



Philanthropy

- ❖ The effort or inclination to increase the well being of humankind, as by charitable aid or donations
- ❖ Love of humankind in general
- ❖ Something intended to promote human welfare

Philanthropist

A person who gives of his/her time, talent, and treasure for the sake of another or for the common good of the community.

Central Susquehanna Community Foundation

The Central Susquehanna Community Foundation (Foundation) was originally established in 1998 as the Berwick Health & Wellness Foundation. The Foundation's original assets of \$28 million came from the sale of the Berwick Hospital. The sale stipulated that its proceeds would be placed in a perpetual endowment benefiting area health and wellness needs of residents living in the 23 townships and boroughs surrounding the Berwick area. With so much potential for growth, the Community Foundation for Pennsylvania suggested that we expand our service area to include all of Columbia, lower-Luzerne, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union counties. Because of our eager acceptance to impact a larger area, our name changed in 2003 to the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation. The Foundation now administers the Berwick Health & Wellness Fund which has contributed more than \$5 million to its community in the last five years. Along with many other funds, the Foundation also partners with two affiliates: Selinsgrove Area Youth Foundation and Sunbury Area Health Foundation

The purpose of the Foundation is two-fold:

1. To identify, select and invest in programs and projects that will improve the health and welfare of the region.
2. To encourage increased philanthropy in the foundation's service area – Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, lower-Luzerne, Snyder, and Union counties. In this respect, the Foundation has the ability to manage funds for individuals and organizations to benefit a wider geographic area.

Youth in Philanthropy

In general, this group will be like a youth-based version of the foundation's grant making task force (a group of board members and members of the community who meet to review grants annually). The Youth in Philanthropy group will also be responsible for the "giving" of their funds.

In that sense it will be more than a grant-making group. An educational component will also be emphasized, with some sessions devoted to learning about philanthropy, the idea of "giving", discovering non-profit and governmental organizations, as well as other topics such as board procedures.

Purpose

1. Teach about philanthropy (its roots, how it is carried out today, the importance of getting involved, etc.)
2. Give students an opportunity to engage in philanthropy and "make a difference" through grants.
3. How to run a meeting and participate effectively.
4. Gain knowledge of the non-profit world locally.
5. Learn how proposal evaluations are conducted and practice this skill.
6. Practice decision making and negotiation skills.

Some Specific Projects

1. Assessment of community needs (either a survey or consult other groups that have compiled information).
2. Complete Recipient Information Forms for organizations you want to consider giving funds to.
3. Provide/present activities to reach K-12 students
4. Review possible recipients, determine grant distribution and present to Foundation Board.
5. Present the awards (share with community; publicize grants)

Participants and structure

During the 2007-08 school year, eight schools will participate: Berwick, Benton, Northwest, Central Columbia, Bloomsburg, Danville, Shikellamy and Selinsgrove. This program is funded and support from the Berwick Health & Wellness Fund, Degenstein Foundation and the Central Columbia Educational Foundation. Approximately 12-15 juniors and seniors from each school form the group which is supervised by a school advisor and the CSCF's program officer.