

**For Immediate Release**

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Foundation Begins New Year With New Mission Statement

Washington, PA – The Washington County Community Foundation (WCCF) is pleased to announce that it has adopted a new mission statement for the organization. *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.* With the Foundation's current marketing theme focused on the "Next Generation of Philanthropy", the Board of Trustees felt that a review of the mission statement was appropriate. Another factor in revisiting the mission statement was the increased emphasis on governance issues contained within the revised IRS Federal Form 990 which the Foundation is required to file annually.

"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. "Without the services of a community foundation, philanthropy is often reserved only for a community's wealthiest citizens. Permanent funds of the WCCF range in value from \$5,000 to almost \$1 million, and we have several pooled giving vehicles that accept very modest gifts."

"In drafting the new statement, we wanted to emphasize that grants are issued in support of the many charitable activities which impact one's quality of life," added Betsie Trew, Executive Director. "Annually, we award grants in six broad categories of arts & humanities, education & scholarships, environment & animal welfare, health & fitness, human needs, and religion & faith-based. We are committed to increasing our grant-making in each of these categories and are taking

steps to build our *Acorn Fund*, an unrestricted grant-making fund which makes grants in each of these areas.”

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,” remarked Thomas Wild, Treasurer. “In our fiduciary role, we are very pleased to have initiated in 2008 an investment relationship with Washington Federal’s new Wealth Management Division. Washington Federal has served as the WCCF’s primary bank for short-term assets since our inception. It was a natural progression for us to utilize Washington Federal for investment of long-term assets as well.”

The WCCF is further pleased to announce that in 2008 donors contributed approximately \$1.3 million, the third consecutive year in which contributions exceeded one million dollars in a single year. Five new permanent funds were created, the largest of which was the *Dr. Malcolm Ruben & Dr. Jerold Ruben Fund* at \$200,000. Other new funds initiated in 2008 were the *Pierce Anderson Memorial Fund*, *Betty R. & Clarke M. Carlisle Fund*, *Chartiers Houston Community Library Fund*, and the *Malcolm L. Morgan Community Fund*.

And finally, the WCCF distributed a record-breaking \$392,421 in grants in 2008, bringing cumulative distributions to more than \$1.5 million. Education / Scholarships accounted for 31% of total awards in 2008 and included distributions from permanent funds as well as pass-through distributions through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program which enables corporations to receive tax credits for contributions to qualified educational programs. Arts & Humanities accounted for 28% of total awards and included a \$10,000 *Director’s Choice Award* from the *Acorn Fund* to the Washington Symphony Orchestra.

For more information, please contact the WCCF at 724-222-6330 or [info@wccf.net](mailto:info@wccf.net).

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