



ARMSTRONG COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION

Forum

Grantee FOCUS

The history of the theater in America begins early in the Eighteenth Century, about the time the first rumblings were heard of the storm which was to break the ties still holding the Colonies to the mother country. There are reports that theater flourished up and down the east coast as early as the 1730's from New York to Charleston. William Dunlap, the earliest historian of the American stage, tells us that drama was first introduced in this country by William Hallam in the year 1752 when he brought over a company from London and presented "The Merchant of Venice" at Williamsburg.

In the South the Colonists had imported a taste for theater together with their other English customs, but in the North the playhouse was considered morally wrong and was fiercely condemned everywhere. As did many of the northern colonies, the House of Representatives in the Colony of Pennsylvania passed a law forbidding the showing and acting of plays and imposed a stiff fine if the law was broken.

Regardless of the stringent laws there was a large and growing class of new immigrants who were not burdened by these scruples. They naturally turned to a form of amusement highly popular at home when they were looking for recreation—the theater. As the Colonies grew in importance and communication between America and Europe became more frequent the stringent laws were modified especially in the larger cities. The citizens of these communities, longed for the theater after hearing glowing accounts which arrived from London by every ship and thus the American theater grew.

The theater continues to grow right here in our community. The Armstrong Community Theater (ACT) was established in 2002 by a group of citizens who wished to complement the cultural life of the Armstrong County community through the addition of live theater. This group of visionaries wanted to develop a venue for artistic expression that promised to be an exciting community venture into the arts and culture. And they succeeded, on stage or behind the scenes the Armstrong

Community Theater has become an opportunity for residents in Armstrong County and surrounding communities to express themselves by participating in live theatrical entertainment.



We've seen some great talent from our community in productions like *Guys and Dolls*, *Have a Nice Day*, and *All This Talk is Killing Me*. The costuming and props as well as the directing and acting are top notch. The next production a mystery dinner theater "Murder at Rutherford House" will be held at Lenape Technical

School on April 14, 15, and 16. For more information you can visit the group's website at www.armstrong-communitytheater.org

In the future ACT will offer public lectures and seminars on a variety of aspects including set building, acting, and how to write a theatrical resume. Plans are also being set for a Children's Theater in an effort to offer the children of our community a safe healthy environment for self-expression and entertainment.

A granting priority of the Community Foundation is the enhancement of the arts and culture in Armstrong County. In 2002 the Community Foundation made a grant award to ACT for website development and marketing materials and in 2003 another grant was awarded to the group for two lavalier microphones.



The cast from "All This Talk is Killing Me"

Endowment Development Campaign: *Planting the Seeds of our Future*

What is Endowment?

When you create a charitable fund through the Armstrong County Community Foundation, you have the opportunity to benefit the community forever with a permanent endowment. Your gift is invested over time. Earnings from your fund are used to make grants addressing community needs. Your gift – and all future earnings from your gift – is a permanent source of community capital, helping do good work today and in the future.

Legacy and Stability.

Donors who endow their gifts can make a difference in their community during their lifetime and, at the same time, provide a gift that lasts forever. Grants will continue to be made in the name of the fund you establish so that your charitable wishes are preserved, even if an organization receiving grants ceases to exist in the future.

Leaders of local nonprofit organizations may also look to the community foundation to hold their organization's endowment because they know that having a constant source of funding helps them respond to emergency needs as well as plan for the future and sustain the good work they do.

Expert help.

When donors or nonprofit organizations work through the community foundation to achieve their charitable goals, they benefit from the expertise of our local staff, community leadership, and investment management.



In October of 2003 the Board of Directors of the Armstrong County Community Foundation kicked off a five year Endowment Development Campaign. Our goal is to build the Community Foundation endowment to \$5million allowing us to increase our grantmaking capacity to \$250,000 annually. This will ensure that when critical needs arise in our community they will be met and that we will accomplish our mission of enhancing the quality of life of the residents in Armstrong County.

For more information about our Endowment Development Campaign please call the Community Foundation office at 724-548-5897 or contact one of our board members.

Memorial Gifts to the Armstrong County Community Foundation have been made in memory of:

Ed and Kay Steiner
E.J. Hazen
Jamie Stitt
Mary Woodward
James Ochs
Thomas L. Schaub
Robert K. Milligan
Harry Blaney
William McFadden
Ralph Knepshield
Rose Stennett

Angelo Mantini
Elmer M. Lewis
Marion "Mal" Weaver
Dollie M. Waltenbaugh
Regis Wolff
Roy Shaffer
Theresa Gaggini
Josephine Ion
Gerald E. Kimmel
Walter and Argida Lorence
Charles and Betty Vent

Seven Steps to Easy Philanthropy

1. Discuss your overall philanthropic goals with your family members and legal or tax advisors.
2. Decide how much you can afford to give.
3. Determine the causes or organizations that will use your donations to meet the goals you support.
4. Meet with our staff to discuss your plan. Ask questions, explore the different gift vehicles available to you and review the documents needed to implement your plan.
5. Share the documents with your family and your professional advisors.
6. Transfer your gift to the Armstrong County Community Foundation.
7. Review our confirmation of your completed gift and the ongoing progress of grants that are awarded from your fund.

Death and Taxes – How to Prepare for One and Avoid the Other

It's often been said that the only certainties in life are death and taxes. While Uncle Sam makes sure that we pay taxes, no one ensures that we prepare for that other certainty. In fact, surveys show that only 4 out of 10 Americans across all age groups have wills.

If a will is one of the most important documents you can own, why do so many people live without them? Perhaps one thinks that by postponing death planning, one can postpone the inevitable.

More people might have wills if they began to think of them as a way of expressing concern for others. Anyone who has had a family member die without a will (or "intestate," to use the legal term) can tell you what a complicated process it can be.

The Armstrong County Community Foundation suggests that it is time to **think differently about having a will. Think of planning a will as planning to improve and stabilize the financial security** of yourself and your family. **Think of a will as a kindness** to those you leave behind.

Through your will you can:

- Provide for your family
- Name a guardian for your children
- Make charitable provisions
- Appoint an administrator of your estate
- Incorporate trusts to reduce taxes

Including a charitable bequest in your will is a simple way to make a lasting gift to your community. When you make this gift through the Armstrong County Community Foundation, a special fund is established that benefits the community forever and becomes your personal legacy of giving. You can decide to do it at any age by adding to an existing will or drafting a new one. In doing so you leave a legacy to your community, while enjoying the assets you need to maintain your current lifestyle. Plus, you are able to distribute some or all of your assets, tax free.

You can give cash, appreciated stocks, or other assets. Some of the most tax-efficient asset types to give through your will come from retirement plan accounts, since heirs would be taxed on the income in respect of the decedent (IRD). You can choose to give a stated

dollar amount, a specific property, a percentage of your estate, the remainder after distributions to other beneficiaries, or you can make your gift contingent on certain events.

It's never too early to prepare your will, but it can be too late! For more information on including the Armstrong County Community Foundation in your will, please call 724-548-5897.

A Special Invitation



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Armstrong County Community Foundation I invite you to join us for the Ralph Knepshild Memorial Classic on Friday, June 11 at Lenape Heights Golf Course. We promise you an exceptional day of golf complemented with delicious food, gracious service, fun, and friendship.

Ralph Knepshild helped found and build the Armstrong County Community Foundation. Ralph shared our concern. He wanted to improve the quality of life in Armstrong County. Ralph helped to plant the seeds of the future. His passion and enthusiasm for the Community Foundation helped us to provide nearly \$75,000 in grants to non profit organizations throughout the county since 2000.

Since last year's outing, we have increased the Community Foundation endowment by \$600,000. This year we have set a five year goal to build the endowment to \$5million allowing us to increase our grant making capacity to \$250,000 annually. Your patronage of this year's event will help us to reach our goal and to continue the support that we have offered our community.

Please call the Foundation Office at 724-548-5897 for more information on a great day of golf and to act as a sponsor the Ralph Knepshild Memorial Classic. Your support ensures that together through the Community Foundation we can continue to do good for Armstrong County. . . forever.

Jack Steiner • 2004 Golf Chair



**ARMSTRONG COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

160 North McKean Street
Kittanning, PA 16201

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A coalition of donors,
nonprofit organizations
and partners enriching
life and community in
Armstrong County.

Director's Notes...

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An Invitation for Armstrong County Nonprofit Organizations

Thanks to the generosity of one of our donors, the Armstrong County Community Foundation is underwriting a day long seminar that will strengthen our local nonprofits' effectiveness. We have partnered with the Armstrong Educational Trust to bring the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management's "Nonprofit Toolkit" to Armstrong County.

This is a wonderful opportunity for staff and volunteers in our nonprofit community to spend a day learning from the experts right in our own backyard! The course is designed to strengthen nonprofit's effectiveness by improving strategies in the core areas of finance, collaboration, fund development, and board development.

The training will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2004 from 8:30 am until 4:00 pm at the Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided and because the Community Foundation has underwritten a major portion of the expense the cost per individual is only \$50.

For more information or to register call 724-548-5897.

We hope to see you on May 20th !