

December 22, 2009
Media Release for the Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers
Contact: Marilyn Bok, CEO, 570-888-4759
For Immediate Release

**EITC Grants Awarded by
Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers**

The Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers (CFTT) Board of Directors announced the awarding of grants from two different EITC programs. The CFTT has been accepted into the State of Pennsylvania's Department of Community & Economic Development Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program under two of its programs: the EITC Scholarship Program and the Educational Improvement Program.

As an approved scholarship organization CFTT has been accepting donations from local businesses who wish to obtain state tax credits to distribute to families in the Pennsylvania counties served by the CFTT. Donations from First Citizens National Bank of Mansfield have enabled scholarships to be given to twenty families to offset some of the tuition payment for sending their children to private schools. Five private schools in Bradford and Tioga County had families who benefitted from this program.

In addition, as an approved educational improvement organization CFTT is able to also award grants to teachers in Bradford, Sullivan, and Tioga counties for innovative curriculum enhance ideas. So far the CFTT awarded two grants to Athens Area School District teachers whose proposed ideas have been accepted by the State. They are Michael Panek who is a Harlan Rowe Junior High School teacher to purchase music for his Two-Day Choral Program and Rita O'Hara and Audrielle Lynch Elementary School learning support teacher for her Using Technology to Improve Reading Skills of Struggling Students Program.

The Chair of the CFTT Board of Directors stated, "The State of Pennsylvania's EITC Program has allowed the CFTT to assist families and teachers in the Northern Tier thanks to the generosity of First Citizens National Bank. I would like to encourage more school districts and teachers to participate in this program. There are still funds available for innovative ideas from teachers and the CFTT will be soliciting additional proposals after the first of the year."

The Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers (CFTT) is a non-profit public foundation established in 2002 by a diverse group of local leaders and residents. The Foundation encourages community philanthropy to enhance the quality of life for those who reside in Bradford, Potter, Sullivan and Tioga Counties in Pennsylvania and Tioga County in New York State. It establishes endowment funds for charitable purposes from contributions of citizens, corporations, other foundations, charitable organizations and government agencies. As the endowment funds grow, it uses the interest earned on these funds to make grants to organizations or projects that serve identified community needs.

If you have an interest in learning more about the CFTT or in establishing a fund, you can contact the organization by any of these methods: telephone - 570-888-4759; fax - 570-888-2179; email - cftt@stny.rr.com ; or visit the website - www.twintierscf.org .