



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Martin Foundation Awards 34 Community Grants Totaling \$520,889

Louisville, KY (June 24, 2010) – The Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation announced the recipients of its second annual competitive Community Grants Program. Thirty-five grants totaling more than \$520,000 are being distributed to twenty-nine nonprofit organizations, municipalities and churches serving Muhlenberg County. Nearly seventy applications were submitted with requests for funds that totaled more than \$1.3 million. Board Chair Rod Tompkins said, “We were pleased with the quality of applications and positive things that will be done in the County. Mr. Martin would be very proud of the direction of the community.”

Nonprofit organizations serving Muhlenberg County were invited to submit applications requesting up to \$50,000 per grant for new or expanded projects that address the educational, civic and cultural needs of the county. Preference was given to applications that focus on the four key areas of need identified by the 2008 Needs Assessment: economic development, health and human services, substance abuse, and youth services.

Two of the largest community grants the Board approved were \$40,000 to the Muhlenberg Community Hospital (MCH) for a Walk-In Clinic and \$50,000 to the Fiscal Court for the Muhlenberg County Green Recycling Team.

The gift to the Muhlenberg Community Hospital (MCH) will assist with purchasing of necessary equipment for opening a primary care clinic across from the Hospital on Hopkinsville Street.

MCH CEO Tracy Byers says, “One of the hospital’s most popular requests from the public is to provide primary care services. Often, residents need somewhere to go to be evaluated quickly and not have to make an appointment a week later for minor illnesses. They need a physician’s office or clinic where they can take a child with flu-like symptoms instead of

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having to go to an Emergency Room.” He continues, “primary care providers are in short supply in Muhlenberg County. Thousands of citizens seek treatment for colds, flu, and minor injury from the hospital Emergency Department, causing overcrowding and longer wait times for everyone, and increasing health care costs dramatically.... The proposed primary care clinic will provide basic medical care to children and adults at reasonable rates, with a minimal wait time, and close to home. Up to five full-time jobs will be created in the clinic setting.”

Donna Welborn, ARNP, who will manage the walk-in clinic, says, “in addition to providing scheduled primary care services, like routine health screenings and work and school physicals, this clinic will offer extended and weekend hours to manage illnesses and minor injuries on a walk-in basis.” The Clinic will be located directly across from MCH in the building commonly known as the “Shuttleworth” building and is expected to open in September 2010.

The \$50,000 gift to the Muhlenberg County Fiscal Court is designated for the Muhlenberg County Green Recycling Team whose mission is to enhance and develop a comprehensive countywide recycling program. The Green Recycling Team is a 12-member task force, representing city and county government, the Muhlenberg County Opportunity Center, Muhlenberg County Extension Service, Muhlenberg County Board of Education, Muhlenberg County Homemakers, KY Delta Project, Muhlenberg County Public Library, a school-based youth leadership group and other concerned citizens.

Laura Holt, Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Science, says, “The Recycling Team believes that in order to attract industry and encourage economic development, Muhlenberg County must take measures to improve its overall appearance. No doubt, the ‘first opinion’ that industrial prospects form of any area is based on community pride and cleanliness. Therefore it is essential that the county take concrete steps to insure that this first impression be positive and appealing.”

Ms. Holt said the Recycling Team’s “first goal was to assess ‘current recycling opportunities’ available in our county,” through both nonprofit organizations and for-profit businesses. Then “the Recycling Team deliberated on what should be our first task... to tackle a previously untapped option (like plastic products, glass or tires) or enhance an existing program. Because of its importance in our community, the Team decided to bolster the efforts of the Opportunity Center’s (existing) recycling program, the recycling of cardboard and newspaper products. Unfortunately, the Center relies solely on those recyclable products being deposited at

their site only. That means that there is no effective countywide accessibility or collection of these materials.”

Ms. Holt said the grant from the Martin Foundation would be used “to purchase five recycling bins specifically labeled for ‘paper products’ to be placed at the five existing ‘Convenience Sites’ dispersed throughout the County. This will not only increase recycling participation but also significantly impact the Opportunity Center financially.

The Foundation was created by a bequest of \$50 million in the will of Felix E. Martin, Jr. (1927-2007) to benefit the educational, civic and cultural needs of Muhlenberg County, Kentucky. The executor of Mr. Martin’s estate was his long-time friend and financial advisor, Roderick J. Tompkins, Sr. CPA. Mr. Tompkins and Mr. Martin’s attorney, L. Rush Hunt, chose to establish the Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation as an endowed foundation to last far into the future. The Martin Foundation is administered by The Community Foundation of Louisville. Each year, more than \$1 million from the earnings of the endowment will be distributed in Muhlenberg County.

Through the generosity of the late Felix E. Martin, Jr., the Foundation has cumulatively awarded more than \$3.5 million in grants to benefit Muhlenberg County. In addition, through his estate, Mr. Martin left \$2.8 million to the University of Kentucky (Lexington, KY) and \$2.8 to the McCallie School (Chattanooga, TN) to provide scholarships for students from Muhlenberg County.

In August 2008, the Foundation matched local contributions dollar-for-dollar and committed \$250,000 over five years to fund a new UK Fine Arts Extension Agent for Muhlenberg County. In December 2008, when the Foundation was announced to the public, the Board granted \$110,000 over two years to begin the School Counts scholarship program for Muhlenberg County High School seniors to attend Madisonville Community College. In February 2009, in response to the devastation caused by the winter ice storms, the Foundation made \$121,750 in emergency grants to Muhlenberg County schools, churches and nonprofit organizations. The Foundation’s largest emergency grant was made when the Foundation collaborated with Muhlenberg County Schools and the Greater Muhlenberg Chamber of Commerce to purchase \$90,500 worth of Chamber gift certificates and distribute these vouchers, worth \$50 each, to families hit hardest by the storms.

The Foundation’s Task Force of local advisors is responsible for recommending nearly two-thirds of the Foundation’s total giving to the Foundation’s Board of Directors. The Task Force has recommended grants totaling more than \$2 million. Most notably, upon the recommendation the Task Force, the Foundation is making a \$1 million grant to the Muhlenberg County Schools to expand the new auditorium planned for the Muhlenberg County High School, West Campus from 500 to 800 seats so it will be large enough to host community events and programs. The new facility will be named the “Felix E. Martin, Jr. Hall.” To address the needs of youth in the County, the Task Force recommended retaining the services of the architecture firm, Brandstetter–Carroll, to create a Countywide Parks and Recreation Department and to develop a multi-year plan to build and expand facilities and programs throughout the County.

To learn more about the Foundation, visit www.FelixMartinFoundation.org or contact the Foundation’s Program Officer, Lindsey Ransdell, at 270.977.9194 or LindseyR@FelixMartinFoundation.org.

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**The recipients of the 2010 Community Grants,
made by the Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation are:**

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|---|-----------------|
| 1. Big Brothers Big Sisters | \$ 8,000 |
| Site Based Mentoring Program matching mentors with elementary school students for weekly meetings at the school to develop both academic and social skills.
Contact: Sandra Aiken, Executive Director, 270.821.0688. | |
| 2. Bremen Elementary School | \$18,430 |
| To establish the ACE Community Learning Center for residents of the Bremen community.
Contact: Venita Ray, Family Resource Center Coordinator, 270.525.6686. | |
| 3. Pennyriple Area Development District / City of Central City | \$50,000 |
| A challenge grant to match local contribution for the Central City Downtown Revitalization Project.
Contact: Jason Vincent, Assistant Director, PADD, 270.886.9484. | |
| 4. City of Drakesboro | \$17,040 |
| To purchase public warning sirens to be placed around the Drakesboro community.
Contact: Eddie Brake, City Administrator, 270.476.8986 | |
| 5. City of South Carrollton | \$ 4,900 |
| To purchase Christmas decorations for the City streets.
Contact: Ray Cessna, Mayor, 270.543.9417. | |
| 6. Cleaton Missionary Baptist Church | \$ 5,000 |
| To provide disaster relief supplies to establish an emergency shelter,
Contact: Brian Jones, Pastor, 270.754.3535. | |
| 7. Duncan Center Museum & Art Gallery | \$10,930 |
| To support the exterior restoration of the Duncan Center.
Contact: Shara Snodgrass, Executive Director, 270.338.2605. | |
| 8. Ebenezer Baptist Church | \$ 1,200 |
| To support Preparing for My Future, college prep. workshop for middle and high school students.
Contact: Janice Hines, Coordinator, 270.977.0734. | |
| 9. Greenville Elementary School | \$ 5,600 |
| To purchase sheet music, instruments, risers and equipment for the school's performing arts groups.
Contact: Brian Wilgus, Music Teacher, 270.338.4830. | |
| 10. Greenville Volunteer Fire Department | \$5,110 |
| To purchase materials to in-school safety classes to be taught in each elementary school by all City, County and community Fire Departments.
Contact: Greg Dietrich, Asst. Chief, 270.338.3305. | |
| 11. Hoofbeats, Heartstrings & Hope, Inc. | \$ 3,186 |
| To purchase equipment and upgrade facilities for the therapeutic riding program.
Contact: Sandy McDonald, Director, 270.338.1817. | |
| 12. Muhlenberg Community Hospital | \$40,000 |
| To create a Walk-In Clinic.
Contact: Tracy Byers, CEO, 270.338.8276. | |

13. Muhlenberg Community Hospital – Emergency Medical Service **\$29,000**

To purchase heart monitors/ defibrillators for ambulances.

Contact: Troy Walker, Director, 270.338.1233.

14. Muhlenberg Community Theatre, Inc. **\$ 7,000**

To match local contributions raised to fund an upgrade of the Theatre’s HVAC system.

Contact: Shara Snodgrass, Board Member, 270.338.2605.

15. Muhlenberg County Extension Service: Fine Arts **\$18,500**

To fund youth arts, music and cultural programming.

Contact: Cora Hughes, County Extension Agent for Fine Arts, 270.338.3124.

16 Muhlenberg County Extension Service: 4-H **\$ 3,875**

To provide scholarships for local youth to attend 4-H summer camp.

Contact: Tommy Harrison, County Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development, 270.338.0710.

17. Muhlenberg County Extension Service: 4-H **\$16,370**

To support STAND’s (Students Teaching About Narcotics Dangers) substance abuse prevention efforts amongst elementary, middle and high school students.

Contact: Tommy Harrison, County Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development, 270.338.0710.

Gail Johnson, Muhlenberg County Schools Public Relations & Community Education, 270.338.2871.

18. Muhlenberg County Fiscal Court **\$50,000**

For the Muhlenberg County Green Recycling Team to purchase collections bins for recyclable paper products at each County Convenience Site.

Contact: Laura Holt, County Extension Agent for Family & Consumer Service 270.338.3124

19. Muhlenberg County Fiscal Court **\$ 5,000**

For the National Thumbpickers Hall of Fame to replace the roof of the Spring Ridge School at Paradise Park.

Contact: Marilyn Kirtley, Historian, 270.338.5961.

20. Muhlenberg County High Schools **\$ 5,500**

To purchase guitars and equipment for the school guitar course.

Contact: Mimi Morgan or Alan Hansen, Teachers, 270.338.0040.

21. Muhlenberg County Junior Pro Football **\$10,000**

To purchase equipment for the youth participants and a facility to store the program’s equipment.

Contact: Charles Chaney, President.270.543.7833.

22. Muhlenberg County Opportunity Center **\$ 5,000**

To purchase new appliances for the Sheltered Workshop facility.

Contact: Chuck Hammond, Executive Director, 270.338.5970.

23. Muhlenberg County Public Library **\$20,000**

To continue supporting Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library to provide books each month to every Muhlenberg County child ages newborn to five years old.

Contact: Annesse Williams, Executive Director, 270.338.4760.

24. Muhlenberg County Public Library **\$21,467**

To begin the Kindergarten Reads program to encourage reading amongst kindergarteners and supply each school Family Resource Center and Library with the books on the Kindergarten Reads reading list.

Contact: Annesse Williams, Executive Director, 270.338.4760.

24. Muhlenberg County Schools **\$15,000**

To provide funding support for Because We Care, and expansion of the mentoring program matching school students with members of the local business community.

Contact: Gail Johnson, Muhlenberg County Schools Public Relations & Community Education, 270.338.2871.
Vicki Yonts, Delta Rural Project, 270.543.0255.

25. Muhlenberg County Special Olympics **\$ 3,000**

To provide funding support of programs for Special Olympians.

Contact: Rodney Lear, Local Coordinator, 270.608.0232.

26. Muhlenberg North Middle School **\$ 7,500**

To sponsor student participation in the 2010 National Beta Club Convention.

Contact: Jessica Ingram & Amy Luttrell, Coaches, 270.543.5897 or 270.543.6035.

27. Muhlenberg South Elementary School **\$22,478**

To continue support after-school clubs for residents of the south-end of the County offered by the SHINE Community Learning Center.

Contact: Kim Meadows, Family Resource Center Coordinator, 270.476.0000.

28. Pathway of Hope **\$18,630**

To continue support of the Earn While You Learn parenting program and purchase equipment for the Real Care Babies First Aid and Safety courses for parents and children's caregivers.

Contact: Diana Anderson, Executive Director, 270.377.0045.

29. Pathway of Hope **\$ 5,000**

To match local dollars raised to purchase car seats for infants.

Contact: Diana Anderson, Executive Director, 270.377.0045.

30. Pennyroyal Center **\$31,406**

To continue support of MCAMP (The Muhlenberg County Alliance for Methamphetamine Prevention).

Contact: Paula Brown, Community Coordinator, 270.338.5211.

32. RiverPark Center (Owensboro) **\$ 5,800**

To provide a designated arts experience for every fifth grade student in Muhlenberg County to travel to the facility in Owensboro and spend the day learning from local artists.

Contact: Kim Johnson, Director of Development, 270.687.2770.

33. Second Baptist Church **\$39,708**

To purchase and install a generator for a community Emergency Shelter.

Contact: Dr. Ray England, Pastor, 270.338.6160.

34. South Central Kentucky Kids on the Block (Bowling Green) **\$ 5,258**

To offer in school puppet shows and performances teaching children personal body safety.

Contact: Hilary Halbig, Director of Development, 270.824.2259.

35. UK Center for Rural Health (Madisonville) **\$ 6,000**

To provide stipends for local students participating in the High School Rural Scholar Program.

Contact: Natalie Begley, Coordinator, 270.824.3436.