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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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**DANVILLE AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PROVIDES FUNDING TO ASSIST WITH STARTUP OF DANVILLE AREA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

DANVILLE, PA – The Danville Area Community Foundation (DACF) is helping the Danville Area School District make a connection with its alumni. The community foundation has provided assistance with the cost of an initial mailing to alumni to get a Danville Area Alumni Association off the ground.

The school district recently mailed over 4,400 letters to Danville alumni. The letters were mailed to alumni who responded to the district's directory update request in 2004. Those who received the mailing were given the option of joining the new Danville Area Alumni Association. Alumni were also given the opportunity to contribute to a scholarship fund that will benefit graduating seniors from the district.

The Alumni Association has a steering committee of eight members, representing class years between 1944 and 1994; however, the association is seeking additional volunteers and more representation from the various graduating classes. The steering committee is planning future events to give graduates a place to get reacquainted.

According to Superintendent Steve Keifer, the percentage of former students who answered the district's directory request to provide updated information last year prompted the district to consider an alumni association. Keifer says, "The high response rate from the mailing indicated that many Danville alumni still feel a strong connection with the district, and have an interest in keeping

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## DANVILLE AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PROVIDES FUNDING

in touch. We felt the next step should be an alumni association. With the association in place, activities can be planned to help people reconnect. There is also a strong interest in the idea of creating scholarship funds that will benefit students graduating from the district.”

Danville Area Community Foundation Advisory Board member and Alumni Association Steering Committee Member Randy May commented, “We hope that this initial mailing, and the response we are receiving, is just the beginning. We would like to see an alumni association that is an active participant in our community, and can provide scholarships to graduating seniors much like other districts in the region.”

May also commented, “We have heard that some people who may be interested in joining the Alumni Association have not received the letter that went out in August. This may be because we do not have a current address for them, but our intention is not to exclude anyone. I encourage anyone who is interested in learning more to contact Bonnie Edmeads at the school district, telephone (570) 271-3268, ext. 1099.”

May added that class reunion chairs who have current addresses for alumni in their classes are encouraged to contact the district with those addresses, “We would appreciate their help to get current addresses of alumni who are still interested and involved in the district.”

The Danville Area Community Foundation (DACF) is an affiliate of the First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania. The DACF has a community-based Advisory Board that makes recommendations on grants, and determines the focus of the affiliate.

The First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania maximizes the power of people and their donated assets to build vibrant communities within Central and Northcentral Pennsylvania now and in the future. The Foundation focuses on sincerity and integrity in all of its relationships - including those with donors, estate and financial planning professionals, trustee banks and investment managers, current and potential grant recipients, government and business leaders, and the many individuals and families living in its service area. For more information on the programs and services offered by the Foundation, or to learn more about ways to make a difference in the community, contact the Foundation office at 570-321-1500.

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