



ARMSTRONG COUNTY  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

# Forum

## Grants in Action



Oh, the Places You'll Go!

You'll be on your way up!  
You'll be seeing great sights!  
You'll join the high fliers  
Who soar to high heights. \*

"The fire of literacy is created by the emotional sparks between a child, a book, and the person reading," according to Mem Fox, author of Reading Magic.

Early literacy translates to a 29% higher rate of high school completion, a 41% reduction in special-needs placement, and a 40% reduction in in-grade retention. Every \$1 invested in reaching children before they begin school generates over \$7 to the local economy [PA Economy League and Beginning with Books].

Mem Fox tell us that the latest brain research has revealed how critically important a child's early years are. "Reading aloud and talking about what we're reading sharpens children's brains. It helps develop their ability to concentrate at length, to solve problems logically, and to express themselves more easily and clearly." Done properly, reading aloud to children can also make them feel loved, spark their imaginations, and ignite a lifelong enthusiasm for reading.

"The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success is reading aloud to children," according to a national report by the Commission on Reading, "Becoming a Nation of Readers."

However, in Armstrong County, roughly 60% of residents do not have free library card privileges. Unemployment was 9% in 2004 and our child poverty rate is 35% – the poverty rate correlates with early childhood literacy problems.

As a result of poor early literacy development, only 50-69% of students are proficient in reading (poor 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores indicate poor literacy of incoming first graders.)

Kids who start behind, stay behind [PA Partnerships for Children].

Armstrong Books for Children, the early literacy initiative of the Armstrong County Community Foundation, will address these issues by:

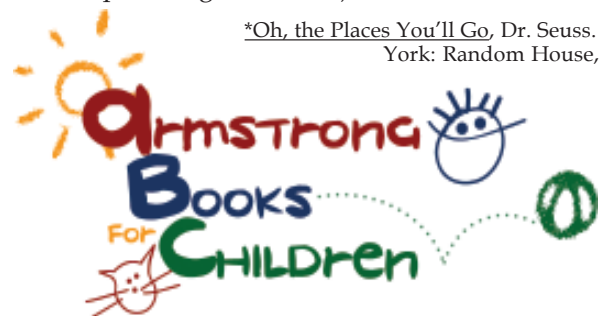
- ✓ Awareness Campaign – educate parents of children from birth through age 8 (as well as the business community and other interested partners) on how critical early childhood literacy activities are to the future success of our children and to Armstrong County
- ✓ Book Distribution – provide free books and parent education brochures to children and families at risk
- ✓ Bookmobile – use a mobile library to promote awareness and distribute books to the rural and needy areas of Armstrong County

Our goal is to motivate children to want to read by educating their parents, giving them books they like and showing them that reading is fun and important.

Join us and help our children be successful in school and in life.

"And will you succeed?  
Yes! You will, indeed!  
(98 and ¾ percent guaranteed.)" \*

\*Oh, the Places You'll Go, Dr. Seuss. New York: Random House, 1990.



*We make it easy to care about our community.*

# Director's Notes

Look in the dictionary for "community" and you will find two definitions:

- (1) a group of people living in the same locality, and
- (2) a group of people having a common interest.

We embody both.

What is our common interest at the Community Foundation? It is PHILANTHROPY, which comes from the Greek word *philanthropia* – it literally means "love of human beings."

This is more than a job – it is a mission. As someone who believes we all need to "give back" for the blessings we have received, I am truly grateful to have the privilege of working with our Board of Directors, our wonderful donors, our volunteers, and with Armstrong County nonprofit organizations.

We are so proud and happy to announce that the ACCF has awarded a grand total of \$224,110 in 2005 – \$68,701 to Armstrong County Nonprofit Organizations and \$155,309 in scholarships for private schools & postsecondary education

Maimonides, also known as Rambam, an 11<sup>th</sup> century rabbi, described the true measure of a person when he said,

**"We are measured not by what we have, but by what we give to one another."**

## Board of Directors

Jerry Arbaugh  
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 Joe Cippel  
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 Chase McClister  
 John Shoop  
 Richard Snyder  
 Jack Steiner  
 Lance Whiteman  
 Mindy Knappengerger  
*Executive Director*



## 2005 Founder's Fund Grant Awards

<b>Armstrong Community Theater</b> Complete Sound Equipment	\$2,500
<b>Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center</b> Resource Library	\$2,500
<b>Dayton Area Local History Society</b> Essential Maintenance for Marshall House	\$2,000
<b>Evergreen Homes</b> Lumber for Pergolas for container gardens for disabled clients	\$2,500
<b>HAVIN</b> Yellow Dress Education Program	\$2,000
Senior Expo Raffle Winner Donation	\$100
<b>Holy Family/Big Brothers/Big Sisters</b> National Family Week Bowling Event	\$2,000
<b>Kittanning Rotary Club</b> Flowers & Shrubs For Riverfront Park	\$1,000
<b>Life Choices</b> Laptop Computer for Teen Abstinence Training	\$2,000
<b>Progressive Workshop</b> 75 Chairs For Trainees	\$1,876
<b>Worthington West Franklin Library</b> Expand Library Shelving	\$1,500
<b>Founder's Fund Grant Awards Total</b>	<b>\$19,976</b>

## 2005

### Donor Advised & Restricted Grant Distributions

#### Baker Family Charitable Fund

Lutherlyn	10,000
Armstrong Books for Children	2,000
WK Palomino Baseball	500

#### William E. Blose Memorial Fund

Freeport Area Library	1,400
Worthington West Franklin Library	1,400

#### Richard G. Snyder Endowment for the Arts

Armstrong Community Theater	5,000
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#### Mission Fund in Memory of Chuck & Pearl Snyder

Assistance to Hurricane Katrina Evacuees in Armstrong County	1,000
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#### Ralph Knepshield Fund for Children & Youth

Armstrong County Community Awareness Day	500
YMCA Youth Camping Program	125

#### Klingensmith HealthCare Charitable Fund

Nonprofit agencies to support youth & wellness	3,350
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#### Armstrong County Building & Loan Charitable Fund

Scholarships to Armstrong County residents	4,000
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#### Gretchen Moss Memorial Scholarship

Scholarship to an Armstrong County resident	1,500
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#### Ruth E. Owen Scholarship Fund

Scholarship to an Armstrong County resident	1,000
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#### Earned Income Tax Credit Fund

Private School Scholarships for Armstrong County K-12 students	147,809
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#### Special Grants

Ford City Public Library by M.L. Smolen	14,850
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Christ Prince of Peace Organ Project by Joe & Janet Cippel	9,800
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**Total Restricted Fund Grants  
Awarded** \$ 204,234

**Total Unrestricted Fund Grants  
Awarded** \$19,976

**TOTAL 2005 ACCF Grants  
Awarded** \$ 224,210

# ARMSTRONG COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

160 North McKean Street  
Kittanning, PA 16201



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

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Armstrong County  
Chamber of Commerce  
Permit # 119

## 2005 Year-End Gift Ideas

As you consider your year-end tax planning, we hope you will consider making good use of the income tax charitable deduction. Your 2005 year-end gift can significantly reduce your income taxes, while providing meaningful support for us at the Armstrong County Community Foundation.

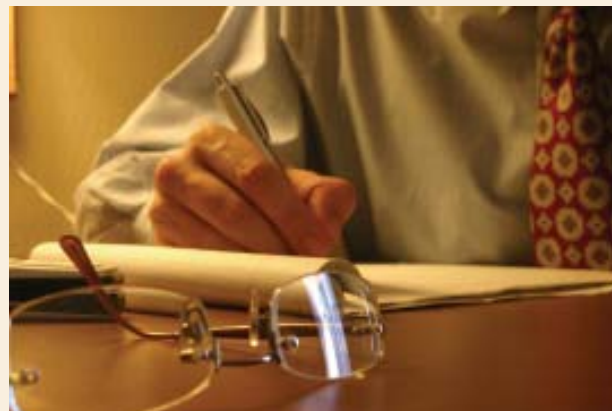
No matter what your income, if you itemize, you can almost always lower your income taxes through charitable giving. The amount of the income tax savings will depend on your tax bracket.

Example: If you are in a 33% income tax bracket in 2005, and you itemize your deductions, a \$1,000 gift to us by December 31 will save you \$330 in 2005 taxes.

Gifts of cash to the Armstrong County Community Foundation are fully deductible – up to a maximum of 50% of your adjusted gross income.

If you own stock, it is almost always more tax-wise to contribute stock than cash.

A gift of appreciated stock generally offers a two-fold tax saving. First you avoid paying any capital gains tax on the increase in value of the stock. Second, you receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift.



Example: If you purchased some stock many years ago for only \$1,000, and it is now worth \$10,000, an outright gift of the stock to us would result in a charitable contribution deduction of \$10,000. In addition, there is no capital gains tax on the \$9,000 of appreciation.

We would be pleased to provide you, your attorney, your accountant or your tax advisor with additional information and assistance. You should contact your own professional tax advisor to learn how this general information relates to your individual circumstances. Thank you for your interest and support!