

For Immediate Release

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Community Foundation Awards \$33,750 in Scholarships to Area Students

Washington, PA – The Washington County Community Foundation (WCCF) has completed its endowed scholarship cycle for 2009, awarding a total of \$33,750 from 30 permanent funds.

Two scholarship funds made first time distributions:

Dave Pew Memorial Scholarship – Dave Pew’s interest in music began early and by the age of fourteen he received his first trumpet. His passion for music led him to play with big bands throughout the country, culminating in an offer to play an on-going gig for the New Yorker Hotel. Instead of pursuing this opportunity, Dave enlisted in the Air Force for a four year term and fought for his country in Korea. While in the military Dave was offered the position of lead trumpet for the Air Force Band in San Francisco. Following his tour of duty, Dave enrolled in the Music Education Department at Duquesne University. Upon graduation he accepted a teaching position with the Peters



Dave Pew

Township School District in 1958. Throughout his teaching career Dave Pew created innovative and award winning musical programs for his district, and later retired in 1986. The Dave Pew Memorial Scholarship Fund was initiated by several of his former students who were inspired by his musical talent and dedication. Scholarships are available to graduating seniors of Peters Township High School pursuing post-secondary education in a music-related field. This year’s inaugural recipient receiving \$500 is Keith Quinn, who will be attending Duquesne University.

Scholarship Fund for the Arts – An anonymous \$25,000 contribution provided the necessary support to establish this fund to benefit graduating seniors from Chartiers-Houston High School pursuing a degree in the arts. It was extremely important to the donor to include creative, performing and visual arts in the classification of eligible students. The fund will be renamed at the donor’s death to include the name of the generous giver. Andrea McLaughlin received the first award from this fund in the amount of \$250 and will be attending Carlow University this fall.

An additional 28 permanent funds made distributions this year.

Alice Boone Main Memorial Fund – A \$500 award was granted to Matthew Bedillion to attend TDDS Technical Institute in Ohio. Mrs. Main returned to her high school alma mater of McGuffey after college and served both as the Federal Programs Coordinator and Elementary School Principal. After her untimely death, family and friends created this fund in her memory to provide scholarships to worthy McGuffey gradating seniors.

Arthur V. Ciervo Scholarship Fund – Joshua Seader, a Bethlehem Center senior, received a \$500 award from this fund to attend the University of Pittsburgh. One of the first in his family to graduate from college, Arthur Ciervo went on to become a successful journalist and public relations professional. One of his published works, *Always in a Hole*, is based upon his experiences of growing up in the small coal mining town of Richeyville. This fund was created by his family and friends in 1999 to honor him on his 70th birthday.

Barry Clark Barto Scholarship Fund – Chelsea Scruppi received this year’s \$500 award to attend the Western Area Career & Technology Center. The fund was created in memory of Barry Barto, a standout athlete at Burgettstown who died in a car accident shortly after graduating from technical school. Eligible recipients will be graduating from Burgettstown High School and attending a career / technical school.

Black Family Scholarship – Jasmine Moore from West Greene received \$1,000 to attend Fairmont University and Joelle Yamber from Avella received \$1,000 to attend Duquesne University. This fund was created by William and Sheila Black to provide scholarships to Avella and West Greene students who are majoring in agriculture, education or nursing. Bill and Sheila Black have dedicated their lives to helping educate young people. Bill is a retired vocational-agricultural and elementary teacher who worked most of his career in the Avella School District. Sheila is a retired school nurse from the West Greene School District.

Buckholt Science Scholarship Fund – Catherine Van Cleve received this year’s \$500 award to attend Duquesne University. Mr. Paul Buckholt, former educator in the McGuffey School District, created this fund in 2000 from the proceeds of the concession stand he operated at the school for many years, which benefits McGuffey students pursuing a degree in the sciences.

Burgettstown Lions Club Scholarship – This fund was created by the Burgettstown Lions Club to provide three awards to Burgettstown seniors. The \$250 Mud Garcia Award was received by Juliana Bandi, the \$250 Harold Malone Science Award was received by Adrienne Marler and the \$500 Lions Memorial Award was received by Nicolette Bendick. All three students will be attending the University of Pittsburgh this fall.

Burgettstown Jr. Sr. High Student Council Leadership Scholarship Fund – A \$300 award was granted to Hope Bowersock to attend Robert Morris University. This fund was created by the Burgettstown Student Council, under the direction of former advisor Ms. Mary Elaine Lozosky, with contributions received from Burgettstown alumni, faculty, administration and local businesses.

Catherine M. Taylor Scholarship – As a lasting memorial to his mother, Catherine M. Taylor, Ted Taylor created this fund to provide two \$500 scholarships to graduating Peters Township High School seniors who are a member of the Future Business Leaders of America and/or a member of the Advanced Placement Spanish Class. Receiving the awards this year were Danielle Devine attending Carnegie Mellon University and Lindsay Mauer attending the University of South Carolina.



Charles Pappas Sr. Scholarship Fund – This fund was created in 2001 by a bequest from former Burgettstown School Board President and community leader, Mr. Charles Pappas, Sr., to provide an annual scholarship to a Burgettstown senior. This year a \$1,500 award was granted to Bryon Dean to attend the University of Pittsburgh.

Clyde J. Tracanna / Washington Rotary Club Educational and Vocational Fund – Awards of \$1,000 each were granted to Hanum Wensil-Strow (McGuffey High School) attending the University of Maryland, Angelica Paletta (Trinity High School) attending Villanova University, and Kayla Welling (Washington High School) attending Edinboro University. This fund was transferred to the Foundation in 2001 by the Rotary Club of Washington to support scholarships to high school seniors in the Club's service area. The fund memorializes Clyde Tracanna, a former president of the club who was very active in supporting scholarships for students.

Curtis Wachter Scholarship Fund – Curtis Wachter spent his brief life capturing the images of joy and sorrow that he viewed through his camera lens. An award-winning *Observer-Reporter* photographer, Curtis was only 25 when cancer took his life and the promise of a brilliant career. This scholarship, established by the photography department of the paper and his family and friends, is awarded to promising high school graduates from any Washington County high school who intends to study photography or photojournalism in college. Receiving this year's \$500 award was Chelsy Smalley from Washington High School who will attend Point Park University.

David O. and Sarah F. Johnson Family Education Fund – Initiated by the children of Mr. & Mrs. Johnson, this fund provides an annual scholarship to a graduating senior from McGuffey High School. Carrie Milliken, attending Washington and Jefferson College, is the recipient of this year's \$1,000 scholarship. Both Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were very active in the McGuffey School District. David, who worked for the Coen Oil Company, served on the McGuffey School Board for 17 years. Sara worked for the district for 25 years.

D. Jack Gaido, Sr. Memorial Fund – Initiated by the family of Jack Gaido, this fund provides an annual scholarship to a graduating senior from Chartiers Houston High School and Trinity High School who are studying business, medicine, or theology in college. Megan Knowlson (Trinity) attending Waynesburg University and Samantha Danyo (Chartiers Houston) attending the University of Pittsburgh each received \$1,000 awards. D. Jack Gaido, who grew up in the Meadowlands and graduated from Chartiers Houston, attended technical school after his tour of duty in the U.S. Air Force. He worked as a computer technician for RCA and Unisys. Mr. Gaido believed strongly in the value of post secondary education and saw to it that each of his six children received college degrees.

Dr. Paul Pipik Fund for Study in the Health Sciences – A \$750 scholarship was awarded from this fund to Ashley Weaver of Bethlehem Center High School to attend California University of Pittsburgh. The fund was created by Dr. Pipik's children who currently live throughout the country. Dr. Pipik grew up in Brownsville before relocating to Chicago where completed his medical degree. He worked for over 30 years in several hospitals in the Cleveland area, serving as Chief Surgeon at both Deaconess Hospital and Parma Hospital.

Elizabeth Plumer Memorial Scholarship – This fund was created in 2003 by family and friends in memory of Ms. Plumer, a former teacher at Trinity High School who was also life-long learner. The fund provides

scholarships to Trinity seniors pursuing a degree in education. Kaly Farabee received a \$200 award to attend Washington and Jefferson College.

John & Sophie Choratch Fund – This fund was created by a bequest from Sophie Choratch in remembrance of the victims of 9-11 and provides scholarships to students whose parent volunteers or works as a first responder in Washington County. Receiving awards from Burgettstown were Amberley Karch attending Washington and Jefferson College and Alycia Maltony attending Allegheny College. Also receiving awards were Devon Leaver from Ringgold High School, attending Waynesburg University, and Amanda Smith from Washington High School, attending Drexel University. Each recipient received a \$2,000 scholarship from this fund, which at \$800,000, is the largest fund of the Community Foundation.

Joseph P. Femiani Memorial Scholarship – Andrew Paul of Peters Township High School was this year's recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Penn State University. The fund was created in 2003 by John and Barbara Campbell and Joseph and Shirley Hardy to celebrate the life and good works of their friend Joseph Femiani. Mr. Femiani spent the better part of his life reaching out to those in need, particularly children. He is best known for initiating the Watchful Shepherd program which protects children from abuse and domestic violence.

Kerns Family Scholarship Fund – The Community Foundation's 100th permanent fund was created by Mary Kerns Meek in 2005, which provides an annual scholarship to a McGuffey student who is a member of the Future Farmers of America who intends to pursue a career in agriculture. Grady Voigt received this year's \$1,000 award to attend Pennsylvania College of Technology. Mrs. Meek grew up on her family's farm, which had been in the family since the early 1800's. She was a County Extension Agent for West Virginia University and passed away in 2007.

Kirk C. Moninger Fund – Benjamin McCombs received a \$200 award to attend West Virginia University from this fund. The years following a tragic car accident proved to be very difficult for both Kirk Moninger and his family. Twice, his parents were told their son, who had slipped into a coma, was not expected to live. Sadly, after surpassing everyone's expectations regarding his recovery, Kirk took his own life. The Fund provides scholarships to Trinity seniors who are members of the National Honor Society and the Trinity Varsity Golf or Lacrosse teams, as these were important components of Kirk's high school years.

Linda LeFever Scholarship – After obtaining a graduate degree from Carnegie Mellon University, Linda LeFever worked as a Vista worker in Rochester New York and started a tool lending library and yard maintenance company. She moved to the Pittsburgh area to help renovate the E&O Brewery and later worked for the Washington County Council on Economic Development. She founded the successful Northside Community Development Fund in 2000, helping finance small businesses on the North Side of Pittsburgh. This Fund, created by family and friends in her memory, provides scholarships to worthy students of Washington or Allegheny counties attending the Heinz School of Carnegie Mellon University. Edward Lewis received a \$1,000 scholarship from this fund.

Margaret Pitek Ciervo Scholarship Fund – Hannah Roberts from Bethlehem Center High School received this year's \$500 award to attend Thiel College. Mrs. Ciervo, formerly of Denbo, PA, had dedicated most of her

life to being a devoted wife and mother. However, she did find time to work several years as a Licensed Practical Nurse in State College. She was also very active in charitable causes, including the delivery of clothing and furniture to poor families, supporting programs at a homeless shelter, and helping Vietnamese families get settled in the United States. The fund was created in 2000 in her memory to provide a scholarship to a worthy female graduate of Bethlehem Center High School.

Megan J. Phillis Scholarship Fund for Academic Excellence – Receiving the \$500 award from this fund was Jessica Brucker attending Duquesne University. The fund was created by family and friends in memory of Megan who died in a car accident at the age of 18 shortly after her graduation from Burgettstown High School. Megan herself was to receive multiple scholarships which would have fully paid for her intended four years of study at West Virginia University.

Rebecca Sarah Rogers Scholarship Fund – This fund was created by family and friends in memory of Rebecca who died at the tender age of 10. Even at her young age, Rebecca had decided that she wanted to become a teacher and so eligible recipients will be Washington High School graduating seniors pursuing a degree in education. The award of \$1,000 was presented to Lauren DiSalvio attending Clarion University.

Ringgold Alumni Scholarship – This fund, which provides scholarships to worthy graduating seniors of Ringgold High School, was initiated by the Monongahela High School Class of 1950. The Class is hopeful that because contributions are now tax-deductible through the WCCF, more alumni will make donations to increase the value of the award. Diana Hric, attending St. Vincent College, received \$250 from this fund.

Ronald T. Miller II Scholarship Fund – Brian Hayes, attending Penn State University, received this year's \$1,000 award from the fund. While attending Peters Township High School, Ron Miller was active in sports and worked part-time at a retail golf store. After graduating with honors, he entered Virginia Polytechnic Institute, where he was studying mechanical engineering. Sadly, while home on a school break, Ron Miller sustained fatal injuries in an automobile accident. This fund provides scholarships to Peters Township seniors pursuing an engineering degree.

Sprowls College & Post Graduate Scholarship Fund – This fund was created in 2005 in memory of Duane Sprowls, a former teacher at Fort Cherry High School, and Lou Rae Sprowls White, a business professional. The scholarship, created by their daughter, L. Dawn Haber, is awarded to a graduating senior of Fort Cherry who displays a passion for the humanities, and may be renewed through graduate school. Receiving this year's \$1,000 award was Lyndsie Dalprato to attend Lake Erie College.

Washington County Music Education Fund - A \$300 award was granted to April Wojcuich from Canon-McMillan to attend West Liberty State College. This fund was created by the WCCF Trustees with proceeds from Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra concerts hosted in Washington County. Eligible students will either be attending a summer music study program or majoring in music in college.

Washington County Visiting Nurses Association Scholarship Fund – Awards of \$1,000 each were granted to nursing students Paula Tilger, a graduate of Canon-McMillan High School attending the Washington



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Hospital School of Nursing and Emily Zozula, a graduate of McGuffey High School, attending West Liberty State College. This fund was created by the former Visiting Nurses Association of Washington.

Initiated in late 1995, the WCCF has grown its grant-making endowment to approximately \$5 million and cumulatively has awarded more than \$1.6 million in grants and scholarships. In addition to post-secondary scholarships from permanent funds, the WCCF also awards Pre-K Scholarships for financially needed students to attend qualified pre-school programs, and K-12 scholarships for financially needy students to attend non-public schools. To learn more, please contact the Foundation office at 724-222-6330 or info@wccf.net. You may also visit the website at www.wccf.net

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