



For Immediate Release

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Road 2 Equity Tour Coming to Washington County

The Washington County Community Foundation (WCCF), the Women and Girls Foundation (WGF) and First Commonwealth Bank are teaming up to provide a day of empowerment for women in Washington County. The Road 2 Equity Tour will come to Washington County on May 7, 2008 from 11:30am – 3pm at the Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe.

The tour centers on the Status of Women in Southwestern Pennsylvania Report, produced by Chatham University in collaboration with WGF, which explores the strengths and challenges for women in each of the region's counties based on five indicators: political participation; employment and economic status; social and economic autonomy; reproductive rights and health and well-being.

“According to the report, women in Washington County have the highest overall ranking out of the 11 counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania,” said Heather Arnet, Executive Director of the Women & Girls Foundation.

“The purpose of the Road 2 Equity Tour is to empower community leaders in each county to understand their county’s unique strengths and weaknesses regarding gender equity. To create a region where women can excel, each county must build on its areas of expertise and focus on improving areas of opportunity. At this meeting, we will be taking the first step in informing the community with the facts, and giving them the tools they need to improve the quality of life for themselves and for all women and girls living and working in Washington County.”

The event is open to the public. Included in the event are an informational session and workshops on negotiating skills for women and financial planning. Tickets can be purchased for \$30 and proceeds will go to the Mother’s Fund of the WCCF, which supports disadvantaged women and children in Washington County.



“We’ve been able to make significant progress in helping the disadvantaged women and girls in Washington County through our Mother’s Fund,” said Washington County Community Foundation Executive Director Betsie Trew. “Partnering with WGF and First Commonwealth for the Road 2 Equity Tour is a continuation of our effort to provide women with the resources they need to thrive in Washington County.”

First Commonwealth Bank is sponsoring the event and several women on its management staff will make presentations.

“First Commonwealth is devoted to the financial wellbeing of women, said First Commonwealth Business Banking Group Manager Deborah Takach. “We understand their unique concerns – for themselves, their families, their businesses and their future. We are excited to be able to play a part in the Road 2 Equity Tour in Washington County.”

For more information or to register for the event, call 724-222-6330 or email info@wccf.net.

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