



News Release

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Martin Foundation Awards 30 Community Grants Totaling \$500,000

Louisville, KY (June 19, 2009) – A few short weeks after the announcement that the Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation has made a half million dollar commitment to Muhlenberg County Schools, today, the Foundation announced the recipients of its first competitive Community Grants Program. Thirty grants totaling \$500,000 are being distributed to 26 nonprofit organizations serving Muhlenberg County. More than 200 applications were submitted with requests for funds that totaled \$13 million.

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, and Mr. Martin's attorney was L. Rush Hunt. They chose to establish the Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation as a supporting organization that operates independently, but is administered by The Community Foundation of Louisville as an endowed foundation to last far into the future. Each year, about \$1 million from the earnings of the endowment will be distributed in Muhlenberg County.

Before a strategy for making grants was developed, the Board hired the Louisville-based research firm, Horizon InForm, to complete a comprehensive assessment of community needs in Muhlenberg County. The assessment revealed four key areas of need for the county: economic development, health and human services, substance abuse, and youth services.

To address these four key areas of community need and fulfill Mr. Martin's wishes, the Foundation designated \$500,000 to be awarded for competitive Community Grants in 2009. 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, with preference to be given to applications that focus on the four key areas of need identified by Horizon InForm.

Through the generosity of the late Felix E. Martin, Jr., to date \$7,081,750 in grants have been made to benefit Muhlenberg County. Through his estate, Mr. Martin left \$2.8 million to both the University of Kentucky (Lexington, KY) and the McCallie School (Chattanooga, TN) to provide scholarship for students from Muhlenberg County.

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Last August, the Foundation committed \$250,000 over five years for 50% funding of a new UK Arts Extension Agent for Muhlenberg County. In December, 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, 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. Most notably, 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.

Last month, upon the recommendation of its local Task Force of advisors, the Board of the Foundation announced a \$500,000 grant to the Muhlenberg County School Board 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.” This is the first of the Foundation’s major transformational change grants. The Foundation hopes to announce an additional \$500,000 in major transformational change grants by December, recommended to the Board by the Task Force of local advisors.

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 2009 Community Grants, made by the Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation are:

- 1. Bremen Elementary Daycare** **\$ 5,000**
 To purchase educational supplies and provide support for staff training. Contact: Latricia King, director, 270.525.9200.
- 2. Center for Nonprofit Excellence (Louisville, KY)** **\$17,494**
 A five-part Nonprofit Capacity Builders certificate program will be designed for and with nonprofit leaders in Muhlenberg County to help anchor key work toward community improvement efforts, provide a framework for sustainability, and deepen the capacity for measurable and achievable results. Contact: Kevin Connelly, director, 502.315.2673.
- 3. Central City Elementary School/Daycare** **\$ 5,000**
 To purchase supplies and update technology. Contact: Saundra Fleming, program director, 270.754.4474.
- 4. Community Health Centers of Western Kentucky, Inc.** **\$50,000**
 To expand services by funding the construction of a pediatric medical facility. Contact: Roger Arbuckle, CEO, 270.338.5777.
- 5. Duncan Center Museum & Art Gallery** **\$31,148**
 To restore the exterior and make structural repairs to the Center. Contact: Shara Snodgrass, director, 270.38.2605.
- 6. Family Advocacy Center (Madisonville, KY)** **\$ 9,594**
 To provide the Nurturing Parent Program in Muhlenberg County. Contact: Mandy Hargis, director, 270.825.1582.
- 7. The Flying Mules** **\$ 700**
 To provide a model airplane aviation science program for school students. Contact: Greg Newman, president, 270.543.2153.
- 8. Greenville Elementary School** **\$ 4,942**
 To purchase a new keyboard, microphones, software and sheet music. Contact: Michael Hill, teacher, 270.338.4830.
- 9. Greenville United Methodist Church** **\$ 6,500**
 To launch Celebrate Recovery, a substance abuse recovery program. Contact: Terri Dozer, coordinator, 270.499.3969.
- 10. Habitat for Humanity of Muhlenberg County** **\$15,000**
 To sponsor the construction of the 2010 Habitat home. Contact: Judith LaFlare, Board President, 270.543.4339.
- 11. Hoofbeats, Heartstrings and Hopes** **\$14,000**
 To purchase safety equipment for horse riders with disabilities. Contact: Sandy McDonald, director, 270.338.1817.
- 12. Junior Achievement of Western Kentucky – Muhlenberg District** **\$45,000**
 To sustain and expand Junior Achievement’s high school programs. Contact: Dan Douglas, president, 270.684.7291.
- 13. Madisonville Community College** **\$28,760**
 To establish the Imagination Library Pre-Kindergarten Reading Program. Contact: April Grace, coordinator, 270.824.8597.
- 14. Muhlenberg Community Theatre** **\$36,000**
 To fund renovations and enhancements of the theatre. Contact: Shara Snodgrass, board member, 270.338.2605.
- 15. Muhlenberg County 4-H** **\$ 3,875**
 To provide 4-H Camp scholarships. Contact: Tommy Harrison, County Agent, 270.338.3124.
- 16. Muhlenberg County 4-H** **\$ 5,000**
 To support the Food for Kids Backpack Program. Contact: Karen Mathis, project leader, 270.543.4379.



- 17. Muhlenberg County Extension Service – Family & Consumer Service \$ 500**
 To help fund the Muhlenberg County Day of Play Project. Contact: Laura Holt, family & consumer agent, 270.338.3124.
- 18. Muhlenberg County Extension Service – Family & Consumer Service \$ 500**
 To support the Phonebook Recycling Project. Contact: Laura Holt, family & consumer agent, 270.338.3124.
- 19. Muhlenberg County Extension Service – Family & Consumer Service \$ 500**
 To promote family physical activity on “Second Sunday.” Contact: Laura Holt, family & consumer agent, 270.338.3124.
- 20. Muhlenberg County Literacy Council \$ 3,000**
 To help pay the fee charged for GED equivalency testing for 100 students. Contact: Patricia Sweatt, 270.338.5939.
- 21. Muhlenberg County Opportunity Center \$50,000**
 To fund a renovation and new roof for the Client Work Area . Contact: Peggy Gossett, coordinator, 270.338.5970.
- 22. Muhlenberg North Middle School \$ 2,500**
 To sponsor participation in the National Beta Club Competition. Contact: Jessica Ingram, sponsor, 270.338.3550
- 23. Muhlenberg South Elementary School \$14,737**
 To support After-School Clubs and a Community Learning Center. Contact: Kim Meadows, coordinator, 270.476.2204.
- 24. Muhlenberg South Middle School \$ 7,203**
 To establish an outdoor classroom, Landscape for Learning. Contact: Patricia Martin, curriculum specialist, 270.338.4650.
- 25. Pathway of Hope, a Pregnancy Resource Center \$15,000**
 To help fund a new parent preparedness program, Earn While You Learn. Contact: Diana Anderson, director, 270.377.0045.
- 26. Pennyroyal Center \$50,000**
 To start an Adolescent Intensive Outpatient Program for Muhlenberg County youth. Contact: Sabrina Grubbs, 270.226.2205.
- 27. Pennyroyal Center \$34,906**
 To fund the Muhlenberg County Alliance for Meth Prevention. Contact: Paula Brown, specialist, 270.338.5211.
- 28. Second Baptist Church \$23,000**
 To purchase and install a generator for a community Emergency Shelter. Contact: Dr. Ray England, pastor, 270.338.6160.
- 29. STAND (Students Teaching About Narcotics Dangers) \$16,370**
 To expand the organization’s substance abuse prevention efforts. Contact: Tommy Harrison, County Agent, 270.338.3124.
- 30. UK Center for Rural Health/Madisonville \$ 3,772**
 To publish county resource guides for citizens and organizations. Contact: Natalie Begley, coordinator, 270.824.3436.



TASK FORCE BACKGROUND

In addition to the \$500,000 being awarded for Community Grants, this year, the Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation reserved \$1 million for grants in the areas of Economic Development and Youth Services, the top two priority areas of community need identified by the 2008 Muhlenberg County Needs Assessment Study. The first grant from this million-dollar pool was a \$500,000 grant to the Muhlenberg County School Board awarded in May 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.

To accomplish this goal of awarding \$1 million for grants in the areas of Economic Development and Youth Services, while maintaining the Foundation's commitment to a high level of the community involvement begun by the Needs Assessment, the Foundation's Board of Directors called together a Task Force of local representatives. The individuals selected to serve on the Task Force are Gary Carver, Lanie Gardner, Elizabeth "E.A." Gentry, Mike Mercer, and Peggy Williams. The function of the Task Force is to provide guidance to the Foundation's Board of Directors for its major grantmaking. The Task Force will develop a plan to address these needs by exploring local resources and opportunities, then deciding which projects could be most effective.

To assist them in their efforts, the Task Force has appointed sub-committees, one to focus on economic development and one to focus on youth services. The economic development committee includes health care administrator Roger Arbuckle, educator Randy McCarty, businessmen Clarence Brewer, Jr., Lee Fauntleroy, and Kevin Scully, as well as Industrial Recruiter Kim Logsdon, and County Judge Executive Rick Newman, and Kevin Scully. The Youth Services committee includes representatives from Muhlenberg County Schools: Sandy Alward, Kara Bletzing, Rick Carver and Gail Johnson in addition to community representatives Alexis Albach, Pastor Kevin Brown and Chris Dennis. The committee is also proud to have the County's youth represented by Muhlenberg County High School seniors and STAND members Jessica Anderson, Johnny Bilbro, Lauren Sparks, and Elizabeth Tarter.

In the fall, the Task Force will make its final recommendations for the remaining \$500,000 to the Foundation's Board of Directors after looking at the overall needs and priorities of the County as they pertain to Economic Development and Youth Services. In addition, the Task Force will develop a five-year road map of how best to address the areas of Economic Development and Youth Services in Muhlenberg County.

About the Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation

The Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation was established by the Felix E. Martin, Jr. Trust in 2007. The Foundation is structured as a supporting organization of The Community Foundation of Louisville. Guided by its own board of directors, the Foundation's role is to carry out the wishes of the late Felix E. Martin, Jr., to address the educational, civic and cultural needs of Muhlenberg County residents. For more details about the foundation, call (270) 977-9194 or visit its website at www.FelixMartinFoundation.org.

About The Community Foundation of Louisville

The Community Foundation is a tax-exempt, public charity with \$240 million in assets held in charitable funds for more than 1,100 donors. Grants from these funds support a wide range of cultural, educational and humanitarian programs according to each donor's specifications. The foundation has five affiliate foundations in Kentucky—in Daviess, Hardin, Nelson and Shelby Counties, and in a four-county area around Danville, known as the Wilderness Trace Community Foundation. For details about the foundation's services, call (502) 585-4649 or visit www.CFLouisville.org.