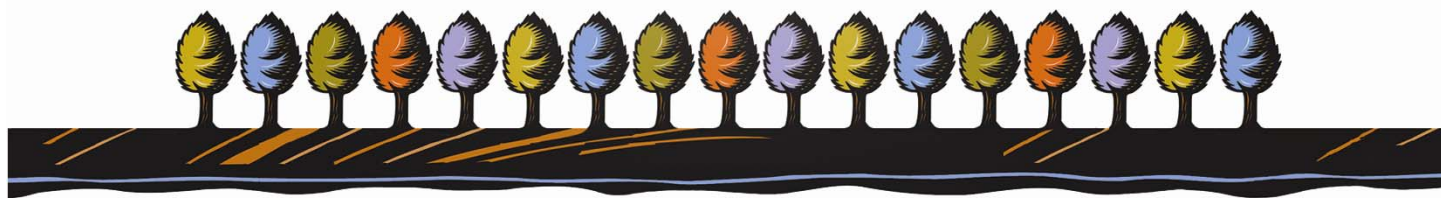


Central Susquehanna Community Foundation



Press Release January 23, 2006

Give and Gain through your community foundation

The Central Susquehanna Community Foundation is one of more than 650 community foundations across the country. With assets close to \$40 billion, community foundations are one of the fastest growing sectors of philanthropy in the United States today. In 2004, donors gave U.S.-based community foundations more than \$4.2 billion in gifts. Foundation grantmaking remained stable even during a period when many nonprofits struggled in an uncertain economy.*

“Donors of all kinds find that community foundations are an ideal vehicle for their philanthropy, offering people the opportunity to give back to the community,” said Steve Gunderson, president and CEO of the Council on Foundations. “Their strength and ingenuity have put them in financial positions that better serve their communities.”

Central Susquehanna Community Foundation is the charitable connection for people living and working in Lower Luzerne, Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union county. We are a local organization with far-reaching benefits for anyone interested in philanthropy and we provide services to all donors, including those of modest means. We offer a variety of giving tools to help people achieve their charitable goals, all of which qualify for maximum tax advantages. We are an active member of the Council on Foundations and earnestly comply with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.

The vision of philanthropy is firmly rooted within our original and largest endowment, the \$29 million Berwick Health & Wellness Fund, which was created as a result of the Berwick Hospital sale in 1999. Since then, the Foundation has helped this fund give over \$1 million in grants to the community each year. In 2005, the Foundation awarded 90 grants totaling more than \$1.1 million to 68 different non-profit organizations. The Berwick Health & Wellness Fund also provides funding for our youth philanthropy program which is active at Benton, Berwick and Northwest high schools, and awards annual scholarships.

The Foundation continues to initiate charitable contributions and forge promising partnerships that impact our entire service area. One of the most promising has been with the Nurse-Family Partnership, the nation’s premier home-visitation program. We have directed approximately \$184,000 in state and federal funds to provide Nurse-Family Partnership services in Northumberland County. We’ve made charitable intentions a reality for many donors, some of which include Edna McBride, the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, and Economics Pennsylvania (Selinsgrove). “Thanks to the generosity and expertise of the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation, BTE’s dream of establishing an Endowment Fund has become a reality. The BTE Endowment will give us a steady income source and provide our donors with a vehicle that is able to accept planned gifts,” stated J. Scott Atherton, Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble’s Director of Development.

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“This Community Foundation is at the heart of our region. We know the places of need in our area, and we can direct resources to solve those problems,” said Eric DeWald, Executive Director of the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation. “Like the BTE, we assist all of our donors in defining and realizing both long and short term financial goals while maximizing tax benefits.”

Our professional staff can help you invest in causes you care most about. For more information, please give us a call at 752-3930 or visit www.cs giving.org.

*According to findings from the *2004 Survey of U.S. Community Foundations*. The survey is prepared by The Columbus Foundation.

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