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THE FUND MOVES FORWARD WITH FULL FUNDING, DESPITE ECONOMY

In the face of tough economic realities, the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls will not reduce our grants next year to nonprofit agencies throughout the county that serve women and girls. Although the Fund, along with so many other foundations throughout the U.S., has realized losses in our investments, our Board of Directors has looked carefully at our budget for next year, and has made cost-effective and creative decisions to ensure that the agencies will continue to receive \$200,000 in grant support for their critical services and programs.

Some cost-cutting and environmentally friendly measures include:

- moving nearly all our communications to an electronic or web-based format, thereby reducing printing and mailing costs.
- asking volunteers, donors and vendors to donate specific supplies for meetings and events.
- reducing fund-raising expenses.

“In these challenging times, it is so important that we continue to address the needs our grantees see on the ground every day,” said Kathy H. Witsil. Ms. Witsil serves on the Fund’s board, is chair of the Fund’s development committee, and is senior vice president of JP Morgan Chase. “We are so grateful to our Board, committee members and the hundreds of donors at all levels who do everything they can to make sure we can continue to support our agencies.”

This spring, the Fund reached the historic milestone of awarding more than \$1 million in grants to 40+ agencies throughout the county that directly impact and improve women and girls’ lives. We also made a groundbreaking move in our grantmaking by awarding nearly 44% of our funding as operating support to agencies we have partnered with over the years. This type of funding is especially important so agencies can use the funding where it is most needed. Our resolution to maintain our funding next year keeps with our commitment to the women and girls and their families and communities our agencies serve in Chester County.

The Fund will recognize and celebrate our \$1 million milestone on June 18th at Historic Sugartown in Malvern from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. The event and is free and open to the public. Members of the community are invited to participate in the Fund’s “living map” of Chester County, which will be featured at the event. The living map will represent all of the communities in Chester County and the nonprofit agencies to which the Fund has awarded grants over the past 13 years. To learn more about the needs of women and girls in our community, please visit the Fund’s website at www.ccwomenandgirls.org.

The Chester County Fund for Women and Girls is the first endowment-based foundation in the state of Pennsylvania dedicated to supporting the needs of women and girls. The Fund addresses critical issues that affect women and girls in Chester County, such as literacy, domestic violence, substance abuse, homelessness and poverty.

During the past 13 years, the Fund has provided financial and educational assistance to many nonprofit organizations throughout the County with programs and services for women and girls. By 2009, the Fund will have awarded more than \$1 million in grants to such institutions. If you would like to receive more information about the Fund’s initiatives and programs, please visit our website at www.ccwomenandgirls.org.