



News Release

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Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation Awards more than \$420,000 in 2011 Community Grants

Greenville, KY (June 29, 2011) – The Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation is proud to announce the recipients of its third annual competitive Community Grants Program. Thirty-three grants totaling more than \$420,000 are being distributed to twenty-seven nonprofit organizations, schools, municipalities, community clubs and churches serving Muhlenberg County. Over sixty applications were submitted with requests for funds that totaled more than \$1.1 million. Board Chair Rod Tompkins said, “We were pleased with the quality of applications and positive things that continue to 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.

The largest community grant the Board approved was a \$50,000 award to the Muhlenberg County Opportunity Center (MCOC). The gift will support a remodel of the Opportunity Center’s Grocery and Thrift Stores.

MCOC Executive Director Harold Morris said, “For many years, the Grocery and Thrift stores have supported the entire MCOC Campus. If not for the dedication of our staff, clients and donors, the Center would have been forced to close its doors just a few short years ago.” He went on to say, “this remodel will improve our public image, making the center more appealing, more accessible and more competitive in this lean economy... our clients take pride in the work they accomplish and they deserve a better facility to work in.”

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Board Chair Rod Tompkins said, “the Opportunity Center provides an outstanding service not only to the residents of Muhlenberg County, but for the clients who live in the adjoining counties and travel to Greenville each day to take advantage of the services of the Opportunity Center.” To date, the Foundation has given more than \$100,000 to improve the campus of the Muhlenberg County Opportunity Center. Mr. Tompkins went on to say, “those grants were some of the most heart-warming grants we’ve made and it gives me great pride to know we can help such a caring organization.”

Complementing the grant to the Opportunity Center is a grant of \$38,050 to the Muhlenberg County Fiscal Court for the Muhlenberg Green Recycling Team to extend their recycling efforts into four Muhlenberg County schools. All recycling collected by the County is transported to the Opportunity Center, which in turns recycles the donated materials and uses that money for its operating budget.

The grant for the Green Recycling Team will be used to purchase additional collection bins, allowing families to drop off their recycling at their children’s schools as well as the County Convenience Sites. Sites involved are both the East and West Campuses of Muhlenberg County High School, as well as the joint campus of Muhlenberg North Middle School, Longest Elementary School and the KY Tech. Vocational School in Powderly. Bins are also being purchased to place in the schools to encourage recycling by students and faculty.

The Foundation made an award of \$18,361 to the Muhlenberg County Junior Pro Football program to purchase updated safety equipment and start a Pee Wee Football League. The Pee Wee League will provide more recreational opportunities to younger kids in the County. Board Chair Rod Tompkins said, “The Foundation is impressed by the hard work of the Junior Pro volunteer coaches, especially their emphasis on good sportsmanship and character building.”

The Foundation will be awarding the City of Central City \$10,000 to renovate the Scout House at Central Park. The Scout House was built in the 1930’s by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), along with the now closed Central City Pool. The Scout House is primarily used by boy scout troops, but with the renovations, the City hopes more individuals, families and community groups will utilize the space.

This year’s round of awards also includes a \$14,000 grant to the Muhlenberg County 4H for the 4H Food for Kids Backpack Program. The 4H Teen Club introduced the Food for Kids Backpack program in 2002. Last year, this program provided 350 disadvantaged students living in Muhlenberg County with food-stocked backpacks on a weekly basis. These backpacks contain

approximately seven kid-friendly meals to last the student through the weekend. The backpacks are delivered each Friday by members of the 4H Teen Club to the School's Family Resource Centers. The goal of the program is to break down the barrier that hunger creates, contributing to poor academic performance, absenteeism, poor health and behavioral issues among youth.

This grant will be used as a dollar-for-dollar match of funds raised locally by the 4H Teen Club, contributing to the \$28,000 overall operating cost of the program. Board Chair Rod Tompkins said, "this grant meets so many of the Foundation's objectives by providing a service to the County's children and encouraging leadership development among teens, all the while showcasing the community's commitment to this project through the \$14,000 raised by the 4H Teen Club through their Penguin Plunge and other such fundraisers."

The Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation was created by a bequest of \$50 million in the will of Mr. 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 \$1.5 million from the earnings of the endowment are distributed in Muhlenberg County. Through the generosity of the late Felix E. Martin, Jr., the Foundation has cumulatively committed more than \$6.1 million in grants to benefit Muhlenberg 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 2011 Community Grants,
made by the Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation are:**

1	Central City Convention Center <i>After School Program - "Fit Kids"</i>	\$8,000.00
2	Central City Convention Center <i>Teen "Get Fit" 10 Week Program</i>	\$1,500.00
3	Champions for a Drug Free Muhlenberg County (Champions) <i>Fighting Drug Abuse in Muhlenberg County</i>	\$32,143.00
4	City of Central City <i>Scout House</i>	\$10,000.00
5	Duncan Center Museum & Art Gallery <i>Restoration Project</i>	\$6,675.76
6	Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church <i>Emergency Shelter</i>	\$5,600.00
7	Greenville Elementary <i>Harness the Power of Literacy</i>	\$6,000.00
8	Greenville Elementary - Reading Recovery & Intervention Staff <i>Leveled Books for Literacy</i>	\$10,000.00
9	Greenville Elementary Music <i>GES Music Updates</i>	\$1,075.00
10	Greenville Volunteer Fire Department <i>Fire Prevention & Public Education</i>	\$4,000.00
11	Madisonville Community College - Muhlenberg Campus <i>Sadler Learning Center Technology Project</i>	\$19,828.84
12	Muhlenberg Community Hospital - ER <i>Lifenet Software & Modems for EKG Transmission from Ambulances</i>	\$18,712.60
13	Muhlenberg Community Hospital - Ambulance Service <i>Heart Monitor & Defib</i>	\$28,632.95
14	Muhlenberg Community Hospital - Pediatric Unit <i>Pediatric Vital Signs Monitor</i>	\$5,840.00
15	Muhlenberg Community Theatre, Inc. <i>New Roof for Muhlenberg Community Theatre Building</i>	\$40,122.00
16	Muhlenberg County 4H <i>4H Camp Scholarships</i>	\$3,875.00
17	Muhlenberg County 4H <i>4H Food for Kids Backpack Program</i>	\$14,000.00
18	Muhlenberg County 4H - Horse Club <i>Storing the Future</i>	\$4,200.00
19	Muhlenberg County 4H - Shooting Sports <i>Shooting Sports Equipment Grant</i>	\$5,345.00
20	Muhlenberg County American Red Cross <i>Be Red Cross Ready, Muhlenberg County!</i>	\$2,950.00
21	Muhlenberg County Board of Education <i>Muhlenberg Mentors</i>	\$16,000.00
22	Muhlenberg County Fine Arts Extension (University of Kentucky) <i>Muhlenberg County Fine Arts Extension Programs</i>	\$13,400.00

23	Muhlenberg County High School <i>Guitar & Piano Lab</i>	\$4,725.00
24	Muhlenberg County Junior Pro Football, Inc. <i>Building for Greatness</i>	\$18,361.00
25	Muhlenberg County Opportunity Center <i>Grocery and Thrift Store Remodel</i>	\$50,000.00
26	Muhlenberg Green Recycling Team <i>Reduce, Reuse, Recycle</i>	\$38,050.00
27	Muhlenberg North Middle School - Beta Club <i>National Beta Convention (Jr. Beta)</i>	\$2,500.00
28	Muhlenberg South Elementary & UNITY Family Resource Center <i>SHINE Community Learning Center</i>	\$5,400.00
29	Pathway of Hope <i>Earn While you Learn</i>	\$13,000.00
30	Pennyrile Allied Community Services - Retired & Senior Volunteer Program <i>Help our Senior Volunteers make an Impact in Muhlenberg County</i>	\$6,200.00
31	RiverPark Center <i>Arts Experience</i>	\$5,800.00
32	South Central Kentucky Kids on the Block <i>Kids on the Block Educates Muhlenberg County Students</i>	\$5,647.20
33	Student Teaching Against Negative Decisions <i>STAND's Substance Abuse Prevention Efforts</i>	\$16,370.00
	TOTAL 2011 COMMUNITY GRANT AWARDS	\$423,953.35