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Contact:

Dean Gambill, Putnam County Community Foundation

2 South Jackson Street

Greencastle, IN 46135

Phone: 765.653.4978

Email: dgambill@pcfoundation.org



Community Foundation Awards Over \$82,000 at Fall Grants Breakfast

Greencastle, IN – December 2, 2011 – An early morning crowd celebrated the Putnam County Community Foundation’s 2011 fall grant awards in the Community Room of Area 30, where it was announced that \$82,380 was awarded from the Community Foundation’s unrestricted endowments. Even in the midst of financial instability of 2011, the Community Foundation awarded grants totaling \$189,901.96 from its unrestricted and field of interest endowments.

Elaine Peck, Executive Director, thanked Old National Bank for sponsoring the event and recognized individuals and organizations who have given unrestricted gifts to the Community Foundation, making these grants possible. “Without individuals and organizations that make unrestricted gifts and start unrestricted endowments, the Community Foundation would not be able to have the impact in the community that it does today.” Susan Price, 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 over \$2 million in unrestricted grants since inception.

Each year the Community Foundation awards grants in the spring and fall for charitable projects that improve the lives of Putnam County citizens. Three different types of grants are awarded: Community Grants, Endowment Builder Grants and Youth Philanthropy Grants. Each has its own application and requirements. Attendees had the opportunity to hear about one grant project in each of the three areas.

Steve Setchel presented the work of PutnamRISE to bring energy conservation to the forefront of Putnam County. Robert Steele of the Cloverdale Community Dollars for Scholars told how important the Foundation’s support is through the Endowment Builders Program which matches the funds that an organization raises for its endowment. The Foundation matches one dollar for every two dollars that is raised during an Endowment Builder Project.

Rod Weinschenk, president of the Putnam Friend of Youth Foundation which runs Camp Friend told of the plans for reestablishing the camp. The Foundation’s Youth Philanthropy Committee has helped fund two Eagle Scout projects which have benefitted Camp Friend. Evan Scott told of his project to build over 480 feet of split-rail fencing at the camp. Evan is a member of Greencastle Boy Scout Troop 99. The second project is headed up by Scott Duggan from Boy Scout Troop 93 which replaces the old restroom facilities with environmentally friendly composting toilets.

Community Grants awarded totaled \$80,000.00. The fall 2011 Community Grants recipients are:

<u>Award</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Project</u>
\$15,000	A-Way Home Shelter	Matching grant- Foundation will match dollar for dollar funds raised to re-

		open the shelter
\$5,000	Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana	Provide weekend nutrition for food insecure children in Putnam County
\$5,000	North Putnam High School	Provide counseling services to students and families in the PAWS (Providing Alternative Ways for Success) program
\$5,000	Putnam County Giving Tree	Provide Christmas gifts for needy children in Putnam County
\$50,000	Putnam RISE	To encourage energy conservation in Putnam County by conducting home energy audits, home repairs, and through school energy challenges.

The Youth Philanthropy Committee is comprised of 11 high school students and 3 adult members who make grants for youth-led community service projects. The maximum Youth Philanthropy grant is \$500. Youth Philanthropy grants awarded for the fall of 2011 totaled \$2,380.00. The recipients are:

<u>Award</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Project</u>
\$500.00	Girl Scouts of Central Indiana	Make repairs to picnic tables, doors, basketball goals and plant flowers at the Roachdale Park
\$500.00	Putnam Friend of Youth (Camp Friend)	Eagle Scout Project of Scott Duggan to construct restrooms using composting toilets
\$380.00	Reelsville United Methodist Church	Eagle Scout Project to create a courtyard for community use led by Brayden Watson
\$500.00	Cloverdale High School Student Council	Provide Christmas presents, coats and gloves to needy children
\$500.00	Putnam Friend of Youth (Camp Friend)	Eagle School Project to construct 480 feet of split rail fencing at Camp Friend. The project is headed by Evan Scott.

Endowment Builder Grants awarded totaled \$20,000.00. To qualify for an Endowment Builder Grants an organization must have an existing endowment with the Community Foundation and submit a plan for increasing the endowment. Community Foundation matches one dollar for every two dollars that the organization raises. The Endowment Builder Grants approved for the fall are:

	Organization	Endowment
\$15,000.00	Cloverdale Community Dollars for Scholars	Cloverdale Community Scholarship Fund
\$5,000.00	Putnam County Museum	Putnam County Historical & Cultural Museum Endowment

All eligible organizations are encouraged to apply for grants from the Community Foundation. For more information, contact Dean Gambill, Community Development Director, at 765-653-4978.

The Putnam County Community Foundation is a nonprofit public charity established in 1985 to administer funds, award grants and provide leadership, enriching the quality of life and strengthening community in Putnam County. The Community Foundation administers more than 200 funds for donors supporting a variety of charitable causes. For more information about the Community Foundation visit www.pcfoundation.org.