



For Immediate Release

Contact: Betsie Trew, Executive Director
331 South Main Street, Washington PA 15301

July 18, 2008
724-222-6330
info@wccf.net

**Washington Symphony Orchestra Receives
Director's Choice Award of Community Foundation**

The Washington County Community Foundation (WCCF) presented its first annual Director's Choice Award to the Washington Symphony Orchestra. The award, which includes a \$10,000 operational grant, was created by the Board of Trustees of the WCCF to assist a small but improving charity in recognition of the WCCF's earliest supporters who were willing to invest in the community foundation in its earliest days. It is named in honor of the Foundation's first full-time executive director, Betsie Trew, under whose leadership the WCCF has grown from less than \$250,000 in assets to more than \$5 million.

To be eligible to apply, charities were required to have an operating budget of less than \$250,000, have been in existence for at least three years, and provide a program in one of the six areas supported by the *Acorn Fund* - arts & humanities, education, environment & animal welfare, health, human needs or religion. The three criteria used in the selection process were quality of programming, community impact, and improvement in the balance sheet over a period of time.

"The committee which reviewed the applications was unanimous in its belief that all applicants provide quality programming that is having a positive impact in our community," said Betsie Trew, Executive Director. "To encourage their continued good work each applicant was awarded a merit grant from our *Acorn Fund*. CASA for Kids received a \$1,000 grant and receiving grants of \$500 each were the Bradford House, Charleroi Historical Society, Interfaith Hospitality Network, LeMoyne Community Center, Washington County Hunger & Homeless Awareness Committee, and the Washington County Literacy Council. Through a financial analysis, it was readily apparent that the Washington Symphony Orchestra best met the third criteria of improvement in the balance sheet."



Washington
County Community Foundation, Inc.

The Washington Symphony Orchestra, in its 6th year of operations, seeks to entertain, educate and inspire the community through presentation of excellent musical performances. It held its first concert at the First Lutheran Church in Washington and then performed the next three years in the George Washington Hotel. Continual increases in audience attendance prompted a move to the Washington Park School and then to Trinity High School auditorium, where the WSO has performed to audiences as large as 900 members. The WSO intends to use the \$10,000 grant towards the salary of a part-time Director tasked with developing the income required to support the WSO's artistic and business visions. "The Director's Choice Award is a timely vote of confidence that has inspired and invigorated our efforts while reducing our financial risk," stated Mary Cecelia Courtney, WSO President.

The community foundation is currently in a two-year marketing and development campaign to grow the **Acorn Fund** to \$250,000 which will ensure the perpetuity of the \$10,000 Director's Choice Award. Those interested in supporting the campaign are encouraged to contact the foundation at 724-222-6330 or info@wccf.net.

###