



News Release

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Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation Appoints Local Task Force to Explore Economic Development & Youth Services

Louisville, KY (March 20, 2009) – By the end of 2009, the Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation plans to award \$1 million in grants for 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. To accomplish this goal and maintain the Foundation's commitment to a high level of the community involvement begun by the Needs Assessment, the Foundation's Board of Directors has 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. Other committees may be appointed by the Task Force to assist them in their efforts.

In the Fall, the Task Force will make its final recommendations 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. 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.

The Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation plans to award a total of \$1.5 million in grants to Muhlenberg County in 2009. In addition to the \$1 million available for Economic Development and Youth Services, \$500,000 is currently available in the initial open grants application period to achieve Mr. Martin's vision of serving the educational, civic and cultural needs of the

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Muhlenberg County. Grant applications must be received by or postmarked no later than Wednesday, April 1, 2009. The Foundation's Board of Directors will evaluate all applications and announce grant recipients in June.

To learn more about the Foundation and its grantmaking, visit the Foundation's website, www.FelixMartinFoundation.org or call the Foundation's Program Officer, Lindsey Ransdell, at (270) 977-9194.

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About the Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation

The Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation was established with a \$50 million gift from 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.

The distribution of grants made possible by Mr. Martin's will be part of a multiple-stage process that began in 2008 with the most in-depth needs assessment study ever undertaken in Muhlenberg County. More than 1,000 residents were interviewed about what mattered most to them and how best to address these issues. Residents identified four areas of need: (1) Economic development; (2) Youth Services; (3) Substance Abuse Services and (4) Health and Human Services. The two areas that stood out as the greatest priorities were economic development and youth services.

First, a total of \$500,000 will be available in the initial open grants application period to achieve Mr. Martin's vision of serving the educational, civic and cultural needs of the community. Grants will be made at the level of \$50,000 or less and applications are available for submission any time up until Wednesday April 1. To learn more or complete an application, visit www.FelixMartinFoundation.org. The Foundation will evaluate all applications, select those that will receive an award and announce grant recipients in June. All approved applications will directly benefit Muhlenberg County.

Once this first part of the process is well under way, more collaborative work will be required to set priorities and figure out the best way to achieve the goals. Since the needs assessment study showed that economic development and youth services were the two greatest needs, a Task Force has been assembled to explore these two areas and make recommendations to the Board. Approximately \$1 million to be allocated to collaborative projects in these two areas during the next year.

**For more details about the Foundation,
call (270) 977-9194 or visit its web site at: www.FelixMartinFoundation.org.**