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## **US Wind Force Foundation Names Grant Recipients**

*\$55,000 Goes to Wind Farm Community Non-Profits*

**Keyser, WV – January 27, 2012** - The US Wind Force Foundation, Inc. today announced the recipients of the first round of grants from its Community Benefit Fund associated with the Pinnacle Wind Farm at NewPage. Twenty grants ranging from \$500 to \$5000 and totaling \$55,000 were allocated to local projects.

Thirty-nine grant applications were received and evaluated by a local allocation committee made up of nine distinguished members of the community. The Allocation Committee is chaired by Keyser resident Gary Wilson. "I appreciate the amount of effort the Allocation Committee put into the review of grant applications. They did an excellent job. We appreciate that US Wind Force designed a process for allocating grant money that allowed for local decision-making," said Wilson, the former chairman of the Mineral County United Way.

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

### **Community Benefit Fund Allocation Committee**

1. Gary Wilson, Chairman
2. Terry Stephens, Vice Chairman
3. Polly Hightower, Secretary
4. Tammy Ashby
5. Bill Boggs
6. Bill Braithwaite
7. Patsy Koontz
8. Barb Linthicum
9. Jennie Shaffer

Grant Recipient	Grant Amount	Purpose
Campaign for Keyser High School	\$3,000	Payment of lend/lease agreement with MC BoE
Developmental Center & Workshop, Inc.	\$3,500	Purchase of high volume shredding machine
Eastern WV Community and Technical College	\$1,200	Scholarship to Mineral County resident
Elk District Ambulance Service	\$3,000	Equipment/supplies for building repairs
Elk District VFD (Challenge Hunt Fund)	\$750	Hunting blinds at JR Lake for physically challenged
Elk District Volunteer Fire Company	\$5,000	New turnout gear and rescue equipment
Elk Garden School PTO	\$5,000	Installation of 1/4 mile walking track
Food for Thought	\$2,000	Food for distribution to needy students
Fort Ashby Public Library	\$1,000	Repair damage to library roof
Fountain Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.	\$2,000	Equipment to outfit a new ambulance
Friends of Jennings Randolph Lake, Inc.	\$750	Handicapped accessible gazebo at Kalbaugh Pond
Keyser Emergency Medical Service	\$3,000	Purchase of ambulance cots
McNeill's Rangers, Inc. (Apple Alley Players)	\$3,000	Concrete project at the amphitheater
Mineral County 4-H Leaders Association	\$5,000	Material/labor for bath houses at Camp Minco
Mineral County Family Resource Network	\$2,000	Support of 3 Energy Express sites
Mineral County Historical Foundation, Inc.	\$5,000	Restoration work at Carskadon Mansion
New Creek Primary School	\$500	Picnic tables & installation of pavilion concrete
Piedmont Library	\$5,000	Library roof replacement
Town of Elk Garden	\$2,300	Construction of town park
Warm the Children	\$2,000	New winter clothing to needy children

“We are glad to see this money going to worthy community organizations. The people of Mineral County will 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 Edison Mission Energy (EME), owner and operator of Pinnacle, which was jointly developed by EME and US Wind Force. The Pinnacle project agreed to provide \$50,000 to the Community Benefit Fund when the project reached commercial operation status, a two-part process that began in December and was completed on January 13<sup>th</sup>, and an additional \$20,000 each year for the life of the project. Another \$10,000 in funding was earmarked for historic preservation projects. The \$5,000 grant made to Mineral County Historical Foundation, Inc., was made from the historic preservation funds, and is contingent on the recipient satisfying certain requirements of the WV State Historic Preservation Office. A balance of \$5,000 remains in that account for future distribution.

EME's representative to the Foundation Board is Susan Olavarria, the company's director of community involvement in the 14 states in which EME does business. "Support for local organizations is core to how EME companies do business across the country, and we are pleased to

begin our operations in Mineral County by supporting these groups," said Olavarria. "This kind of support is an important part of an overall community relations program that we will be working to develop further with local residents. We take our corporate citizenship seriously and understand that it requires ongoing dialogue with the community on a number of fronts."

"We welcome Edison Mission Energy to Mineral County, salute its commitment to the community, and look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship. It is really gratifying to see benefits that go well beyond jobs and tax revenue. It turns out that there are other benefits that come from hosting a wind farm like Pinnacle," noted Cindy Pyles, 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](http://www.uswff.org).

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