

## *Who Will Drive the Economy of the Future?*

John M. James passed away in 2006 and is buried at the historic Montrose Cemetery. He was the recipient of the US Navy National Defense Service Medal and had a business career as a Production Manager in manufacturing. While enjoying a quiet retirement in the Endless Mountains, he took time to research many local nonprofits with the purpose of including a final charitable donation in his Will. He decided that the Community Foundation would give maximum flexibility over the long term. After discussions with his attorney Marion O'Malley and Peter Quigg at the Foundation, he stipulated in his Will a legacy gift valued at \$115,000 "to benefit young people of merit."

The FBLA, Future Business Leaders of America, is the largest student business career and technical organization in the world. Each year they help more than 230,000 members

prepare for careers in business through educational conferences and events, creating opportunities to demonstrate leadership skills, compete for national awards, gain confidence, and make local and national connections. Most of Susquehanna County's school districts have established FBLA chapters.

Each year the John M. James Memorial Fund to Benefit FBLA Clubs makes grants to each FBLA chapter in the County. The support is received enthusiastically by chapter educators and mentors. It enables students to participate in business learning opportunities that would be otherwise out of reach. For 20 years since Mr. James' passing, hundreds of prospective business leaders have been helped. Remarkably the John M. James endowment is now valued at \$189,000, stronger than ever, and ready to empower the next generation of leaders of our economy.

