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US Wind Force Foundation Names Grant Recipients

Pinnacle Wind Farm Donations Top \$132,900!

Keyser, WV – December 23, 2015 - The US Wind Force Foundation, Inc. today announced the recipients of the fifth round of grants from its Community Benefit Fund associated with the Pinnacle Wind Farm at NewPage. Twelve grants ranging from \$500 to \$3,400 and totaling \$18,900 were allocated to local projects, bringing the five-year total of donations from the wind farm to \$132,900.

Thirty-two completed grant applications were received and evaluated by a local Allocation Committee made up of eight members of the community. The committee is chaired by Keyser resident Terry Stephens. “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 the developers of the Pinnacle wind farm designed a process for allocating grant money that allowed for local decision-making,” said Stephens.

The 2015 grant recipients are as follows:

2015 Grants		
Applicant	Grant Amount	Purpose
Aging & Family Services of Mineral County	\$1,500	Purchase new commercial freezer
Burlington United Methodist Family Services	\$500	Purchase formula and diapers
Burlington VFD	\$2,000	Purchase rescue equipment
Eastern WV Community and Technical College	\$3,400	Purchase hydraulics trainer

Elk District VFD (Challenged Hunt)	\$1,000	Purchase portable blinds for challenged hunters
Elk District VFD	\$1,000	Purchase rescue equipment
Fire Escape Community, Inc.	\$1,000	Remodel Teen Center
Keyser Youth Baseball	\$2,500	Install ball field at Mill Meadow
Keyser-Mineral County Library Association	\$500	Purchase digital sign
Mineral County Family Resource Network	\$2,500	Purchase food and program costs of Energy Express program
Mineral County Historical Foundation	\$1,000	Continued repairs to Carskadon Mansion
WV Foundation, Inc.	\$2,500	Repairs/updates to the Dining Hall
Total	\$18,900	

The Directors and Officers of the US Wind Force Foundation extend a special thank you to the members of the Allocation Committee: Terry Stephens, Chairman; Patsy Koontz, Vice Chair; Polly Hightower, Secretary; Bill Boggs, Bill Braithwaite, Cindy Pyles, Cliff Wendricks, and Carol Wilson. Their service to the Foundation and their community is greatly appreciated.

“We are pleased to see these resources going to worthy community projects and happy that we had more applications this year” 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. The Pinnacle project was developed by US Wind Force and is currently owned by NRG. The project company agreed to finance the Community Benefit Fund when the project reached commercial operation status in early 2012 and each year for the life of the project.

Doug Vance, site manager of the wind farm for the parent company NRG, 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”.

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.