



Washington  
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News Release

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**Joe Hardy - 2004 Philanthropist of the Year**

The Washington County Community Foundation is pleased to announce that local entrepreneur, Joseph A. Hardy III, has been chosen as the **2004 Philanthropist of the Year**. Mr. Hardy's generosity to the Washington County community is significant; his charitable gifts have had a true and lasting impact. Just a few of the charities Mr. Hardy has supported locally include: California University of PA, Children's Hospital, The Washington Hospital, the United Ways in southwestern Pennsylvania, Washington & Jefferson College, 84 Baseball/Softball, and the Washington County Food Bank.



*Joe Hardy*

The Washington County Community Foundation, a 501(c) 3 charitable corporation with endowed assets of approximately \$2 million, is concerned with the promotion and facilitation of local philanthropy. In its promotion of philanthropy, the Foundation believes that philanthropists should be encouraged, thanked, and recognized for their contributions. The Foundation created the **Philanthropist of the Year** award in 1999 to recognize a local philanthropist for exceptional generosity to the Washington County community. The award is presented each November to coincide with National Community Foundation Week. In addition to the banquet, a permanent fund is created at the Foundation in honor of the recipient.

Criteria for the award are as follows:

- Demonstrated exceptional generosity and civic responsibility in providing financial support and leadership to a local non-profit cause

- Helped to improve the quality of life in the Washington County community through a commitment of leadership to a non profit cause
- By example encouraged and motivated others to support a philanthropic cause
- Contributed significantly to other community efforts
- Advanced philanthropy in general

Previous recipients of the *Philanthropist of the Year* award include Wilfred R. (Pete) Cameron-1999, Thomas R. Milhollan-2000, E. Ronald Salvitti-2001, John L.S. Northrop and William B. Northrop-2002, and Frank Sarris-2003. As representatives of the Foundation met with Mr. Hardy at his 84 Lumber Headquarters in Eighty Four, PA, they were surrounded by photos of Mr. Hardy and an array of famous faces. However, one picture stood out; it was of Mr. Hardy and his long time friend, Pete Cameron, the first recipient of the Foundation's *Philanthropist of the Year* award (Pete Cameron died in 1999). The Foundation believes that it is fitting that two local entrepreneurs with undeniable business savvy and a heart for giving back to their community shared not only a friendship but the honor of an award that had not yet been created in the prime of their friendship.

Mr. Hardy, founder of 84 Lumber Company, began his business quest in the early 1950's. The Pittsburgh native left the family jewelry business, Hardy & Hayes, to pursue his dream of becoming an entrepreneur. Using a suggestion of a friend, he opened Green Hills Lumber, a building materials supply business. Upon its success, Mr. Hardy pooled resources with his two younger brothers and a friend to begin yet another venture, a cash-and-carry lumber business targeting homebuilders, located in Eighty Four, Pennsylvania. Liking the name of the rural town, he named the business 84 Lumber. 84 Lumber grew from the tri-state region of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, to one of the largest building retailers in the United States with over 500 locations in 34 states coast to coast and reported sales of over \$2.5 billion in 2003. Mr. Hardy also owns Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort and Spa, which boasts itself as the only four-star resort in the state of Pennsylvania.

To purchase tickets to the November 19 banquet at the Hilton Garden Inn please contact the Washington County Community Foundation at 724-222-6330 or [wccf@cobweb.net](mailto:wccf@cobweb.net).

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