July 29, 2008
Media Release for the Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers
Contact: Marilyn Bok, Board Chair, 570-888-4759
For Immediate Release

Third Curriculum Improvement Grant Awarded by Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers

At the recommendation of the Bradford County Advisory Board the Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers (CFTT) Board of Directors awarded a $500 curriculum improvement grant to Tracy Wright, a Special Education teacher for BLaST IU 17. The CFTT solicited proposals from teachers in Bradford County who had an idea on how to improve their present curriculum. The Board looked for proposals that would have the greatest positive long-term impact possible on the youth of Bradford County.

Ms. Wright prior to teaching was a social worker who worked with children who have emotional needs greater than the schools can accommodate. Ms Wright stated, "Through both of these occupations, I have found a common thread. There is a need for character development in children. Our children may or may not be able to pass standardized tests but too many are not able to exemplify character traits that will make them contributing members of a community someday."

She will use the grant funds to implement an intensive character education program in her classroom initially and then school/community-wide. In her classroom alone, she will potentially be impacting every school district in two counties (Bradford & Sullivan). Once she is able to demonstrate success and confidence, she will share her lessons, materials and knowledge with other teachers through trainings or informal communications.

With the grant funds she will attend a seminar called, Character Counts, a three day training which will cetify her as a trainer in character education. She feels that character education may prevent violence in our schools, curb depression among youth, and suppress bullying on the playgrounds.

In order to receive these funds both the teacher and the school board agreed to place the enhanced curriculum on the CFTT website so it could be shared with other teachers. In addition, other deserving proposals that the CFTT was unable to fund were being funded by other county agencies.

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, 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 - 570-888-4759; email - *cftt@stny.rr.com* ; or visit the website - www.twintierscf.org .

CFTT is dedicated to making a difference locally "for good – for ever™"