



Serving Donors and Enriching Communities

Affiliates:

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

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 10, 2005

Contact: Julie Adams
(570) 321-1500

**WILLIAMSPORT-LYCOMING COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
ANNOUNCES GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS;
RECORD AMOUNT REQUESTED IN FIRST GRANT CYCLE OF 2005**

WILLIAMSPORT, PA – The First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania announced today that the Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation, founding affiliate, has awarded twenty grants totalling nearly \$500,000 to several organizations serving communities in Lycoming County in the first competitive grant cycle of 2005. The organization received twenty-eight requests for a total of \$1.4 million, a record amount in the Foundation’s history.

Foundation President and CEO Frank J. Concino Jr. commented on the grant process, “The number of requests and the dollar amounts requested by charitable organizations in the first grant cycle of the year is clear evidence that nonprofits in our region see the Foundation as a partner in achieving their missions.”

Concino continued, “In recent years, the Foundation has been asked to contribute larger dollar amounts to projects in our communities. We see the needs in our communities, and want to do more. This generation is fortunate to have the Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation because of prudent decisions and meaningful gifts made by members of prior generations, and we have the responsibility to uphold that tradition. The Foundation must adhere to its fiscally responsible spending policy, which is designed to maintain the inflation-adjusted spending power of the Foundation’s charitable assets over time. The balance between current requests and future needs causes tough decision-making during competitive grant cycles.”

Concino added, "I expect the grant process to be even more competitive in coming years, as national, state and local governments continue to scale back funding for services provided by nonprofit organizations."

Organizations awarded grants include:

The **Northcentral Pennsylvania Chapter, American Red Cross** will use its grant of **\$8,313.94** for the purchase of computer equipment to improve data collection in disaster situations.

Balls Mills Soccer Club, Inc. will receive a grant of **\$15,000** for construction of a soccer stadium that will be available for use by Lycoming County school districts.

The **City of Williamsport & Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce** will be awarded **\$50,000** for a comprehensive financial and operations study on the City of Williamsport.

Community Alliance for Progressive Positive Action (CAPPA) will purchase equipment for its programs to build character, self-esteem and academic excellence of Lycoming County youth, with a **\$25,000** grant.

The **Foundation for Free Enterprise Education** will provide scholarships for Lycoming County high school students to attend Free Enterprise Week in the summer of 2005 with its **\$2,125** grant.

Hiawatha, Inc. will repair and improve the Hiawatha riverboat's boarding area with better access for people with physical disabilities and a new ticketing area, thanks to a matching grant of **\$7,500**.

The **Hughesville Public Library** will receive **\$25,000** for construction of its new library building, in addition to \$50,000 awarded to the library by the Foundation in 2004.

Liberty House, at the Williamsport YWCA, will use a **\$12,500** grant for implementation of a new program to assist homeless women and their families.

The **Lycoming County Health Improvement Coalition, Inc.** will promote communication and awareness of essential community health programs and services through a web-accessible provider directory, made possible by an **\$11,500** grant.

Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP), Inc. will increase the number of fully accessible rental units available to individuals with disabilities in Lycoming County with its **\$5,000** grant.

The **Muncy Historical Society & Museum of History** will begin archaeological investigation of the West Branch Canal and creation of a historic/nature trail along the former canal in Muncy with a grant of **\$10,000**. The historical society will also receive a \$10,000 grant from the Margaret E. Waldron Memorial Trust, a component fund of the Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation.

NEPA TV Association/WVIA will produce a documentary titled, “Looking to the River,” about the Susquehanna River Watershed and the river’s impact on the region through a **\$7,500** grant.

Northern Tier Partnership for Arts in Education, Bradford County Regional Arts Council will bring the Learning Communication Skills Through the Arts program of music, dance, dramatic play and visual arts to low-income children in Lycoming County with a **\$10,000** grant.

Our Towns 2010 will receive a **\$15,000** grant towards the mural depicting Lycoming County leaders and historical events on Fourth Street in Williamsport.

Pennsylvania College of Technology will use its multi-year grant of **\$125,000** for construction of the Roger & Peggy Madigan Library on its campus.

The **Susquehanna Health System Community Dental Clinic** will expand, renovate and relocate dental services to assist the uninsured and underinsured in Lycoming County with a **\$51,240** grant.

The **Salvation Army** will use a **\$20,000** grant to begin a new program, “Project Breakthrough,” which is designed to assist families in breaking out of the cycle of poverty and eliminate their dependence on public assistance through education and mentoring.

Thomas T. Taber Museum will receive up to a **\$15,000** matching grant to replace the aging roof and heating/air conditioning system in the Community Room of the museum.

The **Way’s Garden Commission of the City of Williamsport** will use its **\$2,190** grant for an irrigation system to sustain the garden’s floral displays and extend the blooming season.

The **Williamsport Symphony Orchestra** will receive **\$25,000** for support of 2005/2006 season’s concerts, programs and activities.

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 over \$40 million in charitable funding to the region, including approximately \$2.4 million in grants in 2004.

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, 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.

####

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Julie Adams

First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania

330 Pine Street, Suite 401

Williamsport, PA 17701

(570) 321-1500 • Fax (570) 321-6434

julica@fcfpa.org

www.fcfpa.org