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US Wind Force Foundation Names Grant Recipients

\$25,000 Goes to Wind Farm Community Non-Profits

Keyser, WV – April 11, 2013 - The US Wind Force Foundation, Inc. today announced the recipients of the second round of grants from its Community Benefit Fund associated with the Pinnacle Wind Farm at NewPage. Sixteen grants ranging from \$250 to \$3,000 and totaling \$25,000 were allocated to local projects.

Twenty-two grant applications were received and evaluated by a local Allocation Committee made up of eight members of the community. The Allocation Committee is chaired by Keyser resident Gary Wilson. "I appreciate the continued commitment and the amount of effort the Allocation Committee exerted in its review of the grant applications. They did an outstanding job. We appreciate that US Wind Force designed a process for allocating grant money that allowed for local decision-making," said Wilson.

The Directors and Officers of the US Wind Force Foundation extend a special thank you to the members of the Allocation Committee; Gary Wilson, Chairman, Terry Stephens, Vice Chairman, Polly Hightower, Secretary, Tammy Ashby, Bill Boggs, Bill Braithwaite, Patsy Koontz and Jennie Shaffer. Your service to the Foundation and your community is greatly appreciated.

The grant recipients, in alphabetical order, are as follows:

Grant Recipient	Grant Amount	Purpose
Burlington VFD	\$1,500	Purchase of rescue equipment - struts
City of Keyser	\$3,000	Matching funds for playground structure
City of Piedmont	\$1,875	Construction of pool pavilion
Elk District VFD (Challenge Hunt Fund)	\$500	Hunting blinds at JR Lake for physically challenged
Elk Garden School PTO	\$2,500	Construction of 1/4 mile walking track
Faith in Action (Food Pantry)	\$2,000	Food for distribution to needy families
Fort Ashby VFW Post 6667	\$500	Construction of youth baseball field
Fountain Gospel Chapel (Back to School Bash)	\$250	Book bags for needy children
Friends of Jennings Randolph Lake, Inc.	\$500	Camp store improvements
Keyser VFD	\$1,500	Purchase of thermal imager and other equipment
Mineral County BOE (Campaign for KHS)	\$1,500	Payment of lend/lease agreement with MC BoE
Mineral County Family Resource Network	\$2,000	Support of 3 Energy Express sites
Mineral County Historical Foundation, Inc.	\$2,500	Restoration work at Carskadon Mansion
New Creek Primary School	\$500	Picnic tables for outdoor instruction pavilion
NSDAR Fort Ashby Chapter 4057	\$2,500	Restoration work at 1755 Ashby's Fort Museum
Warm the Children Program	\$1,875	New winter clothing to needy children

Two of the 16 projects to receive grants, the 1755 Ashby's Fort Museum and the Carskadon Mansion, qualified as historic preservation projects and the grant amounts for these projects, totaling \$5,000, will be funded from monies earmarked specifically for historic preservation projects. The work will be accomplished in coordination with the West Virginia Historic Preservation Office.

"We are pleased to see these resources going to worthy community projects. The people of Mineral County will continue to see the benefits of this voluntary stream of funding for many years to come," said Jim Cookman, President of US Wind Force Foundation Inc.

Funding for the Foundation's Community Benefit Fund comes from Pinnacle Wind, LLC, owner, and operator of the Pinnacle Wind Farm at NewPage. The Pinnacle project was jointly developed by US Wind Force and Edison Mission Energy. The project agreed to provide \$50,000 to the Community Benefit Fund when the project reached commercial operation status in early 2012 and an additional \$20,000 each year for the life of the project. Another \$10,000 in funding was earmarked for historic preservation projects. Of the \$10,000 earmarked for historic preservation projects, \$5,000 was granted to the Mineral County Historical Foundation, Inc. during the 2011 grant cycle to fund certain improvements to the Carskadon Mansion, leaving the balance of \$5,000 to be distributed for similar worthy projects during the 2012 grant cycle process.

Brad Christopher, site manager of the wind farm for Edison Mission Energy, said, "We are extremely pleased to be part of this community. It's nice to know that we can be of help to such worthy projects".

“It is really gratifying to see the community continuing to benefit from hosting a wind farm,” noted Janice LaRue, President, Mineral County Commissioners.

About US Wind Force Foundation, Inc.

US Wind Force Foundation, Inc., a West Virginia nonprofit corporation, is organized exclusively for charitable purposes. Its primary purpose is to enhance the community by providing funding for projects related to education, historic preservation, public safety, economic development, public recreation, parks, playgrounds, athletic facilities, and other similar activities. It will provide funding to select not-for-profit community organizations, and communities, consistent with its charter. To learn more about the US Wind Force Foundation, Inc., visit the website www.uswff.org.

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