone laugh.

They have chosen to honor his memory by establishing a memorial scholarship fund in his name, to assist other young men and women in realizing the dreams Matthew had aspired to achieve. He loved music, working and playing on his computer, hanging out with friends and he had plans to further his education.

Each year, every year, forever the Matthew James White Memorial Scholarship Fund will award a grant to a Montrose High School senior excelling in academics, participating in athletics, and committed to attending a college or technical school to further his or her education. The community can contribute to Matthew's fund with tax-deductible donations that the Community Foundation will put to work helping families with students attending Montrose High.

This tragic loss has inspired the people who were around Matthew to do something meaningful for others.



“Don't find fault. Find a remedy.”
Henry Ford

Helping
dreams
come true

Summer Stars

The Endless Mountain Theatre Company's Ed Camp is an opportunity for 5th through 12th graders to train with professional performers and teachers in the arts of theatre and musical theatre. They study stage combat, voice, improvisation, stage make-up and character development.

Scott Fisher, the Mountain View teacher who administers the program says, "We have the opportunity to work with the students on some of the fundamentals of theatre; things for which there are no time when working on a production. Monologues, improvisation, audition techniques and dance are all areas that are seldom covered with young people because most schools aren't able to offer more classes in the arts."

Each year the week long day camp gives a final public performance at the Blue Ridge High School auditorium where

talented young stars have a chance to dazzle.

Ed Camp is a living tribute to the late Ed Lonzinski, a Blue Ridge High School graduate who became a devoted teacher of theatre arts and director for Greene (N.Y.) High School. The program was established by Ed's parents, Dolly and Mike and has been augmented by contributions from the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts, Friends of Susquehanna County and the Community Foundation.

Many area businesses, organizations and individuals contribute scholarships for prospective students who might have trouble meeting the camp's \$75 tuition. Two of these came from the Community Foundation's Jonathan Randall Memorial Fund which honors another devoted regional performer.

Great idea catches fire

From its first contribution of \$5,000 donated by First Union National Bank in July, 1998 the Community Foundation grew its endowment assets tenfold to over \$50,000 in its first 18 months. By December, 2000 they were over \$250,000.

In 2001 endowment assets approached \$400,000 allowing grant awards of \$56,500 to agencies throughout Susquehanna County.

By the end of 2003 the Foundation had 25 funds totaling \$525,000 in asset value, and they continue to grow.

“A child miseducated is a child lost.”

John F. Kennedy

"Lifting the burden" of working families

People's National Bank Executives met face to face on April 13th with 14 families and 23 children - the first wave of scholarship recipients generated by the bank's \$100,000 donation to the Community Foundation's tax credit scholarship program.

One family was made homeless by a fire. Another found themselves renting rooms over a bar after a building contractor swindled their life savings. One mother described her relief when the scholarship allowed her children's education to be uninterrupted while she stayed at home to care for an ailing Dad. The father of a teen was able to provide drug rehabilitation for his son. Some were able to choose a private or home school alternative consistent with their values.

In addition to receiving tax credits, dollar for dollar, for up to 90 percent of their donations, corporations and S corporations participating in this program may direct their tax credit dollars to the educational need they choose. People's President Jack Ord and Executive Vice President Debbie Dissinger see this as one of the best features of the Community Foundation's tax credit scholarships.

Two new program components awaiting donors would fund a public school district's improved core curriculum, or pay for before school, after school, and summer childcare. At least four school districts are seeking funds for programs such as computer technology, servicing gifted children, arts and cultural programs and environmental education.



Helping dreams come true

Let your life speak

When June graduations approach each year, Mrs. Gladys Bennett, the widow of Dr. Raymond Leslie Bennett participates in a scholarship selection panel which chooses a local athlete scholar to receive a college scholarship named in the Doctor's honor.

Dr. Bennett's life of service included funding with a mortgage on his father's farm the Montrose General Hospital. He was instrumental in the building of Asa Park Manor Nursing Home and over 50 years delivered almost 5,000 babies for several generations of local families. For nearly 40 years Montrose Area and Northeast Bradford Schools received free sports physicals from Dr. Bennett. He believed the discipline of sports was an important part of a young person's development.

In the Fall 2003 homecoming ceremony at Montrose High, the community paid tribute to their beloved physician by unveiling a sign marking the new Dr. Raymond B. Bennett Memorial Track. Mrs. Bennett recalls the time her husband gave to athletic programs and to

youngsters and finds the scholarship particularly appropriate because the Doctor himself had gone to Temple University and Medical School with scholarship assistance.

It is likely the great man's character was formed at Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia and even earlier, when he took to heart the old Quaker saying 'Let your life speak.'



Dr. Raymond Bennett track

Filling the Gaps

With the help of the Community Foundation, the United Way of Susquehanna County has been strengthened and is now able to provide bigger and better grants to all its local charitable agencies. Interfaith provides funding to families who need dental visits they cannot afford. "There is no other program for this in Susquehanna County," says Ruth Harrison. Her office works with local dentists who agree to assist in this important work.

"I remember one man we had who came in and he had a prison record but he was trying to get back on his feet," recalled Dr. David Rechlicz of Montrose. "He was going for a job interview, but he was missing a front tooth, and he was very upset that this would affect his chance for a job. So we were able to give him that front tooth, and he in turn was able to have a good job interview, and get the work he needed."



Council Members:

Toby Anderson
 Chris Bailey
 Connie Barnes
 Joseph Burke
 Chris Caterson
 Rex Catlin
 Thomas Chamberlain
 Ed DeWitt
 Myron B. DeWitt
 Agnes Jones
 Betty Kwader
 Jane LaBonte
 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

Helping
 dreams
 come true

Earle Wootton Chairs Board

In January 2004 Financial Advisor William Lewis ended a remarkable six year term as Chairman of the Board of the Community Foundation. He will remain on the Board as Vice Chairman. Earle Wootton has moved from his position as Vice Chairman to become Chairman. Among the Board's goals for 2004 are seeing the Foundation's assets surpass \$1 million, and developing its educational tax credit program.

For thirty-five years Earle Wootton has worked at the Montrose Publishing Company, and until 1997 he owned local

newspapers including the *Susquehanna County Independent*. On June 30, 2004 he will retire from the publishing company.

During the past few years Earle has devoted much of his time to establishing both The Community Foundation and the United Way of Susquehanna County. He intends to maintain an office at the Community Foundation 36 Lake Avenue Montrose location. He will oversee major reconstruction of that property and focus upon the organization's continued growth.



Community Foundation Vice Chairman William Lewis (left), Chairman Earle Wootton (right).

“A little help is worth a great deal of pity.”

Anonymous

Exceeding the Goal

Lifelong New Milford resident Agnes Jones has announced her retirement from the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Susquehanna County. During her tenure she established The Jones Family Fund. She is a retired president and CEO of Grange National Bank of New Milford where her career began as a teller and spanned 39 years.

Ms Jones' most recent great achievement was her work with the Community Foundation to launch the enormously successful United Way of Susquehanna County Capital Campaign. The effort far surpassed its \$300,000 goal, raising \$350,000 in donations plus \$100,000 of in kind contributions which brought the campaign overall value to \$450,000.

The Capital Campaign effort is considered a model for charitable endowment creation and tapped only a small percentage of potential willing donors. It has inspired the next



phase of United Way endowment development. That has the goal of providing 100 percent of ongoing Susquehanna County United Way overhead expenses, so that the agency endures and all contributions can flow directly to local charity.

Ms Jones was a member of the Pennsylvania State Bankers Community Bank Board, the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank Community Bank Board and represented the Keystone state on American Bankers Association Community Bank Board.

Agnes Jones has been an active member of the New Milford Rotary Club, the Binghamton, N.Y. Afternoon Club, the Endless Mountain Theatre Company and Friends of Susquehanna County. Her retirement activities include extensive traveling and time with her family. She has three sons, Michael of Pittsford, N.Y., James of East Stroudsburg, Pa., and Andrew of Westport, Conn.

Helping dreams come true

Speakers Bureau Available

Organizations seeking quality presenters on personal and business financial topics are invited to contact the Community Foundation office. Board officers and Council members will be available by appointment to address your group. Below is a partial list of subjects which can be customized for your professional or service organization, school district, non-profit, union, alumni association, senior or retiree group.

- How to develop a scholarship program
- Establishing a memorial fund
- Tools for giving

- Establishing family funds
- Tax credit programs for business
- Alternative funding sources
- Donating real estate
- Funds- how they work
- Delivering programs which improve the community
- How philanthropy builds the county

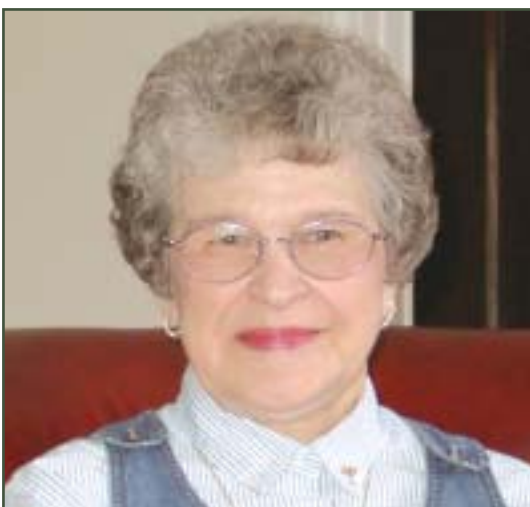
Speakers Bureau presentations are a free service - one more way the Community Foundation is providing leadership to encourage philanthropy and help your dreams come true.

Our own Lady Liz

Community Foundation Board of Directors Secretary Betty Kwader is a lifelong resident of Susquehanna County, born and raised in Gibson Township and now living in South Montrose with her husband Frank A. Kwader.

After graduating from Harford High's commercial course, she put her secretarial and administrative skills to work at Singer Furniture in Hallstead, Montrose Department Store and Little and Nelson Insurance in Montrose, and Allied Signal in South Montrose from which she retired about eight years ago.

"Volunteering has always been a part of our life," says Betty. In addition to her work for the Community Foundation, the Kwaders belong to Holy Name of Mary Church where Betty serves on the Finance Council and assists religious education classes and mass programs; she is Secretary of Gradale Women's Club, member of the VFW Auxiliary, and serves as Secretary of the United Way Board of Directors. For several years she has co-chaired the American Cancer Society Daffodil Day.



Most recently Betty founded the Montrose chapter of the Red Hat Society, an international phenomenon aimed at fun and friendship for women over fifty. The club was named in her honor "Dizzy Lizzies" and she was dubbed "Lady Liz, Queen Forever!" It is her one commitment that involves no work, no agenda, no Robert's Rules - just fun. It's well deserved.

Note to our Readers:

- To receive your newsletter online or to add someone to our mailing list please call, write or e-mail.
- Visit our website to find past newsletters and to learn more.
- Community Foundation milestones which occurred prior to establishing the newsletter will appear in each quarterly issue.



www.communityfoundationofsusquehannacounty.org

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

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Helping dreams come true

“Nothing is so infectious as example.”

Francois de La Rouchefoucauld

In the beginning was a Book of Dreams

In the winter of 2001 the Community Foundation launched its first major project with the circulation of *Book of Dreams*. It was a compilation of wishes that, with community help, could become a reality. It was the first time the needs of many of the county's organizations and individuals were gathered together in a collective appeal.

Within that one package circulated to every home in the county were the stories of our own local Red Cross, the Endless Mountains Theatre, the Free Library and Interfaith, the Community School and Literacy, the Humane Society, Wildlife Rescue and Montrose Restoration Committee, Endless Mountain Health Systems, the Women's Resource Center, Salt Springs Park

and TREHAB. It was edited by regional editor Joan Griffith, written by local journalists who interviewed local directors and workers, distributed free by all local newspapers and received a Pennsylvania Newspaper Association Award for innovative community service.

The large collaborative effort yielded a modest first year return of about \$3,500 in donations. Because of financial and in-kind support of sponsors, every cent raised was distributed to give each agency a little boost of funding for the year. It was a significant first step which bundled individual pleas for help to present to a broad donor base, making diverse county-wide crises visible to those who could help.