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Funds for Chester County Strengthen Communities

West Chester, PA: (January 1, 2011): The Chester County Community Foundation approved over \$230,000 in grants at its December Board meeting, and mailed holiday grant award checks to a variety of local charities.

From its Fund for Chester County Strengthening Communities initiative, highly competitive, small general operating grant awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000 were awarded. These grants focus on small and mid-size nonprofits providing services to Chester County residents that strengthen the social, cultural, health, educational and/or economic character of a community. Strengthening Communities grantees include:

Coatesville: Art Partners Studio, Coatesville Youth Initiative, and Coatesville Center for Community Health

Frazer: Wings for Success

Kennett Square: The Garage Community and Youth Center

Oxford: Oxford Area Neighborhood Services Center, Oxford Area Senior Center

Phoenixville: Orion Communities, Phoenixville Area Community Services, Phoenixville Area Police Athletic League

Parkesburg: Parkesburg Point

West Chester: ChesCo Health Department Nurse-Family Partnership, Interfaith Housing Assistance Corporation

The Community Foundation also awarded Legacy Fund Grants to Community Gardens of Chester County, Kennett Symphony of Chester County, People's Light and Theatre Company, Red Clay Valley Association and SEI Cares Foundation.

Youth philanthropy grants were made to Great Valley School District and Westtown School's youth philanthropy programs.

The Ben Franklin Fund grant was awarded to STEM Robotics of Downingtown. The Richard I.G. Jones Legacy Fund grants were awarded to Brandywine Valley Association and Kennett Area Park Authority.

In addition, the Community Foundation awarded grants on behalf of the West Chester Trust and Relief Fund to these West Chester nonprofits: The Hickman, Wentworth Home, Barclay Friends, West Chester Civic Association, West Chester Fellowship Ambulance, and Safe Harbor.

The Community Foundation is entrusted with \$30 million in charitable assets, and helps more than 300 individuals, families and nonprofits who want to provide a charitable legacy for their community forever. Annually, the Community Foundation awards \$1.5 million in grants and scholarships. For more information about the Community Foundation, visit www.chescocf.org or call (610) 696-8211. ###