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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR GRANTS TO BENEFIT THE TEACHING,
MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA**

WILLIAMSPORT – The Ganister Orthodox Foundation, a component fund of the Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation, has announced that applications are available for grants in support of the teaching, mission and ministry of the Orthodox Church in America.

Last year, the fund awarded grants totaling three thousand dollars to four organizations associated with the Orthodox Church in America.

Examples of previous grant awards include:

A thousand dollar grant to St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary will assist with the seminary's effort to provide translations of texts written by renowned experts on the history and technique of Orthodox liturgical music. The translations will be used to help prepare future priests for their ministries. Translation of the texts is expected to be an advance for those studying the Russian Orthodox Church in America, and also of interest to those studying in the fields of musicology, liturgy and world history.

Orthodox Christian Schools of Northeast Ohio received one thousand dollars for its publication of curriculum materials. Currently, there are limited materials available for use in Orthodox schools. The organization plans to publish materials that will be offered for use in schools throughout the country. Some of the materials Orthodox Christian Schools plans to publish include: Faith History Levels I, II & III; Saints & Sounds; Standards & Objectives; and a cookbook. In its application for funding, the organization noted that requests for Orthodox curriculum materials have increased in recent years.

Saints Mary & Martha Orthodox Monastery has been awarded five hundred dollars toward its building project, a permanent building to house the chapel and living/work areas. The monastery provides retreat space to groups during the year. The monastery plans to begin the project with construction of the chapel and all-purpose room. Plans also include construction of a commercial kitchen, eight to ten bedrooms, and office/workspace.

The Ss Peter & Paul Orthodox Neighborhood Center received five hundred dollars toward bilingual tutoring and assessment tools for its After School Program. The program serves minority elementary students in the neighborhood surrounding the St. Peter & Paul Orthodox Cathedral. Funding received from the Foundation in 2004 helped the neighborhood center with startup costs for the current programs.

The Ganister Orthodox Foundation Advisory Committee feels very fortunate to have these resources available for the Orthodox Church of America, and it is their privilege to be able to help those who provide so many opportunities to enhance the Orthodox Church's mission. Favor is given to proposals that address priority needs of the Orthodox Church in America and/or opportunities that enhance its mission in catalytic ways.

For additional information about applying for grants from the Ganister Orthodox Foundation, please visit the Foundation's website, www.fcfpa.org, or contact the Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation, an affiliate of the First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania, at (570) 321-1500. The deadline for submission of grant applications is August 1, 2006.

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