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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Headline: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Philanthropy Essay Winner Announced**

Rachel Leath's essay about Christina Menke's work with youth and horses at Hope Haven Horse Farm is the Grand Prize winner of the Community Foundation's National Philanthropy Week Essay Contest. Miss Leath is a student in Jonna Rady's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Class at Cloverdale Middle School. In recognition of her accomplishment, her school will receive a grant of \$500, and Hope Haven Horse Farm will receive a grant of \$150.

Entries are accepted from 7th grade students in all four county school corporations. Students are instructed to write a 500 word essay about "The Philanthropist I Know Personally and Admire The Most." Elaine Peck, Executive Director of the Putnam County Community Foundation, stated that judges of the annual competition reported having a difficult time choosing the winner. Judges evaluate essays with no knowledge of the identity of the schools or the students and choose the grand prize winner based upon the quality, organization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar contained in the essay. Essay contest judges were Therese Cunningham (Chair), Jinsie Bingham, Louis Fontaine, and Shannon Norman.

There were three finalists in the essay contest this year. Dominique Lafontant was a finalist for her essay entitled, "Dhelia Williamson: Generosity in a Box." Miss Lafontant is a student in Dawn Huber's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Language Arts Class at Greencastle Middle School, and she chose the Greencastle Housing Authority Emergency Shelter Endowment to receive a Finalist Grant Award of \$50.

Rebecca Moore is a finalist for her essay entitled "Mary Mountz: An Amazing Philanthropist." She too is a student in Dawn Huber's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Language Arts Class at Greencastle Middle School, and chose St. Andrew's Non-Food Pantry as her charity to receive a Finalist Grant Award of \$50.

Hannah Mann is a finalist for her essay entitled "My Hero," which recognizes the good works of her mother, Jennifer Mann. Hannah Mann is a student in Jonna Rady's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Class at Cloverdale Middle School and she chose New Providence Baptist Church Food Pantry to receive a Finalist Grant Award of \$50.

The National Philanthropy Week Essay Contest is another opportunity provided by the unrestricted Community Grants Endowment of the Putnam County Community Foundation. Anyone may contribute to the unrestricted Community Grants Endowment, or start a new

endowment in his/her own name. Contributions to the Endowment should be made payable to the Putnam County Community Foundation with “Community Grants Endowment” in the memo, and mailed to 2 South Jackson Street, Greencastle, Indiana 46135. Contributions may also be made online at [www.pcfoundation.org](http://www.pcfoundation.org). Community Foundation staff are available to help donors make gifts of cash, stock, retirement assets, life insurance, bequests, real estate and other types of gifts to the Fund.

*The Community Foundation administers more than 190 funds for donors, supporting a variety of charitable purposes. To learn more about the Community Grants Endowment, how to make a contribution, or how to start a new fund, visit [www.pcfoundation.org](http://www.pcfoundation.org) or contact Eric Wolfe or Elaine Peck at 765-653-4978.*

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