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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**TEN MONTOUR COUNTY FAMILIES WILL KEEP WARM THIS WINTER
THANKS TO A DANVILLE AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT**

DANVILLE, PA – Ten Montour County families are keeping warm this winter, with help from a grant made by the Danville Area Community Foundation (DACF) in December 2005. The grant award was presented to the Good Samaritan Mission at the DACF's Annual Dinner and Grant Awards Presentation in December. The Good Samaritan Mission used its \$1,000 for its Crisis Fund to provide direct assistance with heating costs for ten needy households.

Sandy O'Rourke, Co-President of the Mission, said, "The high cost of heating fuel this winter has created a tremendous financial burden for many people in our region. Because of our grant from the Danville Area Community Foundation, we were able to provide some assistance to these families. Heating assistance provides something that is so basic, yet so important."

O'Rourke was so moved by the stories of those who received assistance, that she shared them with the Foundation. She said, "We had no problem finding seniors on a fixed income who could use some help with their fuel this winter. These families were all very grateful and very down to earth. They did not complain and were making the best of their financial situation."

Sandy shared some of the comments from families that received help through the Crisis Fund this winter:

- "I very much appreciate the help. It's going to be very tight this winter. We have six children, eleven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. We haven't been able to buy Christmas gifts for them in three years. I tell them I love them."
- "I thanked God right away that I was going to get help."

- “Please thank those people. I think it is great that a little town like Danville would do all this.”
- “Every little bit helps.”

The mission screens each request for financial need, and the organization keeps records of the assistance it provides to families. Clients are eligible for assistance from the Crisis Fund once every three years.

The Good Samaritan Mission is a faith-based organization created to meet the needs of the economically disadvantaged in Montour County and in the Danville Area School District. The mission is volunteer-run, and one hundred percent of all crisis funds are distributed to those in need. In the last eight years, the mission has provided assistance to approximately three hundred and fifty families through the Crisis Fund.

The mission applied for its grant through the Danville Area Community Foundation’s Unrestricted Grant Program. Grant requests for the next round of grants from the Danville Area Community Foundation are due by October 1, 2006. Applications are available by calling the Foundation offices, or they may be accessed by visiting the Foundation’s website at www.fcfpa.org.

The Danville Area Community Foundation (DACF) is an affiliate of the First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania. Created by a group of area residents in 1999, the DACF has a community-based Advisory Board that guides the focus and direction of the organization. The Foundation helps donors build endowed funds to benefit the community. Income from the endowed funds provides scholarships for students and grant awards to nonprofit charitable organizations to aid them in their work.

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 or toll free at (866) 901-2372, or visit the Foundation’s website at www.fcfpa.org.

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