



# Legacy



## Janet S. Abernathy Receives Louis E. Waller Humanitarian Award



*Louis Waller III, Richard L. White  
& Janet S. Abernathy*

If you live in the greater Washington area, chances are Janet Abernathy has directly or indirectly touched your life. According to Washington Hospital President and CEO Telford Thomas, "She volunteers her time, expertise and wisdom

in an unassuming and humble manner without expectation of recognition or reward. Her efforts have impacted lives in many ways as a teacher, mentor and all-around model of grace, compassion and understanding. She embodies the spirit of love for mankind and the creator."

Don't call Janet Abernathy a humanitarian; she'll dodge the title like a champion boxer ducking a right cross. "A lot of people do more than I do," she protests, "People just ask me to do things, and I do them. I don't know how to say 'No.' I just don't."

She has said "yes" to an astonishing number of charities, good causes, church activities and volunteer opportunities since she and her late husband, Abe Abernathy,

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Barry N. Wood Receives Inaugural Dr. Howard Jack Outstanding Public Educator Award

Barry Wood is the teacher we all wish we had in school. He exemplifies the criteria for the Dr. Howard Jack Outstanding Public Educator Award: "a local public educator who has displayed the ability to inspire children from all backgrounds and abilities, who has earned the respect of colleagues, students and parents, and who is actively engaged in the community."

The credentials and accolades for the 38-year veteran English and Theater teacher at Peters Township High School (PTHS) read like a manual for aspiring teachers.

Named to the Teacher Excellence Center's Hall of Fame in Pittsburgh, Wood was also a nominee for the Disney Teacher Award and was invited to the American High School Festival in Scotland. He established Thespian Troupe No. 185 and

the Peters Dance Company, and his theater program is widely recognized as one of the best in the state. Many of his former students,

taught to his exacting standards, have found careers in the performing arts.

Barry is from Pine Grove, Pennsylvania, and received a Bachelor's degree from Berea College, and Masters degrees from



*Barry N. Wood*

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Corporate Partners Support Local Education Through EITC

Business leaders know that having an educated workforce from which to hire employees is one of the necessary components of running an effective business. By partnering with us through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program, our

corporate partners are helping to educate our future workforce at little or no cost. The combined generosity of our corporate supporters enabled a total of \$143,550 in grants and scholarships for the 08-09 school year.

### Corporate Partners

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### EIO Fund Grants

**Bethlehem-Center School District** - \$16,000 for its Technology Program

**Burgettstown School District** - \$6,000 for its PA Junior Academy of Science Program

**California School District** - \$6,000 for its Success for All Program

**Canon-McMillan School District** - \$8,000 for its Science Matters Program and \$8,000 for its High School Leadership Academy

**Charleroi School District** - \$6,000 for its Technology-Driven Integrated Learning System

**McGuffey School District** - \$16,000 for its Accelerated Reader Program

**Peters Township School District** - \$6,000 for its Keys2Work Program

**Ringgold School District** - \$16,000 for its Science Matters Program

**Trinity School District** - \$8,000 for its Guided Reading Materials Program and \$8,000 for its Accelerated Reader Program

**Washington School District** - \$6,000 for its Youth Engaged in Technology Program

### ESO Fund & EPK Fund Scholarships

**Calvary Chapel School** - \$1,750

**Central Christian Academy** - \$7,700

**Faith Christian School** - \$3,500

**First Love Christian Academy** - \$500

**John F. Kennedy Catholic School** - \$2,750

**Madonna Catholic Regional School** - \$2,750

**Mon Valley YMCA Child Learning Center** - \$12,600

**Seton LaSalle Catholic High School** - \$500

**St. Patrick's Catholic School** - \$250

**Tri-State Christian Academy** - \$1,250

Interested corporations are encouraged to act quickly as credits are limited. Please contact the WCCF to receive information on what credits may still be available.

Eligible taxes are

- Corporate Net Income Tax
- Capital Stock Franchise Tax
- Bank & Trust Co. Shares Tax
- Title Insurance Co. Shares Tax
- Insurance Premiums Tax
- Mutual Thrift Institutions Tax
- Personal Income Tax of S Corporations



*Thomas Hoffman, Sr. Vice President, External Affairs, for CONSOL Energy (and WCCF Trustee), presents an \$8,000 EIO Fund grant to Dr. Helen McCracken, Superintendent, Canon-McMillan School District. CONSOL is the WCCF's largest contributor through the EITC program.*

## Local Students Receive \$33,750 in Scholarships



The Foundation has completed its endowed scholarship cycle for 2009, awarding \$33,750 in scholarships from 30 permanent funds. Scholarships ranged in value from \$200 to \$2,000 and were presented at the WCCF's Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony, held at the George Washington Hotel in June.

### *Legacy Gala Sponsors*

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## *Washington County Literacy Council Receives Directors Choice Award*



Amy Manko, Executive Director of The Washington County Literacy Council, proudly accepts this year's *Director's Choice Award*, presented at the Foundation's annual *Legacy Gala*.

For more than 20 years, the Council has been providing basic adult literacy services in

Washington County. Recently, the Council opened reading centers in several areas throughout the county, which impressed the review committee tasked with selecting the annual recipient. The Council plans to use the \$10,000 grant from the *Acorn Fund*, which accompanies the award, for staffing.

Four additional charities received \$500 operational grants from the *Acorn Fund*, Charleroi Historical Society, CASA for Kids, Interfaith Hospitality Network and Washington Community Arts and Cultural Center.

## New Trustees Appointed



Dorothy Tecklenburg

Dorothy Tecklenburg has spent much of the past six years as a columnist, writing the *Observer-Reporter's* editorial piece "Dispatch from China" (03-08). She was a co-creator and creative consultant for the PBS television show "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?", an

adjunct professor for Waynesburg College from 1987-2003, and a corporate communications consultant.

Dorothy served as a Trustee for the International School of Beijing and as a Board Member for the Children's School of Washington. As a writer, Dorothy has authored several works, such as Bob Dorian's Classic Movies and she has lent her talents to the Foundation, assisting with writing articles for various publications.

John McCarthy, Vice President of Finance for Chapman Corporation, has an extensive background in construction financial management, emphasizing on cost controls, budgeting, competitive price analysis, forecasting and financial analysis. In addition, he has over 20 years of experience as



John McCarthy

the single source financial control of construction management projects ranging in size from \$20 to \$100 million.

Prior to joining the Foundation Board, John served on the Board of Directors of the Washington County Literacy Council. Early in 2008, John was very helpful in the Foundation's move to the Chapman Annex.

Dr. Thomas Hart, a retired biology professor from Washington & Jefferson College, has worked globally on projects, such as lecturing about tropical African agriculture in Malawi, to participating on a research expedition in the Gobi Desert, hunting fossil mammals and dinosaurs.



Dr. Thomas Hart

More locally, Dr. Hart assisted the late Dr. Ernest Abernathy in the planting of trees for the Abernathy Baumplatz in Washington County and he is currently the Tree Consultant for the WCCF's *Acorn to Oak Project*.

Rotating off the Board at the Annual Meeting were Martha Berman, who chaired the Allocations & Programs Committee and Dennis Dutton, who chaired the Development Committee. Also rotating off the Board were Shirley Hardy and Elizabeth Todd. Both Shirley and Elizabeth were active on the Allocations & Programs Committee.



### James H. McCune Acorn Society



In 2008 the Board of Trustees established *The James H. McCune Acorn Society* to recognize professional advisors who have helped clients achieve their charitable goals through the Community Foundation. Professional advisors are granted membership into the Society for referring or educating clients of the Community Foundation, resulting in a gift of any size that year. Special Legacy Membership\* is reserved for advisors whose efforts have resulted in permanent gifts of at least \$250,000.

#### Class of 2009

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## Morascyzk and Takach Begin Terms as Board Secretary and Treasurer



Edward Morascyzk

At its June Annual Meeting, the Board elected Edward Morascyzk as Board Secretary and Deborah Takach as Board Treasurer.

Ed is a Senior Partner in the law firm of Morascyzk, Stopperich & Associates in Washington. He also supports numerous

charitable organizations including Special Olympics, American Cancer Society, Canonsburg Hospital, and Washington & Jefferson College. Ed is a lifelong resident of Washington and a graduate of Washington & Jefferson College.

Deborah Takach is the Vice President of Business Banking/ Southwest Region for First Commonwealth Bank and joined the Board of Trustees of the Community Foundation in 2007. In addition to her efforts with the Community Foundation, she is the current President for the South West Communities Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Business Loan Review Committee and the Real Estate Loan Review Committee for the Urban

Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh

Debbie is replacing Thomas Wild, who served four years as Board Treasurer. During Tom's tenure as Treasurer, the Foundation grew from \$2.5 million in assets to about \$5 million. To provide diversity of both investments and investment managers, he led



Thomas Wild

the effort to select three separate managers with \$1 million each, when the Foundation reached \$3 million in endowment. He also helped to transition the Foundation from a combined Finance & Investment Committee to a separate Finance & Audit Committee and an Investment Committee. Tom will continue to serve on these two committees.

Also at the Annual Meeting, Chairman Thomas Northrop and Vice Chairman Richard White were elected to another one-year term.



Deborah Takach

*(Continued from page 1)*

Ohio University and the University of Pittsburgh.

In 1971, Peters Township High School principal Dr. Howard Jack interviewed Barry and hired him. In 2004, Dr. Jack said, "It was my privilege to bring Barry to Peters Township. Its curricular activities and programs were greatly enriched thereby." His students agree, naming him their "Most Memorable Teacher" many times.

Barry shares his theater skills with the entire community. He taught or directed for Carnegie-Mellon University, Penn State University, Washington and Jefferson College and Waynesburg University, is a founding member of The Washington County Theatre Guild, and directed the most recent production for the Washington Community Theater, Disney's "Beauty and the Beast", staged at Washington Park's Main Pavilion.

His commitment to the greater community is also exceptional. He is a Deacon and Elder at First Presbyterian Church 1793 in Washington, and conducted

major fund raisers for Citizens Library, the Greater Canonsburg Lions Club, the Chartiers-Houston Public Library and the Flood Victims of Houston.

*"I am elated to be the first teacher to receive this distinguished award especially since it was Dr. Howard Jack who hired me to teach and direct at Peters Township High School. He was--and continues to be--an inspiration to me." - Barry N. Wood*

If theater is his first love, film is his second. "I have spent my life at the movies and have decided that if I ever wrote a biography it would be appropriately titled: 'The Boy Who Spent His Entire Life At The Saturday Matinee.'" His idea of a great afternoon: watching a Jeanette MacDonald/ Nelson Eddy marathon.

(For the younger generation, they were singing stars of the 1930's.)

Barry is thrilled to receive this award. "I am elated to be the first teacher to receive this distinguished award especially since it was Dr. Howard Jack who hired me to teach and direct at Peters Township High School. He was--and continues to be--an inspiration to me."

Barry plans to retire in June 2010 and "Take it From The Top!!"

*By Dorothy Tecklenburg*

## Penguins Ticket Raffle Raises \$4,000



Members of the Leadership Washington County Executive Committee: Seated: Sheila Gombita, Eileen Dellorso (Executive Director), Melissa Morrison. Standing: Bridget Vilenica, Lee Young, Ray Andrews, Mindy Zatta

Approximately \$4,000 was raised through the annual Penguins Ticket Raffle of the WCCF, sponsored each

(Continued from page 1)

moved to Washington in 1955.

Her lifetime tradition of helping began when she was a Girl Scout during World War II, volunteering at a hospital to help ease the nursing shortage. She enjoyed it enough to choose a career in nursing, where she met her husband, a doctor.

"Abe was always a volunteer. I guess he motivated me. He grew up in Georgia, and blacks weren't getting a fair shake," she recalls. He started the Abernathy Black Community Development Educational Fund (ABCDE) to help black students pursue higher education. "He couldn't give full tuition," she reminisces. "He invested what he could, and tried to give them books and fees." Since her husband's death, she serves on the Fund's board and interviews all the scholarship applicants, making sure they understand the importance of higher education. "They're high class students, nice kids. They have big dreams."

Who has Janet Abernathy helped? Who **hasn't** she helped? The Mental Health Association, Citizens Library, SPHS-Connect, Washington Hospital Auxiliary, the CARE center, and the Visiting Nurse Association have all benefited from her energy. She was the United Way

*"People just ask me to do things, and I do them. I don't know how to say 'No.' I just don't."*  
- Janet Abernathy

year by rose plastic, who donates game tickets and parking passes, which are made available at no cost to groups wishing to increase the value of grant-making funds at the Foundation. More than \$10,500 has been raised in the two years the raffle has been held.

Board members of Leadership Washington County have participated both years and sold the winning ticket for the game against the Ottawa Senators in March. The *Leadership Washington County Fund* at the WCCF will be used to provide for the Elaine Rizza Scholarship for future students of the program.

The winning ticket for the game against the Detroit Redwings in January supported the *Bentworth Alumni/Brad Smith Fund*.

### Raffle Sponsor



Volunteer of the Year and received the League of Women Voters Community Service Award, chaired Health-O-Rama, and helped raise awareness and money for disadvantaged women and children in Washington County. For forty-two years Janet taught Sunday school at First Presbyterian Church of Washington, served as an Elder and routinely visited shut-ins.

She currently volunteers at the United Way of Washington County, helping determine funding amounts for health and human services organizations, and works with the Caring Tree program to provide Christmas gifts to needy families. She also served for ten years as a trustee of the Washington County Community Foundation.

Her three children, who have moved away from Washington, carry on the family tradition of volunteering and helping others. Janet Abernathy says she's not a humanitarian; she's a housewife. "It wasn't always easy or convenient, but I do like people. I grew up liking people."

She has designated the \$1,000 grant that accompanies the award to go to the ABCDE Fund.

*By Dorothy Tecklenburg*

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## Mother's Fund Receives Trademark - Awards \$10,000 Grant



When the Foundation was researching issues facing disadvantaged women and children in Washington County for the publication, "Nurturing our Children, Our Families, Our Communities—Women's Work", it became apparent that the issues were very similar for disadvantaged women and children in other communities across the nation. Issues such as substandard housing, hunger and poor nutrition, alcoholism, domestic violence, limited access to health and dental care, and limited educational opportunities are a constant challenge for this segment of our population. And, not surprisingly, the primary obstacle for charities working to address these issues was insufficient financial resources.

Although we knew that we would first focus on efforts in Washington County, we did not rule out the possibility of a regional or even national focus for the *Mother's Fund* and began the process of securing a Federal trademark for the fund name and logo. Through

the pro-bono efforts of JoAnn Issac of Cohen and Grigsby in Pittsburgh, the Foundation has obtained exclusive rights to the *Mother's Fund* name and logo and is currently working to secure grants to expand the geographic focus of the fund.

It is important to note that the geographic expansion of this one fund will not alter the primary geographic focus of the overall Foundation. "As our name implies our primary service area and where most of our grants are targeted is Washington County, said Thomas Northrop, Chairman of the Board. "This will not change as we seek to support disadvantaged women and children beyond our primary service area."

And we will continue to support local projects from the *Mother's Fund*, such as the recent \$10,000 grant awarded to the Transitional Employment Consultants (TEC) of Washington County to provide short-term transportation and child care for disabled women entering or re-entering the workforce.



### Mother's Fund Contributors

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*New Mission Statement Adopted*



*The Washington County Community Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life by providing a vehicle for philanthropic giving across a broad spectrum of giving levels to support diverse community needs and to provide prudent stewardship of those charitable funds.*

“The new mission statement better reflects the client base the WCCF wishes to serve, namely charitably-minded individuals and institutions of varying degrees of wealth,” stated Thomas P. Northrop, Chairman of the Board.

The new mission statement also articulates the desire of the WCCF to be fiscally responsible for the assets contributed to it. “Our Board has always taken our fiduciary role of contributed moneys very seriously and so adding this component to the mission statement was an easy decision for us,” added Thomas Wild, Immediate Past Treasurer.

  
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