

For immediate release:

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**Headline: First National Bank Supports Knoy GED**

On Friday, October 31, 2008, Gary Neese, President and Todd Lewis, Chief Operations Officer of First National Bank presented Putnam County Community Foundation with a check for \$2,000.00 which will support 20 weeks of Adult GED programming at the Knoy Resource Center. Lewis explained the Bank's commitment, "The Knoy Resource Center has provided educational opportunities to students and the greater community that did not exist before. It is a valuable asset to our community, ...one that we would like to see continue."

A recent graduate of Knoy's GED Program, Jane Thompson, is planning to return to school at IUPUI in pursuit of a paralegal degree. Jane attended the FAFSA workshop hosted by the Knoy in the spring of 2008 while attending Knoy's GED classes. She was surprised at the opportunities available to continue with her education. "I couldn't have done it without the Center. They believed in me when I didn't believe in myself."

In 2006, the Putnam County Community Foundation spearheaded a community initiative that obtained three-year start-up funding for the Knoy Resource Center. After only one year of service, The Center, located in Cloverdale High School, was recognized at the State level by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs as a "Promising Practice," a model for other communities to emulate. At the beginning of 2009, the Cloverdale Community School Corporation will assume full financial responsibility for the Center's personnel, but financial support for programs like the GED classes is being sought from the community.

Vickie Knoy Parker, Educator of the Year from Greencastle High School, is leading the campaign to garner support. Mrs. Parker is the cousin of the late Robert H. Lyon, a benefactor of the Center, and the daughter of Adeline Knoy, who taught in Cloverdale Schools for 36 years. Mrs. Parker also taught in Cloverdale schools and now volunteers at the Center. The facility was named after the Knoy family in recognition of their many contributions to the community.

The GED program was established at the Center to increase workforce skills in the region and create a culture of lifelong learning. Current instructional staff of the Knoy Resource Center's GED Program are: Lead instructor, Maggee Boyce; instructor Sara Campfield of Spencer-Owen Community School Corporation; volunteer tutors Michael Williams, Sara Parks, Nicki Manion, and Patricia Sellers, DePauw University.

**Photo of GED Graduate:**

Jane Thompson, with son Tyler and daughter, Jasmine

**Photo of big Check: Left to right**

Todd Lewis, Chief Operations Officer, First National Bank, Gary Neese, President, First National Bank, Michael Nees, Assistant Coordinator, Knoy Resource Center, Elaine Peck, Executive Director, Putnam County Community Foundation, Carrie Milner, Superintendent, Cloverdale Community School Corporation, Maggie Boyce, GED Lead Instructor, Sonny Stoltz, Principal, Cloverdale High School, Toni Tomlinson, Coordinator, Knoy Resource Center.