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## **[U.S. Wind Force Foundation funds five local projects](#)**

### **Donations associated with Pinnacle farm reaches \$100,000**

From Staff Reports [Cumberland Times-News](#)

KEYSER, W.Va. — Five local projects received grants from the U.S. Wind Force Foundation Inc. Community Benefit Fund associated with the Pinnacle Wind Farm at NewPage. Five grants ranging from \$250 to \$6,000 and totaling \$12,250 were allocated to local projects, bringing the three-year total of donations from the wind farm to \$100,000, according to Jim Cookman, president of U.S. Wind Force Foundation.

“We are pleased to see these resources going to worthy community projects, but wish we had more applications this year,” said Cookman. “The Allocation Committee decided to hold some of this year’s grant money for future distribution.”

The grant recipients are as follows: \$6,000 to the Developmental Center & Workshop Inc. for the construction of a greenhouse; \$2,000 each to Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College for lab equipment for a wind tech program, Faith in Action Inc. for computer hardware for the food pantry and the Mineral County Family Resource Network for support of three Energy Express sites; and \$250 to the Mountain Top Crisis Pregnancy Center Inc. for a satellite center.

The grant applications were evaluated by a local Allocation Committee made up of seven members of the community.

“I appreciate the continued commitment and the amount of effort the Allocation Committee exerted in its review of the grant applications,” said Keyser resident Terry Stephens, who is chairman of the committee. “They did an outstanding job. We appreciate that the developers of the Pinnacle wind farm designed a process for allocating grant money that allowed for local decision-making.”

Funding for the program comes from Pinnacle Wind, LLC, owner and operator of the Pinnacle Wind Farm at NewPage. The Pinnacle project was jointly developed by U.S. Wind Force and Edison Mission Energy.

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

Pinnacle 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.

“It is really gratifying to see the community continuing to benefit from hosting a wind farm,” said Janice LaRue, Mineral County Commission president.

The directors and officers of the U.S. Wind Force Foundation extended a special thank you to Allocation Committee members Stephens; Patsy Koontz, vice chair; Polly Hightower, secretary; Tammy Ashby; Bill Boggs; Bill Braithwaite; and Jennie Shaffer.

“We also want to remember Gary Wilson, the previous committee chairman, for his leadership and direction,” stated the directors and officers of the U.S. Wind Force Foundation. “He will be sorely missed.”

Wilson died in November.