

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### *Putnam County Community Foundation Awards \$\_\_\_\_\_*

**Greencastle, IN – June 6, 2008** – An early morning crowd celebrated the Community Foundation’s 2008 spring grant awards at the Area 30 Community Center, where more than \$60,000 was awarded to \_\_\_ charitable organizations from the Community Foundation’s unrestricted endowment. Eric Wolfe, Director of Community Development, recognized the individuals and organizations who have given unrestricted gifts to the Community Foundation. “Without individuals and organizations such as Art Evans Family, Dave and Lynn Bohmer, Old National, and the Rob Lyon Family, the Community Foundation would not be able to have the impact that it does.” Steve Setchell, Chair of the Community Foundation’s grants committee also thanked donors to the unrestricted endowment, noting that due to their generosity, the Community Foundation has awarded more than \$1.62 million in unrestricted grants.

Each year the Community Foundation awards grants in two grant cycles to charitable organizations that seek to improve the lives of Putnam County citizens. The three different types of grants awarded by the Community Foundation are Community Grants, Endowment Builder Grants and Youth Philanthropy Grants, which all are possible by donors to the Unrestricted Fund.

The Community Grants totaled \$90,800.61. The six grant priority areas set by the Community Foundation in this grant category are economic development, transportation, educational attainment and literacy, improving lives of senior citizens, non-profit capacity building, and combating obesity; though grant applications supporting other worthy causes are considered and often successfully funded, as well. The fall 2007 Community Grants recipients are:

**A-Way Home Shelter** - \$874.31 from the Goff-Welch Fund for the Hungry and Homeless – for general support of the shelter’s mission and services to families most in need.

**Citizens' Advisory Committee For Industrial Development (CACFID)** - \$16,250.00 – to support the economic development efforts of the Development Center, which recently led an effort to construct a shell building just east of Greencastle.

**Cloverdale Community School Corporation** - \$5,000.00 – to support phase two of a Nature and Fitness Trail used by classrooms and Cloverdale residents, which includes installing outdoor tables, bridges and observation areas along the trail.

**College Mentors for Kids** - \$5,000.00 – to expand their mentoring services beyond their Cloverdale schools into the Greencastle school system, which will provide more elementary school students with a college-aged mentor to encourage academic and lifelong success.

**Greencastle Rotary Club** - \$500.00 – to bring the Harlem Ambassador Basketball Team to Greencastle, providing a safe family event and raising money for local charities.

**Heritage Preservation Society of Putnam County**- \$950.00 – to complete the renovation of a historically significant log cabin and move it to the Cloverdale Park.

**Humane Society of Putnam County** - \$1,000.00 – to fund the Canine Caboose, a program that transports Putnam County's surplus stray dog population to communities on the east coast.

**Ivy Tech Community College** - \$20,000.00 from the Mary Lou Miller Philanthropic Fund – to provide matching dollars for contributions to the new Ivy Tech Greencastle campus. This gift is a part of a three-year gift from the Community Foundation that totals \$375,000.00.

**Knoy Resource Center** - \$1,232.21 with \$732.00 of this total granted from the Robert Farber Endowment for Education – to pay for the expenses of refurbishing over 80 computers that were given to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars after they completed a technology course.

**Mental Health America of Putnam County** - \$500.00 – to cover the costs of counseling for 15 teens in the court-mandated Children and Divorce class.

**National Philanthropy Week Essay Contest** - \$675.00 – this program, administered by the Community Foundation provides \$25 and \$50 grants to the finalist and grand prize winners of an essay contest during National Philanthropy Week, as well as a \$500 grant to the grand prize winner's school.

**Opportunity Housing of Putnam County** - \$10,000.00 – to repair, maintain and secure the maintenance building that houses materials used in refurbishing Opportunity Housing homes.

**Putnam County Comprehensive Services** - \$300.00 – to match funds raised by DePauw's student radio station, WGRE, to benefit Comprehensive Services' mission.

**Putnam County Family Support Services** - \$500.00 – to match funds raised by DePauw's Bonner Scholar program that will benefit Family Support Services program that provides hats and gloves to children during the winter months.

**Putnam County Hospital Cancer Center** - \$22,269.09 from the Putnam County Hospice Fund – to support the creation and operations of the new state-of-the-art Putnam County Hospital Cancer Center.

**United Way of Putnam County** - \$5,000.00 – to provide operational support to the United Way, so it may better serve the health and human service organizations in Putnam County.

**WTIU-PBS** - \$750.00 – to underwrite some of the costs of the recent program, “Our Town Greencastle,” which currently airs on our local PBS station, WTIU.

Organizations seeking Community Grants funding, first complete a simple preliminary grant application, and then may be invited by the grants committee to submit a full grant application. The Community Foundation’s grants committee is a volunteer group composed of Putnam County citizens. Currently, the grants committee includes Beth Flint, Tom Graffis, Keith Landry, Brent McColgin, Gwen Morris, Max Nichols, Susan Price, Steve Setchell and Darrell Wiatt. The next deadline for preliminary grant applications is February 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Endowment Builder grants totaled \$150,000.00. These awards are matching grants to a charity’s endowment, where the Community Foundation contributes one dollar for every two dollars contributed by the public over one year. Eligible organizations include any 501(c)(3) non-profit, church or unit of government, and must show the willingness and ability to build an endowment. An endowment enables an organization to be more financially stable and sustainable. The fall 2007 Endowment Builder Grant recipients are:

A-Way Home Shelter: \$2,500.00

Bainbridge Improvement Society: \$7,500.00

Cloverdale Community School Corporation: \$11,000.00

Gobin Memorial United Methodist Church: \$16,500.00

Heritage Preservation Society: \$5,000.00

Ivy Tech Community College: \$95,000.00

Putnam County Museum: \$10,000.00

Roachdale Community Garden: \$2,500.00

Any organization wishing to apply for an Endowment Builder Grant should contact Eric Wolfe at 765-653-4978. The next application deadline for Endowment Builder Grants is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Youth Philanthropy Grants totaled \$2,400.00. These grants are for youth-led community service projects up to \$500.00 each. A group of 11 youth and four adults in Putnam County serve as the evaluators for these grant awards, and they have established six granting priority areas, which include increasing literacy and educational attainment for youth, extra-curricular activities for youth, teen crisis issues (i.e. drug/alcohol abuse, suicide, pregnancy, etc.), health and wellness, respect for community and tolerance of others, and environmental issues and community beautification. The fall 2007 Youth Philanthropy Grant recipients include:

**Boy Scout Troop #93** - \$500.00 – to build a handicap ramp on one or more of the buildings at Hope's Way, a retreat Center in northern Putnam County where mentally and physically challenged children and their families visit the facilities for recreation.

**Cloverdale Community High School VOICE** - \$400.00 – to fund presents of the TAR WARS anti-tobacco awareness program to school aged children by the high school students.

**Indianapolis Institute for Families Leadership Program** - \$500.00 – to conduct a clean-up project at the A-Way Home Shelter and purchase necessary items for its residents. The Institute has youth involved in its programs from several Central Indiana counties, including Putnam County and this group of youth chose our community to conduct their service project within.

**Putnam Pride 4-H Club** - \$500.00 – \$100 will be used to purchase and produce promotional materials for their change drive to benefit the CareNet Pregnancy Center of Putnam County. The other \$400 will be used to match the money raised by the club. They are collecting change in their community by distributing empty baby bottles and asking members to return them full of change for the charity.

**Reelsville Walkers** - \$500.00 – to provide incentives to Reelsville Elementary school students and teachers who walk on the walking trail during recess, as well as make some improvements to the walking trail, located in the Reelsville Park, such as installing benches and putting down more gravel.

The Youth Philanthropy Committee members are Tyler Archer, Alice Hlidkova, Sue Murray, Ashlyn Archer, Shannon Egold, Jenna Lewis, Logan Grzesiek, Tabitha Arnold, Daniele Thompson, Kristin Schroer, Laurie Robertson Hardwick, Chris Krag, Gwen Morris, Darrel Thomas, and Kayleen Human. The next Youth Philanthropy Grants application deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

For more information about the Community Foundation grants programs or to acquire a grant application, please contact Eric Wolfe at 765-653-4978 or visit [www.pcfoundation.org](http://www.pcfoundation.org).

*The Putnam County Community Foundation administers more than 150 funds and has issued more than \$1.75 million in grants, since inception. It is a public charity established in 1985 to serve donors, award grants, and conduct community development to enrich the quality of life in Putnam County.*

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