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2010 Little Lincolns Gettysburg Address Winners Announced

West Chester, PA: (December 8, 2010) – Sophie Paolizzi of Fugett Middle School, took first prize in the twelfth annual *Gettysburg Address Contest* on Friday, December 3. Sponsored by the Borough of West Chester Historical and Architectural Review Board, seven middle school students recited President Lincoln’s famous Gettysburg Address. They spoke from the balcony of the historic Lincoln Biography Building to an enthusiastic audience gathered on the street below. Event founder and Master of Ceremonies, Bob Gross, presented the students with a commemorative Lincoln medal, and State Sen. Andrew Dinniman’s staff presented certificates to each participant.

Joe Martino, event organizer, noted “The contest was the most competitive ever this year. The margin between the first and second place finishers was so close that we had to go to a series of five tie breakers to select the winner. Also, one of the contestants was a distant relative of Abraham Lincoln!”

Other prize winners included Aileen Taylor of St. Agnes School, second place, and Carter Persson of Fugett Middle School not only won third place, but also was chosen for the best costume. Participation prizes were awarded to: Melissa Johnson, Anna Oyler and Amanda Shuter of Fugett Middle School and Beth Reilly of Saints Peter and Paul School. Judges included Dr. John Noakes, Professor of Sociology at Arcadia University, Dr. Kate Shaw, Executive Director of Research for Action, and Jim O’Brien, President of Strategic Technology Concepts. The event encourages youth, their families, and friends to become more involved in the community around them and more deeply appreciate local history and the key events that have shaped our nation.

Event sponsors include Strategic Technology Concepts, Herr Foods, First National Bank of Chester County, Friends of State Senator Andy Dinniman, The Jean Gross Team, Stancato/Abdala Greentree Associates, DNB First, Committee to Elect Kathleen Cozzone, and Weston Solutions. Located in downtown West Chester, the Chester County Community Foundation leads, inspires and encourages all individuals and organizations to create or contribute to lasting philanthropic charitable legacies.

The Community Foundation holds over \$24 million in trust and by administering funds helps more than 315 individuals, families and nonprofits who want to provide a charitable legacy for their community forever. Last year, The Community Foundation awarded \$1.8 million in grants and scholarships. For more information about the Chester County Community Foundation, visit www.chescocf.org or call (610) 696-8211.