

# Chester County COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**Thanks for Caring Award**  
***outstanding commitment to grassroots  
community philanthropy***  
**Susan Elko of Exton**

Susan Elko has a quiet knack for seeking out and encouraging others to volunteer and give their time, talents and treasures, much as she has for over 40 years. Volunteering as a young mother with the Green Circle, a Quaker program of inclusiveness, enabled Susan to better understand how to bring others into the fold.

As a board member of the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls, Susan used her education background to design the program for an annual Girls Conference, and lead the way with the Fund's first By Girls, For Girls Advisory Group.

A sermon at First Presbyterian Church moved Susan to run a coat drive. This was just the beginning. In 1991 Susan became one of the Church's Mission Advocates; in 2003 she became Mission Advocate Coordinator.

Barbara Kirby at St. Agnes Day Room became a pivotal person in Susan's life, leading her to further volunteer opportunities—this time to find shelter for Homeless Single Women. With quiet determination, Susan helped coordinate a winter emergency shelter by involving her congregation and 12 other communities of faith while Safe Harbor renovated and added shelter for women.

Susan's deep commitment to helping homeless women continues with Bridge of Hope, which ends and prevents homelessness for single mothers and their children. Susan continues to be a powerful example of how one person's dedication and passion helps, now and forever.

**Corporate Social Investment Award**  
**IMC Construction**

Founded in 1976, IMC Construction is a full service construction management firm offering high-quality construction management and general contracting to a diverse group of national clients. The Malvern-based company has grown to be one of the largest construction firms in the Philadelphia area. After decades of growth, IMC remains true to its core values of being "responsible leaders in our profession and our community."

Philanthropy has become ingrained in the culture of IMC. Employees are encouraged to grow personally and professionally by allocating paid volunteer time for staff to assist nonprofits in the community. IMC's approach to

community outreach has resulted in the founding of the IMC Foundation whose mission is to help and financially support nonprofit charities and community organizations throughout our region. The foundation's biggest event each year is the Charitable Golf outing, now in its seventh year.

Over the years, beneficiaries of IMC's generosity are chosen with employee input. They include Community Volunteers in Medicine, The Devereux Foundation, Thorncroft Equestrian Center, ACHIEVEability, Overbrook School for the Blind, Tredyffrin Library Foundation, Green Valley Association, Wissahickon Hospice, Tyler Arboretum, Historic Yellow Springs, Boy Scouts of America, Vanguard School, National Kidney Foundation, Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy, as well as many hospital charities, schools, local police departments, fire companies and food banks.

IMC has been named a Top 100 Green Contractor by Engineering News Record. Additionally, IMC has been named Best Place to Work and awarded the Community Impact Award for well-rounded philanthropic giving for three consecutive years by the Philadelphia Business Journal.

Robert Cottone, President/CEO at IMC, states, "IMC has built a staff and a culture committed to improving the communities where we live through a combination of service and financial support. We believe in the adage, to whom much is given, much is expected in return!"

**Door Opener Award**  
***recognizing professional advisors who  
strongly promote legacy philanthropy***  
**Duke Schneider, Esq.**

Duke Schneider, Esq. is a partner of the law firm of MacElree Harvey, with offices in West Chester, Kennett Square and Centerville.

Duke concentrates his practice in estate planning and administration, corporate law, and taxation. He primarily works with family-owned and closely-held businesses on succession planning, family wealth transfer planning, and the structure of family-owned and closely-held business enterprises. He also works with individuals on a wide variety of estate and wealth transfer planning matters.

Duke is a frequent lecturer to professional organizations, advisors, and individuals on estate, tax, and business planning.

Duke encourages colleagues and friends to become involved with charities, and he is clear that planned giving is an important consideration in the estate planning process.