



ARMSTRONG COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Forum

Grants in Action

History . . . Stated, Celebrated, and Remembered

Two words can now transport you back in time. A portal to history stated, celebrated, and remembered in Armstrong County is linked for the first time ever through the launch of www.armstronghistory.org.

Armstrong History! is made possible by a grant from the Armstrong County Community Foundation. The Foundation's convening efforts have helped seven local historical societies band together under the umbrella of the Armstrong County Historical Museum and Genealogical Society. Goals include increasing collaboration, public awareness, and training opportunities.

Click on armstronghistory.org and you are transported into events, spotlights, and places that welcome you into their stories.

American flags draped over bay front windows and doorways dated from the 1800's link viewers to **Apollo**. An inside look at Drake's log cabin and a world record traveler and famous investigative reporter's childhood home await interested eyes.

Three ladies stand in welcome on green growing blades when browsers click on the **Armstrong County Historical Museum and Genealogical Society**. The women welcome explorers to take a peek at the carriage house where there is a library dedicated to helping individuals explore their local roots.

Black and white images share timeless experiences inside a clearinghouse for those seeking information about the past on the **Brady's Bend** link. Background is given on an engraved walk remembering veterans and a book that showcases local history.

Tall green pillars welcome visitors to the **Dayton Historical Society** and the building itself holds the title of being the first structure listed on the Armstrong Historical Record. Page navigators can also locate the spot where over 200 Civil War orphans received an education.

A tale of water divided and river rafts greet patrons of the **Freeport** link seeking to find out how the area received its name. Aerial snapshots tell of the historical

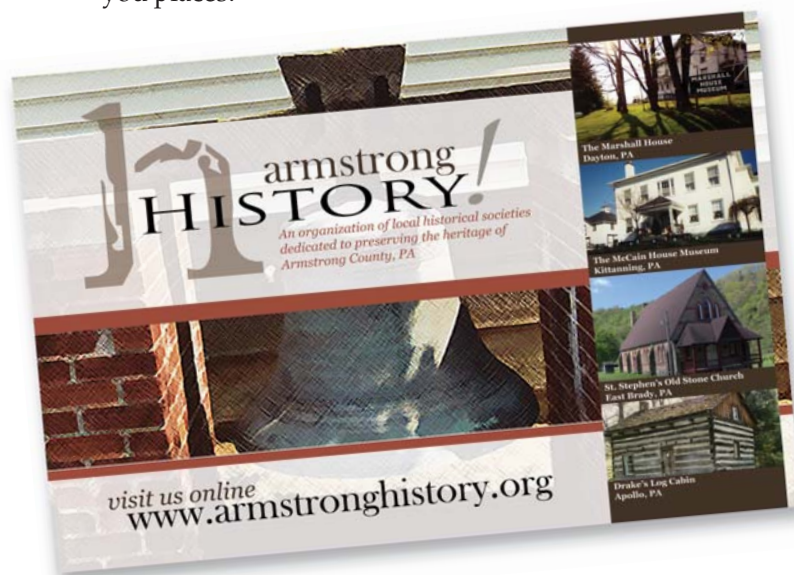
society's renovations and future home under an old mill's red roof.

David Leech built the house that the **Leechburg Historical Society** calls home, and navigators to this page can access the story that comes with the building. Individuals can also gain access to books that illustrate local hometown recipes and history.

A "coming soon" banner flags browsers that the new **Burrell Township/Lower Crooked Creek** group will soon share a piece of their background on the site.

Surfing on armstronghistory.org provides local residents access to an ocean of possibilities, including links to other Armstrong County sites: visit the Armstrong County Community Foundation's website, make tracks to "Trolleys in Armstrong County", or investigate the National Register of Historic Places. A bulletin board allows guests to post messages that can be viewed on the site. There is also an email system enabling visitors to send mail directly to each or all of the historical societies.

Please join the Armstrong County Community Foundation in bringing history to life in Armstrong County—click www.armstronghistory.org. It will take you places!



We make it easy to care about our community.

Director's Notes

Community Foundation Appoints New Executive Director

The Board of Directors of the Armstrong County Community Foundation has announced the appointment of Mindy Knappenberger as Executive Director. Knappenberger will be leading the Foundation towards its goals of growth and enhancement.

The Community Foundation was established in 1998 as a nonprofit organization committed to enhancing the quality of life of the residents of Armstrong County by building a permanent endowment. The foundation makes grants from these resources to area nonprofits in accordance with the intentions of the foundation's donors. Knappenberger says, "I am passionate about the Armstrong County Community Foundation because it gives Armstrong County residents a wonderful way to care about their community now and in the future through the endowment campaign."

The Endowment Development Campaign's goal is to grow foundation assets to \$5 million. That \$5 million will be a savings account that remains in



Former Director Gail Seifert (L) and new Director Mindy Knappenberger

Armstrong County forever—enhancing the quality of life of everyone in the community and resulting in \$250,000 in grants to Armstrong County nonprofit organizations every year. Under Seifert's leadership, the Foundation has accrued \$1.3 million towards that goal.

Knappenberger states, "The Armstrong County Community Foundation truly belongs to the residents of this county. By combining assets with other donors, anyone can be a philanthropist. Through the Community Foundation, any individual, family, or organization can create their own fund with an initial investment of only \$500."

Knappenberger is an active force in Armstrong County and a life long resident. Her experience includes leadership of the Armstrong Educational Trust, work with the Armstrong County Resource Council, and the Armstrong County Family Resource Network. She has a Master of Arts from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and resides with her husband Richard and daughter Morgan in West Franklin Township. Knappenberger says, "I am very excited about Armstrong County's potential through the Community Foundation."

For more information about opportunities available through the Armstrong County Community Foundation, please call 724-548-5897, or visit their website at www.accfound.org.

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Families That Give Together: Realizing the Benefits of Family Philanthropy

Tracey Gary, author of *Inspired Philanthropy*, is no stranger to the challenges and rewards of raising charitable kids. When Gary was old enough to earn an allowance, her parents gave her 25 cents a week in the form of five nickels—three to spend, save, and invest, respectively; one to lend; and one to give away. By emphasizing charity early, says Gary, her parents instilled her with a love of philanthropy.

It stuck with her: Gary went on to launch seventeen nonprofits, including the Women's Foundation of San Francisco, the oldest and largest philanthropic fund for women in the Western United States. A preeminent donor activist and philanthropic adviser, she has dedicated her life to helping families embrace charitable giving as a way of life. Gary's message: families who give together can magnify, exponentially, the diverse benefits of philanthropy.

Passing Values to The Next Generation

Most Americans recognize the value of family giving. According to the 2000 Cone/Roper Raising Charitable Children Survey, 85 percent of the respondents said they believe children should be introduced to philanthropy—and that parents play a key role in getting kids involved. Fully 96 percent agreed that parents' charitable giving and volunteer activities are good ways to teach children about helping others.

Family philanthropy provides a focal point for parents to transmit their values. By engaging several generations, children have an opportunity to learn from an early age that giving back to their communities is an important endeavor. Giving also offers the opportunity to create a family legacy, ensuring that important values extend beyond parents' lifetimes.

Engaging the Kids in Giving

There are many ways to involve younger family members in philanthropy. Children can be given or earn small sums of money and be guided in choosing how to donate it. Young children can also be encouraged to make donations of clothes, shoes, and toys, and travel with their parents to deposit the items at a shelter. In addition, school-age children can be encouraged to volunteer their time.

Teenagers, meanwhile, can be tasked with researching nonprofits, either as potential grantees or as a place to volunteer their time.

Using Outside Resources

A family fund established at the Armstrong County Community Foundation makes it easy to care about our community.

Family philanthropy is a rewarding way to bring change to our community. With some careful planning, it can also tighten family bonds, transmit family values to future generations, and create a lasting family legacy.

By Collette Parker, a freelance writer based in Atlanta.

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Ten Ways Families Can Encourage Kids' Spirit of Generosity

1. Model abundance or sufficiency, not fear, secrecy, and inadequacy.
2. Talk about giving, volunteering, and service and demonstrate each.
3. Be a mentor with your children about money and giving.
4. Set giving, volunteering, and work ethic standards early on.
5. Teach responsible budgeting, planning, and checkbook and credit card management.
6. Set up a giving account for contributions and seed it with money, and give ongoing age-appropriate advice.
7. Provide motivation for generosity.
8. Balance needs and wants with global understanding and consideration. Know where your family is on the economic spectrum, and help your kids to understand what it means.
9. Create a family giving plan and include your kids' values and priority issues and concerns for their (and your) communities.
10. Increase your community service hours. More volunteering and less TV or computer time might open the hearts and minds of your whole family.

Source: Gary, Tracy and Kohner, Melissa. Inspired Philanthropy: Jossey-Bass, 2002.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY
**COMMUNITY
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160 North McKean Street
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Armstrong County.

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Once again, the Annual Ralph Knepshield Memorial Golf Classic was a huge success! The Community Foundation thanks the loyal sponsors, donors and participants for making the event so successful. Through their efforts we are able to continue the mission of the foundation.

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