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Affiliates:

Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation, Founder (1916)
Danville Area Community Foundation (1999)
Union County Community Foundation (2005)

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**THREE ORGANIZATIONS CONVENE COMMUNITY LEADERS TO IDENTIFY
LYCOMING COUNTY'S STRENGTHS, PROMOTE POSITIVE ACTION**

WILLIAMSPORT, PA – Three Lycoming County organizations asked for cooperation and collaboration from representatives of nonprofit organizations, governmental officials, church leaders, and other community leaders today, as they unveiled a process for identifying the county's existing services and strengths. The Lycoming County Health Improvement Coalition (LCHIC), the Lycoming County United Way (LCUW) and the Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation (WLCF) are leading a community initiative that they have titled Partnership Lycoming.

Shortly after the Mother's Day shootings that took place in the City of Williamsport, the three organizations began meeting to discuss how they could contribute to solving the problems that the violence brought to light. The goal of today's meeting was to gather together representatives from within the county, and outline a process for quantifying programs and services that address violence, substance abuse, and neighborhood development.

Those in attendance were asked to complete a questionnaire to indicate their commitment to the process. The organizations also asked the representatives in attendance to complete an Asset Inventory by October 3. The purpose of the inventory is to map the county's resources.

Following the return of the Asset Inventories, a series of Action Committee meetings will be held throughout the county. The Action Committees will allow both those at today's meeting and interested community members to provide feedback. The meetings will focus on gathering

information on what is working in the communities in the county, and what needs still exist. Information gathered at these meetings will be compiled, and the results will be presented at a meeting on January 16, 2006.

About the Convening Organizations

Organized in 1994, **The Lycoming County Health Improvement Coalition's** mission is to improve the health status of the Lycoming county community by identifying and facilitating response to priority health and wellness issues through a collaborative, community-driven process.

The **Lycoming County United Way's** mission is to mobilize resources to improve lives. As a regional United Way, the organization places the highest value on: creating effective partnerships, volunteer leadership and governance, accountability and trust and addressing identified needs.

The **Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation** is the founding affiliate of the First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania. It is one of the oldest community foundations in the country, and one of the largest in relation to the number of people it serves. The Foundation works to enrich the community by providing grant funding for a variety of community needs, and serves its donors with a variety of giving options.

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