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For Immediate Release

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF WESTERN PA AND EASTERN OH MAKES IT EASY TO GIVE BACK

SHARON, Pa. (Dec. 12, 2017)— The Community Foundation of Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio has spent the year of 2017 doing what the organization does best: serving the community.

Thus far in 2017, funds within the Community Foundation have granted in excess of \$5 million to charitable initiatives throughout our region. "Our community is blessed with some of the most generous people in our country, and it is the Community Foundation's privilege to work with these individuals on a daily basis to support charitable causes that they hold dear to their heart" said Kyle English, the Community Foundation's Executive Director.

Included in these grants is over \$700,000 in scholarship money that was awarded to local students to help them pay for their college education. This year marked the first year that students could apply for scholarships on the Community Foundation's website. After receiving 3,980 applications through the new software, over 350 students residing in ten different counties throughout Ohio and Pennsylvania were able to count on the support of generous donors who wanted to invest in their futures.

The Community Foundation also held its annual donor thank you dinner on October 26th, 2017. Ron Anderson, founder of Universal Development, was honored with the James E. Winner Jr. Humanitarian Award for his decades of service to the community. Over the years, the Anderson Family Foundation has supported local charities with the belief that stable homes have a better chance of creating happy, healthy children.

"Ron's actions have allowed others to live better, to learn better, to take better care of their children and to have hope," explained Karen Winner Sed, President of the Community Foundation, regarding why Mr. Anderson was nominated to receive the award.

The Community Foundation has received over \$11.5 million in donations and fundraising revenue thus far in 2017. As the year comes to a close, many donors are taking advantage of the fact that they can receive a tax deduction by making a donation of either cash or appreciated stock to funds within the foundation.

As for what is on the horizon in 2018, the Community Foundation has invested in a new accounting system that will allow donors to view fund information and grant money to local charities directly through the Foundation's website, which will make it even easier to give to the community.

"It is our mission to ensure that anybody in the community who would like to give back is able to do so. The Community Foundation, throughout our history, has always adhered to the guiding principle that anyone can be a philanthropist" added Kyle English.

Founded in 1981, the Community Foundation of Western PA & Eastern OH is comprised of 6 affiliate foundations: the Lawrence Community Foundation, the Grove City Foundation, the Northern Mercer County Community Foundation, the Trumbull County Community Foundation, the Shenango Valley Foundation, and the Northern Trumbull County Community Foundation. As a whole, the Community Foundation has over 700 funds which contain upwards of \$90 million.