

Helping dreams come true

The Community Foundation of Susquehanna & Wyoming Counties

Newsletter Winter 2005



Your Very Own Fund for Your Very Own Cause

Individuals, families and organizations come to The Community Foundation because they find the skills to help them support worthwhile causes and to participate in regional betterment. But, one of the unexpected benefits is in finding much greater satisfaction in charitable giving. This derives from the prepared turnkey approach already in place for every kind of situation, leaving the detailed arrangements to the foundation and thus relieving fund owners of the time consuming nitty-gritty. The entire sense of giving and its related enjoyment are both increased immensely.

Independence is one thing; going it alone is another. Typically, foundations are comprised of dedicated community members who feel

their time and efforts can best advance the well-being of the region in supporting their foundation by helping others develop their individual funds – possibly more quickly and more assuredly than most other methods. They feel that such efforts are targeted at the fiber of the community, and for very long-lasting effects, rather than just a temporary glazed-over fix for situations.

Charity comes from the heart...and each person's life-given experiences direct their thoughts about such matters. The Foundation is a personal approach to express individual charitable needs. Funds are started to promote personal goals...ones that are directed by the individual...ones that address local needs... ones that each individual thinks is important.

The Community Foundation
of Susquehanna & Wyoming Counties

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Marian S. Miskell
Editor

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Lizza Gallery Hosts Foundation Gala

A reception celebrating The Foundation's expansion into Wyoming County was held October 2nd at the Lizza Gallery in Tunkhannock. About 80 people enjoyed hors d'oeuvres by Epicurean Delight, the beautiful art exhibits of the Lizza Gallery and the music of Joe Weldon's jazz ensemble.

This was a relaxing opportunity for Foundation supporters from both Counties to meet face to face. Gallery owner, Bob Lizza has been an early supporter of the Foundation, making available his beautiful building, a transformed skating rink, for this event as well as ongoing Wyoming County Foundation Advisory Council meetings.



“Change your thoughts and you change the world.”
 Norman Vincent Peale

Peoples National Bank Contributes \$70,000 to Scholarships

Peoples National Bank has made scholarship donations to The Foundation totaling \$210,000. Hundreds of local students and their families have benefited from these scholarships. Over \$8,000 from Peoples National Bank was awarded this year to Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center at Elk Lake. It will help students of the Cosmetology and Automotive Technology departments purchase toolkits which cost over \$200 each.

In a luncheon at the Center's "A Touch of Class" restaurant, Director of the Center, Alice Davis, thanked Peoples National Bank and The Community Foundation with an impressive student-prepared feast. "In these economically demanding times, donations like this are important to many of our students. They have dreams – we want to provide opportunities," Davis said. One parent, Mr. Tyler, explained, "As a parent, you'd like to say 'yes' to anything, but there's a line you cannot cross."

A tour of the Center and a new three-bedroom ranch house being constructed by SCCTC students followed. In addition to cosmetology and automotive programs, the Center teaches hands-on building trades, business education, food management, health care, communications technology, production industries careers and more. They are committed to life-long learning and matching graduates with jobs in the region.



From left to right: Rick Lochen, Peoples Board Member; Alice Davis, SCCTC Director; Debra Dissinger, Peoples Executive VP; Jack Ord, Peoples President; Anna Recene, Peoples Assistant to President; Scott Wabl, Peoples Marketing Director.

“Our life is interesting primarily when we fail, for it's a sign we tried to surpass ourselves.”
 Georges Clemenceau

Hallstead Hoedown for Charity

Country music and dance fans broke out their best blue jeans and cowboy boots, and plunked down a five-dollar bill at the door of the Hallstead American Legion Hall on Nov.

12th. Line dance caller Johnny Montana and square dance and round dance callers Just Us Two (Ray and Carol Rockwell) led a rollicking evening of country/western style fun.



Square Dancers swing their partners to the Rockwell's "Just the Two of Us."

The dancing followed a reservation only Texas bar-be-queue supper, but everyone was welcome to join in the after-dinner music and dancing activities for the small five-dollar admission which went to local charities.

The event is hosted by the Friends of Susquehanna County – a dynamic group of big-hearted fund-raisers who have a reputation for fun parties with lots of flare. This was their ninth annual event which for the last three years has been raising \$5,000 for the United Way of Susquehanna County. For the third straight year an anonymous friend of the Friends has matched their first \$5,000 raised – making these efforts doubly effective. Funds raised beyond that amount will be given to local charities which the Friends choose annually. In 2004 The Endless Mountains Theatre Company, the Women's Resource Center and Habitat for Humanity were beneficiaries.

Board of Directors:

Earle A. Wootton
Chairman

William R. Lewis
Vice Chairman

James May
Treasurer

Jason Legg
Secretary

Marian S. Miskell

Joseph T. Burke

Thomas Chamberlain

Robert J. Brown

To Feed the Hungry

In the back of St. Joseph's Church each Sunday can be found a small bag containing the same three essential food items. They are the consistent gift of one parishioner to the St. Joseph's Food Bank. The Church members and their community have developed a culture that is ever mindful of those in their midst, the families of the unemployed, the elderly, sick and shut-in residents who might otherwise go hungry in the midst of plenty.

This project is a collaborative mission of St. Joseph's Church, the Silver Lake Presbyterian Church in Laurel Lake, St. Augustine's Church in Brackney, and the Silver Lake Ladies Club. Each spring the Brackney Post Office helps by collecting goods left at mailboxes. In the summer and fall local gardeners bring produce and winter squash. Rather than waste food, when summer residents are heading home, they gather what's on their shelves and bring it to St. Joseph's.

This holiday season the St. Joseph's Food Bank received the first grant awarded from The Community Foundation's Feed a Friend Fund. It will be used to purchase fresh bread, milk, eggs, and meat to supplement the dry and canned goods staples that the Food Bank regularly stores. The Food Bank Director says, "We've been blessed, very blessed. Our people are so generous." Just when the store of foods seem to be getting low, someone walks in with a bag of food, or a donation to help.

The Food Bank distributes to the needy in Silver Lake and Choconut Townships, and sometimes Forest Lake and Friendsville.



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Snowflake Bentley Reading at EMCA

On November 12th the Endless Mountain Theatre Company performed a reading of the Caldecott Award winning children's book, *Snowflake Bentley*, by J.B. Martin. Actors June Wootton and Dianna Wayman retold the story of a New England boy who spent his life immortalizing snowflakes with his camera.

The event was part of an Endless Mountains Council of the Arts exhibit featuring *Snowflake Bentley's* illustrator, Mary Azarian. She is known for hand colored woodcuts and printmaking which

appear in over 50 books, many for children. Also featured at the month-long EMCA exhibit were works in wood by John Long. Both artists are from New England.

The exhibit was funded by grants from The Community Foundation and from Ms. Amy Wert, an ardent lover of children's books. The grant will allow copies of Ms. Azarian's books to be donated to the Libraries of Wyoming and Susquehanna Counties.



EMCS's Betty Bryden (background center) presents books to Tunkhannock Public Library Director, Susan Turrell, and Susquehanna County Free Library Director, Susan Stone.



Dianna Wayman and June Wootton of EMTC Outreach Program present good books and good art to children at EMCA.

Garden Club Fund Blossoms

As part of its centennial celebration the Garden Club of Montrose, the oldest federated garden club in the state, has established a Community Foundation fund. The fund honors all the club's past presidents. It was initiated by Ted and Barbara McLaughlin who contributed \$5,000 and then matched another \$5,000 in donations from Garden Club supporters and families of former Presidents. The fund now totals \$15,000. Each year its grants will go towards a civic beautification project.

Public donations to the fund are most welcome. They can be sent to The Community Foundation with a note designating the gift to the Garden Club of Montrose Presidents Fund. If you wish, you may specify a particular past Club President you wish to honor with your donation. They are listed at right.

Gladys Bennett, the club's 2006 President, believes that the perpetual endowment will be a great benefit to the organization. In the past the Garden Club has provided plantings in front of the Susquehanna County Courthouse, the hanging baskets of downtown Montrose, tree planting in several locations, including a recent large tree placed beside the Library.

The Club's 36 members regularly prune around the gazebo on the Montrose Green; they have provided landscaping design at Lathrop Street Elementary, centerpieces for the Montrose

Restoration Committee Restoration Fest and for the annual Blueberry Festival. Anyone wishing to join the Garden Club should contact President Brenna Aileo at 278-9703, or Vice-President Gladys Bennett at 278-3106.

The Garden Club of Montrose Presidents

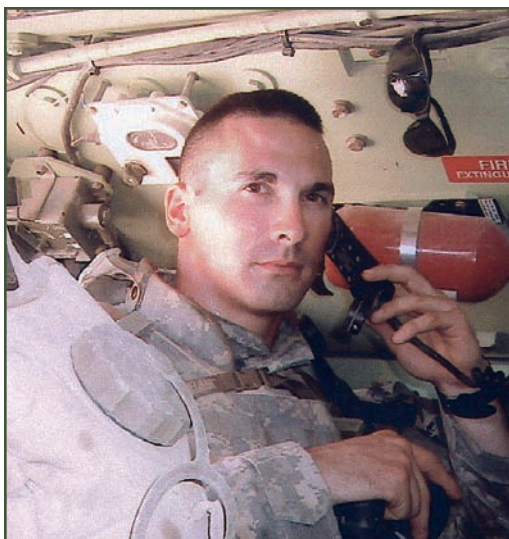
- 1970 Mrs. Chester Rose (Jean)
- 1972 Mrs. Francis Cope
- 1972-73 Mrs. Ralph Perry
- 1973-75 Mrs. Fraser Moffat (Lydia)
- 1976-77 Shirley Andre
- 1978-79 Agnes Vezin
- 1980-83 Ann Plusch
- 1984-85 Virginia Miller
- 1986-87 Ceil Ely
- 1988-89 Anita Soderberg
- 1990-91 Mary Ann Cunningham
- 1992-95 Barbara McLaughlin
- 1996-97 Marjery McNaught
- 1998-01 Mary Jane Syle
- 2002-05 Brenna Aileo



Garden Club of Montrose Flower Show Exhibit.

No Greater Love

Gifts honoring the sacrifice and service to his country of Daniel L. Arnold continue to flow into his memorial fund at The Community Foundation. Arnold, a 27 year-old U.S. Army Reserve Staff Sergeant, lived with his family in South Montrose and worked at Sherwood Freightliner in Tunkhannock. He and four other military unit members were killed in action on September 28th when their Bradley Fighting vehicle struck a land mine and came under attack in Ramadi, Iraq.



Arnold was a 1996 graduate of Montrose High School where he played varsity football. He went on to graduate from the Johnson Technical Institute where he earned a degree in diesel mechanics. He served his country with distinction since December 1994 and was deployed to Iraq in January 2005. He was the recipient of many awards including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal and more. He was a member of the Montrose United Methodist Church and Lodge F & A.M., Tunkhannock.

Daniel's coworker, Dave Christ recounts, "He was a heck of a mechanic. He was very dedicated to the country and if he had to go, he had no qualms about it. He was always there to give you a hand when you needed it."

After such an enormous loss, for the Arnold family, his widow Kimberly, sons Devin and Kody, and parents Kendall and Janet Carpenter Arnold, to extend their kindness to the community even further by establishing a charitable fund is a remarkable tribute to their own as well as Daniel's heroism.

Friends Shoot Hoops for Julia

The Julia A. Frystak Scholarship Fund will be refreshed for the fourth time by the proceeds of the annual November 'Three on Three' Basketball Tournament held in her honor. Julia's mother, Kim Bean reports that about 68 teams participated in the all-day event at Montrose Area High School, and that the money raised exceeded expectations.

Julia was a 13-year-old Montrose student who died tragically in August 2002. She was a high honors student and gifted athlete. Each year MASD seniors who excel in academics and athletics are selected to receive her scholarship.

Julia's mom, and stepmother Angie Frystak, create mementos at each tournament such as candy wrappers with Julia's picture, t-shirts and sweatshirts, mugs and memorial dog tags. The great weather this year helped swell the turnout of friends who bought raffle tickets, enjoyed the food and the excitement of the games. Major sponsors of this year's event

included Pump-n-Pantry, Montrose Beverage, Mastroserios's Family Restaurant, Robinson's Market, ABC Market, and Price Chopper.



New Funds

Morgan Potter Memorial Scholarship Fund

For a Montrose Area School District Senior who exhibits a strong sense of school spirit, maintains a B+ average and is active in extracurricular activities.

Daniel Arnold Memorial Scholarship Fund

For a Montrose Area School District Senior who has played football and is going on to college.

John J. and Ann Vitale Scholarship Fund

For a Susquehanna County college senior or a second year graduate student who has incurred student debt.

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Pennstar Bank Donates \$7,500 to Scholarships

On behalf of Pennstar Bank Robert J. Welch, Vice President Regional Sales Manager for Susquehanna County, has presented The Community Foundation with a \$7,500 Education Improvement Tax Credit donation. The funds will go to the K-12 Scholarship Program. This generous gift was the second installment of a two-year \$15,000 pledge to education that Pennstar has made.

Pennstar Bank, and Bob Welch in particular, has also been community leader in support of the United Way. Bob is currently serving as Susquehanna County's United Way Cabinet Chair.



“Sometimes you don’t get what you pay for; but you always pay for what you get”

Good News Messengers

The Community Foundation Speakers Bureau has had a busy season of engagements, as word has spread about the organization and many groups want to learn more. District Attorney Jason Legg was invited to speak to the Montrose Chamber of Commerce and The Montrose Rotary Club, where he reports he was well received. Attendees wanted to know what a foundation was, what our goals are, and what we do.

Legg explained that The Foundation’s goals are really determined by the goals of the donors, and that these vary widely from fund to fund. On the other hand, he made clear that we hope to create a healthy and vibrant foundation for Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties that would serve the needs of the Counties, as those needs were determined by the donors.

Earle Wootton was recently invited to speak to the Endless Mountain Council of the Arts in Tunkhannock. Peter Quigg also made a presentation to the Entrepreneurs Club of Susquehanna County. The Countryside Conservancy has requested a presentation in the future, and the Tunkhannock Scholarship Group has expressed an interest in learning more about The Foundation.

Several members of the Wyoming County Advisory Council have volunteered to make presentations in their area on behalf of The Community Foundation.

To arrange for a speaker from The Community Foundation call or e-mail our office.



William Lewis



Robert Brown



Earle Wootton



Peter Quigg



Jason Legg

Our Youngest Fundraiser: Thomas Hart

Ten-year old Thomas Hart, a fifth-grade student at Rice Elementary in Mountaintop, has made a \$1,210 donation to the Bradley D. Conklin Memorial Basketball Scholarship Fund. Brad played for Thomas' father, Kyle Goyne, during the summer in AAU basketball tournaments. Through the sport, a family friendship developed and Brad occasionally spent the night at their home when he played in the Wilkes-Barre area. When Brad died tragically in May of 2004 it was hard on them. "Brad was like the big brother Thomas never had," stated Kyle and his wife Jennifer.

Thomas knew early on that he wanted to do something to contribute to Brad's scholarship fund, and he began testing various project ideas with his parents. They decided on a hand-written letter campaign to request gifts of popular sports team t-shirts, which they would sell at a table at the Brad Conklin fall basketball league that ran two

nights a week during September. Donors sent t-shirts, posters, checks, and wonderfully supportive letters. At the league, "People just bought, and bought, and bought," says Kyle. In a letter that arrived at The Community Foundation along with his pile of checks Thomas said, "I had a great time working on my project."



“The fragrance always stays in the hand that gives the rose.”

Hada Bejar

Commonwealth Telephone Gives \$50,000 in Scholarships

For the second time this year, Commonwealth Telephone Company, headquartered in Wilkes-Barre, has donated \$25,000 to The Community Foundation Education Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC).

The funds will provide tuition assistance to families with an annual income of less than \$50,000. Scholarship recipients attend K-12 private schools, or special programs such as English as a Second Language, or programs for autistic children. Students who attend vocational training programs and who require materials or equipment for their classes can also receive assistance.

“Commonwealth's recent donation comes at a perfect time for us as we essentially double the size of the area we serve. So far we have assisted approximately 80 families in

Susquehanna County with these two scholarships. We look forward to doing similar work in Wyoming County.” Scholarship applications can be downloaded from www.communityfoundation.org.



From left: Steve Skammer, CTCO Senior Manager of Field Operations, Peter Quigg, and Russ Davis, CTCO District Supervisor.

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

Civil War Monument 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

Edward L. Rose Conservancy of Susquehanna County Fund

Business & Professional Women's Scholarship Fund

Wellness 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

Morgan Potter Memorial Scholarship Fund

Daniel Arnold Memorial Scholarship Fund

John J. and Ann Vitale Scholarship Fund

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Progress as of September 30th

	2004	2005
Value of Assets:	\$596,122	\$841,265
Total Income:	\$418,747	\$424,822
Number of Funds:	28	38
Number of Scholarships:	89	159
Number of Grants:	129	211



Thank you, our donors, for making 2005 our best year yet!

Happy Holidays

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