

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 15, 2011

Contact: Kara G. Seesholtz, Program Officer

Central Susquehanna Community Foundation

725 W. Front Street, Berwick, PA 18603

570-752-3930(office) 570-204-2183(cell) kseesholtz@csgiving.org

Central Susquehanna Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Board sets application deadline

Generous donors have helped the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) exceed \$60,000. Corporate donors, including Weis Markets, Susquehanna Bank, Mifflinburg Bank and Trust, Dunkin Donuts, Susquehanna Bank, Mifflinburg Bank and Trust, Playworld, Sunbury Motors and Hoss's along with more than 250 donors have contributed to the Fund. Selinsgrove SEALS Field Hockey, Linntown Elementary, Kiwanis of Northumberland/Point Township, Playworld employees, Susquehanna Valley School Counselors Association and Faded Daze were a few groups and organizations that held fundraisers with proceeds donated to the Disaster Relief Fund. People can still donate in numerous ways including a \$10.00 text option and giving on-line. Visit www.csgiving.org for more information.

A regional advisory board was created to oversee the fund. Members of this committee include: Joy McGinnis, Berwick Area United Way; Terry Specht, City of Sunbury; Mayor Beverly Moore, Shickshinny; Bryan Hagenbuch, Montour County Case Manager for Central Susquehanna Opportunities; Diane Lepley, PA Department of Public Welfare; Gregg Stavinski, Northumberland County Adult Services; Matt Beagle, Columbia County Volunteers for Disaster Relief; and Robin Barbour, Union-Snyder Community Action Agency. The committee met for the first time on October 25 at the Foundation office in Berwick. Committee members and other community representatives provided insight to the unmet needs and current issues for flood victims in Snyder, Union, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia and Lower Luzerne Counties. Funding is available to address needs that have developed as a result of the flood. DRF money will be allocated to address short, intermediate and long-term solutions to the flood. Eligible organizations may apply for funding to address one or more Flood 2011 priorities:

1. Assisting individuals and families with direct assistance *through non-profit organizations* (vouchers, cash assistance, etc.)
2. Addressing systemic issues resulting from the flood (e.g. mental health needs, housing needs, increased need for substance abuse counselors, etc.)

The DRF provides funding to organizations where flood-related reimbursement is not available from other resources. Revisions were made to the grant application and an initial deadline for grant applications was set for December 31, 2011. Applications can be found on the Foundation's web site at www.csgiving.org. Urgent requests will also be reviewed on an ongoing basis. The deadline for individuals to apply for federal aid was extended through December 14, 2011. The committee will meet in January to review applications received by December 31, 2011.

The first grant awarded from the DRF was \$2,500 to the Union-Snyder Community Action Agency for urgent and direct assistance to families for immediate shelter, utilities and essential household items. Other funds and affiliates of the Foundation have also responded quickly with grants to active flood agencies in their areas. The Berwick Health and Wellness Fund provided a \$1,500 emergency grant to the Berwick Red Cross to assist with their shelter efforts, and a \$4,000 grant to the Northwest Area School District to support displaced students and their families. SUN Chapter of the American Red Cross received a \$2,000 grant from the Selinsgrove Area Community Foundation to support disaster relief for

families in Selinsgrove and surrounding communities who were affected by the recent flooding. The Sunbury Area Community Foundation also awarded a \$2,500 to the Union-Snyder Action Agency.

Central Susquehanna Community Foundation is a nonprofit, public charity which provides grant funding for nonprofit programming and services regionally in Central PA. CSCF administers Berwick Health & Wellness Fund, Sunbury Area Community Foundation, Selinsgrove Area Community Foundation as well as 80 other endowments providing perpetual support for charitable needs of the community. For more information, please contact Central Susquehanna Community Foundation at 1-866-454-6692 or visit the website at www.csgiving.org.