



WILLIAMSPORT-LYCOMING
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Founding affiliate of the First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Julie Adams
(570) 321-1500

**WILLIAMSPORT-LYCOMING COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES GRANTS TO
LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS; FOUNDATION AWARDS \$865,250 IN NEW GRANTS
TO SUPPORT CHARITABLE CAUSES**

WILLIAMSPORT, PA – The Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation announced today that it will award \$865,250 in new grants to thirteen community organizations to support charitable work in Lycoming County. Grant funding will benefit a variety of causes and projects.

The following organizations and programs will receive unrestricted grant funding from the Foundation:

CAPPA (Community Alliance for Progressive Positive Action) (\$25,000)– to help the organization purchase PLATO Learning Achieve Now software, and to provide seed funding to supply trained staffing at the CAPPA Community Link Tech Sites.

Central Pennsylvania Food Bank (\$10,000) - to support the Children's Power Pack Program. The program provides backpacks containing nutritious food to children each Friday, to last through the weekend. The Foundation's grant will provide approximately 13 weeks of food for 110 children a week.

Community Arts Center (\$25,000) – to fund the purchase of a new ticketing system and fundraising software.

Williamsport-Lycoming Habitat for Humanity (\$10,000) – to assist in the opening of a ReStore, a nonprofit building supply store. This type of store uses donations of new and used building supplies. The donated supplies are sold to the public at a much-reduced cost, making home improvement projects more affordable, and keeping surplus materials out of landfills. The store will be modeled on successful Habitat ReStores found in other regions of the country.

James V. Brown Library (\$29,250) – for costs to build the content and maintain a website that will provide youth with connections to information regarding health, education, recreation and employment in Lycoming and Clinton counties. The website, www.know-zone.org, was developed with seed funding from the Department of Education. The grant to the library will provide funding for a webmaster/community outreach coordinator to fully develop the potential of the site to provide young people with a source of positive community information.

Jersey Shore Hospital (\$50,000) – toward the hospital's Facility Improvement Project. The grant will support project costs related to the new hospital building. According to the hospital, over seventy thousand patients from Lycoming and Clinton Counties are provided with treatment at the hospital each year.

Lycoming County SPCA (\$9,000) – to support the purchase of a new emergency vehicle to assist domestic animals, pet owners and all residents of Lycoming County. The current ambulance has been used for twenty years. Since 2000, the organization responded to nearly twenty-two hundred domestic animal emergencies in Lycoming County with this vehicle.

North Central Sight Services (\$150,000) – in support of the costs associated with the purchase and renovation of the organization's new location on Reach Road. The building will be used to house the organization's services and its Industry Employment Program. The Industry Employment Program provides employment opportunities for individuals who have partial or complete loss of vision. The organization also opened a Visual Aids store and Access Technology Center to provide vision-impaired individuals with the opportunity to try new technologies and equipment before they purchase them.

Pregnancy Care Center (\$10,000) – support for the Sexual Integrity Program, a counseling and education program specifically designed for sexually active adolescents and young adults. According to statistics provided by the organization, approximately seventy percent of the clients it serves have been the victims of sexual abuse or trauma in their childhood. The Sexual Integrity Program aims to reduce the number of crisis pregnancies in the region by providing a program that teaches clients about healthy relationships, and helps them overcome past sexual abuse or trauma.

Shepherd of the Streets (\$5,000) – to support the Oral Surgery Program. The organization estimates that between eight and twelve individuals with emergency dental surgery needs can be helped with through this funding.

Susquehanna Health (\$625,000) – in support of the hospital's expansion and renovation of its Emergency Department at the Williamsport Hospital & Medical Center. The hospital's emergency department had fifty-three thousand visits in 2006. The expansion and renovation will help to improve the Emergency Department's efficiency and reduce wait times for patients by increasing the number of beds in the department.

Williamsport Symphony Orchestra (\$15,000) – support for the 2007-2008 season concerts, programs and activities.

Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce (\$27,000) – to support an upgrade to the Chamber's primary marketing tool, www.pennsiteselect.com. This website is the primary economic development marketing tool utilized by the Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce to promote Lycoming County and attract family-sustaining jobs.

The grants have been awarded from the Foundation's unrestricted funds, made up of funds established by past and current donors to the Foundation. Grants from unrestricted funds are made through a competitive grant application process. Organizations began the application process by submitting a letter of intent in June. The Foundation's Grant Committee and its Advisory Board reviewed the requests, and invited organizations to submit full grant proposals. Projects that will receive grant funding from the Foundation were selected from among the applicants that submitted full proposals.

The Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation is one of the oldest community foundations in the country. The Foundation has been making grants to community organizations since 1932, and has distributed nearly \$43 million in charitable funding to the region.

The Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation is also the founding affiliate of the First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania. 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, investment partners, 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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CONTACT INFORMATION:

First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania
Julie Adams, Manager of Marketing & Communications
330 Pine Street, Suite 401 • Williamsport, PA 17701
(570) 321-1500
Fax (570) 321-6434
julica@fcfpa.org
www.fcfpa.org