



# Washington

## County Community Foundation, Inc.

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### NEWS RELEASE

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Executive Director

### COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S 100<sup>TH</sup> FUND TO PROVIDE AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Washington, PA – The Washington County Community Foundation is pleased to report that it has received its 100<sup>th</sup> permanent fund. The *Kerns Family Scholarship Fund* was created with a \$25,000 gift from Mary Kerns Meek of West Alexander and will provide scholarships to



*Mary Kerns Meek*

graduating seniors of McGuffey High School who are members of the Future Farmers of America and who intend to pursue a post-secondary education in the field of agriculture. This scholarship for agricultural students continues Mrs. Meek's lifetime of agricultural pursuits. She and her brother Bob Kerns grew up on the West Alexander farm that has been in the Kerns family since the early 1800's and she was employed as the County Extension Agent for West Virginia

University. Throughout her career and into retirement, Mary and her family would travel to many farm shows to exhibit the Kerns Holsteins and educate the community about what it takes to operate a dairy farm. Mary obtained her B.A. degree in Home Economics and Speech Communication from West Liberty University and a M.S. degree in Family Resource Management from West Virginia University. She serves on the session of the West Alexander Presbyterian Church and sings in the choir. Bob Kerns continues to operate the family farm with his wife and two sons, recently converting it from a full time dairy operation to a beef and crop farm. The first scholarship of \$1,000 will be awarded in 2006.

“Our community foundation is particularly pleased that our 100<sup>th</sup> Fund came during our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and that it will help to preserve, through education, an industry that is so vitally important to every member of our community,” stated Betsie Trew, Executive Director. “When you review the history of Washington County you will readily see that agriculture played an important role in shaping our community and its landscape. Agriculture, education, historic

preservation – these are issues that effect the quality of life in Washington County and so are of great interest to our foundation. We are so very grateful to Mrs. Meek for her generosity in creating this fund and to the many donors who created the other 99 permanent charitable funds that we are privileged to hold and manage.” Other funds created at the WCCF in 2005 include:

***John and Sophie Choratch Scholarship Fund*** – created by a bequest of Sophie Choratch and subsequent court order, the fund provides post-secondary educational scholarships to children of first responders in Washington County

***Judge David L. Gilmore Memorial Fund*** – created by family and friends to support charitable causes in Washington County

***Dr. Adam D. Grossman Family Fund*** - initiated by family and friends as a birthday surprise for Dr. Grossman, the fund will support charitable causes as recommended by the Grossman Family

***John David Ostovic Memorial Fund*** – created by family and friends to support science education, including scholarships

***Dr. Wilson and Merne Pizzi Fund*** – created by Bryan Pizzi and his siblings in memory of their parents to support charitable causes in Washington County

***Sprowls College and Post Graduate Scholarship Fund*** – created by Dawn Sprowls Haber in memory of her parents to provide post-secondary scholarships to Fort Cherry graduates

***Weaver Miller Fund*** – created by Jean Miller Weaver to support the Third Presbyterian Church of Washington

Of the 100 permanent funds of the WCCF, 31 have been created to support specific non-profit agencies, 23 are educational scholarships, 9 are for areas of interest such as conservation, the arts, or literacy, 29 are donor advised, and 8 are unrestricted grant-making funds. Funds of the WCCF range in value from \$5,000 to \$350,000 and total more than \$2.5 million. The value of each fund determines the amount of the grant or scholarship awarded from it. The cumulative distribution to charity from all funds of the Foundation is in excess of \$500,000.

To learn more about the Washington County Community Foundation please visit the website at [www.wccf.net](http://www.wccf.net) or contact the office at 724-222-6330 or [wccf@cobweb.net](mailto:wccf@cobweb.net).

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