



PRESS RELEASE

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RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

Bridge Builders Community Foundations *Participates in National Effort to Highlight Collaboration, Innovation in Philanthropy*

During the week of November 12-18, 2011, Bridge Builders Community Foundations (BBCF) and its affiliates, Clarion County Community Foundation, Forest County Community Foundation, and Venango Area Community Foundation (VACF) will join more than 700 community foundations across America for Community Foundation Week activities. For more than 20 years, the effort has raised awareness about the increasingly important role of these philanthropic organizations in fostering local collaboration and innovation to address persistent civic and economic challenges.

During this week, BBCF will be communicating to the public through various avenues such as: news releases in the local newspapers, public service adds on the local radio stations, and posting diverse points of interest on the BBCF website and social media sites including Facebook and Twitter.

“Community foundations impact lives, solve problems, and improve futures,” said Trenton Moulin, Executive Director. “In a down economy, with limited resources and a growing need for services to help families in need, we are more determined than ever to bring our community partners together to find innovative and effective solutions to some of our most challenging social problems.”

Community foundations are independent, public entities that steward philanthropic resources from institutional and individual donors to local nonprofits that are the heart of strong, vibrant communities. This year a little girl, Aubrey, showed interest in restoration of a historic icon, the East End Fountain, in the Oil City community. BBCF is helping this new project materialize by providing the philanthropic vehicle to reach the goal of providing funds to build a new fountain and establishing funds for maintenance for years to come. BBCF also granted over \$170,000 in educational scholarships to 238 students in Clarion, Forest and Venango counties this year.

Community foundations represent one of the fastest-growing forms of philanthropy. Every state in the United States is home to at least one community foundation—large and small, urban and rural—that is advancing solutions to a wide range of social issues. [The 2010 Columbus Survey](#) found that despite the recession, giving by the nation’s 100 largest community foundations actually increased slightly in 2010 to \$3.7 billion and exceeded prerecession levels seen in 2006 and 2007.

Launched in 1989 through a proclamation by former president George H.W. Bush, the first Community Foundation Week included a congressional briefing about the work of community foundations throughout America and their collaborative approach to working with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to address community problems.

Venango Area Community Foundation was established in 1975. In 2007 Bridge Builders Community Foundation was formed to serve as the umbrella organization to house other Community Foundations in the area. BBCF is located at 213 Seneca Street in Oil City, Pennsylvania. For more information about Bridge Builders Community Foundations and/or its affiliates visit bridgebuilderscommunityfoundations.org

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ABOUT BRIDGE BUILDERS COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

Our Vision: Unifying diverse private and public interests, the Foundation will lead our community to a bright and prosperous future.

Our Mission is to contribute to the quality of life in Clarion, Forest and Venango Counties.

We will lead by:

Focusing on critical needs and facilitating the community's response; Facilitating the creation of permanent community endowments that make giving effective and personally satisfying for contributors; and Allocating Community Foundation resources to address the needs of those we serve.

More information on Bridge Builders Community Foundations can be found online at www.BridgeBuildersCommunityFoundations.org.