



Washington

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News Release

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Foundation's Grant-Making Program Exceeds \$1 Million

The Washington County Community Foundation (WCCF) is pleased to announce that cumulatively more than \$1 million has been distributed through its grant-making program. "We are absolutely thrilled to have reached this tremendous milestone in our grant-making program," remarked Chairman of the Board, Carlyn Belczyk. "As a donor-focused organization, we know that our donors support us not just to build the community's grant-making endowment but to issue grants and scholarships from the endowment to improve quality of life conditions within our community. Achievement of this milestone has brought us and our donors full circle in the philanthropic process."

The WCCF initiated its grant-making program in 1996 when \$5,000 was distributed from the *Washington County Visiting Nurses Association Scholarship Fund*, the first permanent scholarship fund received by the WCCF. Through 2007, approximately \$162,000 has been distributed from the 31 scholarship funds managed by the WCCF.

The category of funds accounting for the largest dollar value of grants is donor advised. From permanent donor advised funds a total of \$323,000 has been awarded and from temporary donor advised funds a total of \$240,000 has been awarded. Designated funds, which have been earmarked by donors for specific interest or geographic areas, account for \$154,000 and \$122,000 came from discretionary funds where the WCCF Board of Trustees has full discretion over the grants that are awarded.

Grants have ranged from \$100 to \$50,000 and are determined primarily from the market value of the fund issuing the grant. The largest grants, two at \$50,000, were awarded from the *Dorothy P. Hardy Charitable Fund*, one to the Canonsburg Hospital and the other to the Washington Hospital. A \$20,000 grant was issued from the *Richard & Edwina Cameron Fund* to the Brownson House and 10 organizations received \$10,000 *Decade of Service* grants in celebration of the WCCF's 10th anniversary in 2005.

Grants were issued in seven interest areas with the largest percentage of total grant dollars issued in the area of Health & Fitness – 29.0%. Other areas are Education & Scholarships – 27.2%, Human Services – 17.2%, Religion – 10.9%, Environment & Animal Welfare – 4.5%, Arts & Humanities – 6.2%, Other Philanthropic – 5.0%.

“I have the unique and great honor to chair the Allocations and Programs Committee of the WCCF which considers the applications for funding,” stated WCCF Trustee Martha Berman. “Learning about and being able to support so many quality charitable programs in Washington County has been a tremendously rewarding experience for us.”

“Of course, the most difficult aspect of our grant-making program is that we have to tell so many great charities and impressive scholarship applicants that we cannot support them because of our financial limitations,” added Betsie Trew, Executive Director. “This is why we remain focused and committed to increasing the community’s grant-making endowment.”

The WCCF, which began operations in Washington County in 1995, promotes and facilitates local philanthropy by providing services to donors on an individualized basis and at reasonable fees. The Foundation currently manages over 100 permanent funds with a combined value in excess of \$4 million. Temporary funds are also provided to serve donors whose charitable goals are more immediate than the endowed program provides.

Questions should be directed to the Foundation at (724) 222-6330 or info@wccf.net.

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