



Washington

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News Release

December 21, 2006

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Community Foundation Grants to Help Provide Warmer Winter in the Mon Valley

The Washington County Community Foundation (WCCF) is pleased to announce grants to two Mon Valley charities which will help to warm the community in the cold winter months ahead. The Monongahela Women's Club has received a \$500 grant from the Foundation's ***Ben Franklin Fund*** for its Coats for Kids project, which provides warm winter coats for needy children in the area served by Ringgold School District. Over the past two years, 122 children received a new winter coat through the Coats for Kids project. Club members support the project through various fund-raising activities such as bake sales, flea markets, and a shopping night with local vendors. The ladies are proud to say that they have never turned away a child who truly needed a winter coat.

"Our Allocations and Programs Committee was impressed with the dedication of the volunteers of the Women's Club, and we wished to support the Club's efforts to provide a winter coat to needy children in the community," said Betsie Trew, Executive Director. "The flexibility of the ***Ben Franklin Fund*** enables us to support essentially any type of charitable project in the community, such as the Coats for Kids project. Over the years, the Fund has provided grants to United Cerebral Palsy of SWPA for its Rainbow's End Daycare Center, the Center in the Woods in California for its Adult Day Center, Little Lake Theatre in McMurray for a performance at the California Elementary School, Crossing the Jordan Christian Health Center in Washington and the Church of the Covenant Preschool in Washington." The ***Ben Franklin Fund*** was created with moneys received from the last will and testament of Ben Franklin.

Another grant of \$1,000 was provided to the Monongahela Library through the ***John A. & Barbara L. Campbell Fund***. The grant is to help replace the antiquated furnace, which is over 20 years old and as library officials say, "on its last leg." The Monongahela Library offers many services to the community, including story hours and weekend and evening availability for readers. "Like the ***Ben Franklin Fund***, the ***John A. & Barbara L. Campbell Fund*** is very flexible," commented Trew. "Mr. and Mrs. Campbell are very generous and when they created

this fund, they directed simply that it should support worthy causes in Washington County. This provides the greatest opportunity for our Foundation to support emerging needs in this community.” John Campbell is a Founding Trustee of the WCCF and former Chairman of the Board. He and his wife, Barbara, live in McMurray.

The WCCF offers three basic types of permanent funds, discretionary, designated, and donor advised. Discretionary funds provide the broadest support to the community and award grants in the areas of the arts & humanities, education, environment & animal welfare, health, human service, and religion. Designated funds include geographically designated, field-of-interest, specific agency, and scholarship funds. Donor advised funds enable the donor to annually recommend the charitable cause to benefit from the fund.



Monongahela Librarian Ed Shanahan and Treasurer Susan Schulte Price accept the \$1,000 check from WCCF Trustee Gwen Simmons and Executive Director Betsie Trew

New funds are created each year at the WCCF, through a wide range of gifts including cash and appreciated stock. Currently, endowed gifts, whether to existing funds or to create new funds are eligible for a one to three match incentive provided by a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation. All types of permanent funds, with the lone exception of donor advised funds, are eligible for the match incentive.

Currently, the WCCF manages more than 100 permanent funds with a combined value in excess of \$3.3 million. Cumulatively, more than \$750,000 has been awarded in grants and scholarships during its 11 years of serving the Washington County community.

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