

For Immediate Release

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Community Foundation Seeks Proposals for \$23,000 in Grants

The Washington County Community Foundation is currently accepting proposals for several funds.

Abernathy Fund for Conservation - proposals should address a conservation project in Washington County. Up to \$3,000 will be awarded. The fund was created by the Abernathy Family in 1999.

Canonsburg Community Fund – proposals should address a project that benefits the citizens of Canonsburg. The charity need not be physically located in Canonsburg but be providing a charitable service to the community in any of the following areas: the arts, education, the environment, health, human needs, or religion. A \$200 award will be granted. The fund was created by the WCCF Board of Trustees in 2004 with proceeds of a Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra concert held at Canon-McMillan High School.

Community Endowment for Peters Township – proposals should address a project that benefits the citizens of Peters Township. The charity need not be physically located in Peters Township but be providing a charitable service to the community in any of the following areas: the arts, education, the environment, health, human needs, or religion. Up to \$5,000 will be awarded. Initiated in 2002 by the WCCF Board of Trustees with proceeds of a Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra concert held at Peters Township High School, the fund has annually benefited from the Taste of the Township event at the Valley Brook Country Club. With the proceeds of the 2008 Taste of the Township, the fund's value has exceeded \$100,000.

McBride - McMaster Fund - proposals should address issues that promote local history or support the needy in Washington County. Up to \$2,000 will be awarded. The fund was created by Dr. Gilbert and Mrs. Margaret McBride McMaster in 1998. With a 2007 bequest from Dr. McMaster, the fund is valued at more than \$175,000. Mrs. McMaster passed in 2005.

Mother's Fund – proposals should address a project that supports disadvantaged women and/or children in Washington County. The fund was created by the WCCF Board of Trustees in 1999 with honorary and memorial contributions received from the community for Mother's Day. The fund's value grew from \$20,000 to more than \$250,000 last year as part of the foundation's Women of Philanthropy Campaign. A \$10,000 grant will be awarded.

Joseph F. Perkins Fund - proposals should address a project that benefits youth in the Burgettstown community. A \$200 award will be granted. The charity need not be physically located in the Burgettstown area. The fund was created by a bequest from Joseph A. Perkins, who was born and raised in the Burgettstown area. Throughout his life, Mr. Perkins was a relentless inventor and later in life developed a strong interest in astrology and numerology.

Judge Samuel L. Rodgers Fund – proposal should address a literacy issue in Washington County. A \$300 award will be granted. This fund was initiated in 2000 by his daughter, Marta Rodgers Merchant, and friends in honor of Judge Rodgers’ 80th birthday. Judge Rodgers was a part of the Washington County legal community for more than 50 years. He was appointed to Commonwealth Court as a senior judge in July 1993 and was active with the court until his death in November 2001.

Washington County Youth Conversation Camp Fund – proposals should address a project concerned with conservation in Washington County. A \$300 award will be granted. The fund was created in 2001 by the Camp Steering Committee of the former Washington County Youth Conservation Camp. The conservation camp, which was operated for 15 successful years, was open to all Washington County youth ages 11 to 13. Because of increased liability concerns, the Steering Committee curtailed operations and transferred its residual moneys to the WCCF to create this fund.

O.W. Wilkerson “Wilkie” Memorial Fund – proposals should address a charitable project that benefits the citizens of Claysville. Although he was born in Arizona and spent his early years in Texas, O.W. Wilkerson loved the town of Claysville, where he and his wife Agnes, made their home for more than 56 years. The Wilkersons raised their two sons and daughter in Claysville, and founded Wilkie Contracting there in 1956. Mr. Wilkerson’s love of Claysville motivated his daughter and son-in-law to initiate this fund in his memory to support the Claysville community. The fund will issue its inaugural awards this year. Up to \$2,000 will be awarded.

Interested 501(c)(3), charitable organizations should submit a one page letter describing the organization and the project for which funds are requested. Letters must be received by July 1, 2008. Letters should be mailed to: The Washington County Community Foundation, Chapman Annex, 331 South Main Street, Washington, PA 15301. Questions may be directed to the Foundation by phone at (724) 222-6330 or by email at info@wccf.net. To learn more please visit the foundation website at www.wccf.net.