



Washington

County Community Foundation, Inc.

77 South Main Street
Washington, PA 15301
724-222-6330
wccf@cobweb.net
www.wccf.net

News Release

Contact: Lynn Manning, Project Manager

April 10, 2006

GIFT BASKET BUSINESS READY FOR BUSINESS

Washington's Wonders is ready for business. The Washington County Community Foundation (WCCF) recently received a \$50,000 grant from a source that wishes to remain anonymous, to initiate a gift basket and novelty item business known as *Washington's Wonders*. The grant was used to cover start-up costs of the business, including staffing, development of an e-commerce website, and marketing expenses. Lynn Mancuso Manning has been hired as the Project Manager of Washington's Wonders.

Washington's Wonders gift baskets feature products made by businesses located in Washington County. The Commemorative *All-Aboard Trolley Box* for instance, includes items from Sarris Candies, Popcorn Willy, The Toffee House, Pennsylvania Trolley Museum and Channel Crafters. The box itself was designed exclusively for *Washington's Wonders* by local artist, John Luginski, utilizing a pencil sketch by PA Trolley Museum volunteer artist Andrew Lynn. Luginski colorized the original sketch of the former Pittsburgh Railways Streetcar #4398 and added scenery depicting both the city and rural landscapes of Washington County.

The website, www.washwonders.com, has been developed and includes items ready for purchase, such as the *All-Aboard Trolley Box*, *Comforts of Home* gift basket and the *Fun FORE All* golf bucket. Greeting cards, clothing items, and Westerwald pottery are also available.

Washington's Wonders also offers customers the opportunity to create unique personal and corporate baskets to reflect any interest or occasion. Businesses that need gifts for current customers, potential clients or staff, can have personalized baskets made in virtually any price range. We welcome the chance to incorporate a company's products, logo and ideas into our baskets to make each gift a truly special treat.

As a testament to the versatility of Washington's Wonders, we recently shipped 170 Superbowl Bags to troops from the Southwestern Pennsylvania area who stationed in Iraq. The bags – which had a black and golf theme – contained items donated by the Pittsburgh Steelers and local businesses, organizations and individuals.

Washington's Wonders is proud of its venture into the business world. "The idea of a charity utilizing a business approach to raise funds is not new - museums and hospitals have been doing it for years through their gift and hospitality shops," states Betsie Trew, executive director. "Having someone provide a grant to cover the start-up expenses for such an endeavor is relatively new and is part of a national effort to encourage charities to be more entrepreneurial in their day to day operations."

The purpose of this business venture is threefold. First is that of satisfying WCCF's need to create an ongoing revenue stream to supplement fees, contributions and special events designed to support the operational needs of the Foundation. The second purpose of Washington's Wonders is to heighten awareness of the WCCF's existence to the community in general. The final purpose of Washington's Wonders is to promote products, services, and businesses unique to Washington County, helping to improve economic conditions within the community, which in turn will help to improve quality of life issues in Washington County – a core component of the WCCF's charitable mission.

The Washington County Community Foundation, a 501(c) 3 charitable corporation with endowed assets approaching \$3 million, has distributed more than \$600,000 in grants and scholarships. Proceeds of *Washington's Wonders* will enable the Foundation to build upon its charitable services to the community. To learn more please visit www.wccf.net or www.washwonders.com or call Lynn at 724-222-6330.

###

***Pictured...left to right – helping to get the bags ready
For shipping from the Washington Armory:***

*Major Christopher McDevitt, Lt. Sharon Jenkins,
Deanna Cole, and SSG Charles Nicholson*



