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Local Foundation Makes Significant Impact as First \$1 Million is Distributed

CENTREVILLE, MD –Washington and Wall Street may not know how to manage money, but for one organization, the Foundation for Community Partnerships of Centreville, the news is anything but depressing. Although the organization is only four years old it recently granted out its \$1 millionth dollar in direct assistance to regional charities.

The Foundation for Community Partnerships opened its first fund in December 2004, and now holds more than \$1,030,000 in total assets. It has assisted 45 funds to date representing charitable groups in Anne Arundel, Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties.

Part of the success of the Foundation is due to the efficient use of funds. Most non-profits would be proud to claim that 75 cents of every dollar coming in went out into direct program support. In 2007, the Foundation spent less than 4% of its budget on administration, so that .96 cents on every dollar was spent on direct services. "We have the flexibility to assist many different groups and the expertise on our Board to make sound investments so that donations are put to best use," says Linda Kohler, Chief Financial Officer.

"Grant-making is a lot like investing... we need to assess risks, weigh potential gains, diversify assets, monitor performance and operate fairly" said Rick Lerner, Chairman and CEO of BankAnnapolis and Foundation for Community Partnerships board chair.

The Foundation for Community Partnerships recently received certification of compliance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations, the highest standards in place today for U.S. community foundations. "Foundation board members are committed to meeting the highest standards for grant-making as well," notes Lerner.



The National Standards Seal confirms that we have met the most rigorous standards in philanthropy.

The National Standards confirmation puts the Foundation in an elite group of community foundations that have demonstrated a commitment to operational quality, integrity and accountability. "This is critically important to our donors," said Frank Kratovil, Foundation for Community Partnerships board member and Queen Anne's County State's Attorney. "When people make a charitable bequest, establish a fund or set up an annuity, they are putting their trust in us. They are counting on us to manage the investment wisely, honor their charitable wishes and, in some cases, provide lifetime income to a loved one.

As a community foundation the organization provides an efficient way for individuals to create funds for specific uses and to help existing non-profits and charitable organizations to make an even greater impact. "The Foundation for Community Partnerships is a unique organization with a vision that clearly puts people and their needs first," says Rick Lerner. "It actually changes lives with the assistance it provides," he adds.

In quantifying the immediate impact the Foundation and its funds have had on the communities served or the number of residents whose lives have been touched it is evident that its effects have been far reaching – in fact from the Chesapeake Bay to the nation's Gulf Coast. While the majority of the Foundation's grant-making takes place here in Maryland, the Foundation coordinated a community-driven effort to assist residents of Hancock County, Mississippi when Hurricane Katrina destroyed most of the homes and businesses in the community.

Local funds benefit Our Haven Shelter, Partnering for Youth After School Program, Character Counts!, the Corsica River Conservancy, the Kent County High School Stadium Improvement Project, Adopt-A-Bear, CASA, Eastern Shore Police Canine, Galestown Millpond Association, Community Initiatives of Caroline County, Kent Island Arts & Entertainment District, Matapeake Elementary School Mural Fund, Price Community Club, Silver Lining Foundation, Sister County International Council, Talbot Senior Center Campaign, The Rose House, Traffic Safety and Youth Developmental Assets. Scholarships funds are maintained by the Chesapeake Women's Network (Queen Anne's and Talbot chapters), Centreville High School Alumni, the Queen Anne's County High School Alumni Association, and the Kent Island High School Athletic Boosters.

To learn more about the Foundation for Community Partnerships, contact Linda Kohler at (410) 758-6677 or visit www.creatinglegacies.org.