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Media Release for the Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers

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For Immediate Release

Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers Celebrates Sixth Anniversary

The Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers (CFTT) recently celebrated its sixth annual meeting at the Towanda Country Club. Marilyn Bok, outgoing Board Chair said, "This has been an exciting year for the CFTT. Even in hard economic times we have managed to double in assets. When the CFTT began in 2002 it could only dream about this day." The theme chosen for the meeting and its annual report is "Connecting People who Care with Causes that Matter."

During 2008 the Foundation the amount of grant funds available tripled with the Foundation having \$22,000 available for grants. The CFTT now has twenty-seven (27) funds under management and is operating out of new office space in downtown Sayre. In line with its mission to grow philanthropy in the region the CFTT held its first workshop for non-profits on grant writing.

One of the highlights of the meeting was a presentation by Tracy Wright, special education teacher at BLaST I.U. 17. She was a 2007 grant recipient. She enthusiastically spoke about how she used her \$500 grant from the Bradford County Unrestricted Fund to be trained and certified as a character education teacher. She spoke about the positive effects this has had on her students and offered to help other teachers institute these methods in their classrooms.

William Ransom, incoming CFTT Board announced the initiation of a new award called "Partners in Philanthropy" that is being instituted by the CFTT. He stated, "This award will be given each year to the professional advisors who have worked to further philanthropy in our communities by introducing clients to the foundation. The CFTT Board will recognize and honor these professional advisors who have helped the foundation grow by bringing new funds to us."

Bok introduced the newest members of the Visionary Society: Elizabeth Alamo, Donald & Linda Jayne, Katherine Kerrigan Estate and the Lackawanna Bar Association. Membership in the society is restricted to those who have given \$5,000 or more to the CFTT. There are now twenty-three members of the society.

The members of the four County Advisory Board were introduced by their Chairs and thanked for their work. They assist the foundation's Board in grant selection, public relations and fundraising. Representing Bradford County- JoAnne Kizer Conklin, Mike Lovegreen, Jim Parks, Jody Place, Bill Ransom (Chair), Howard Smith, Kathy Smith, Susan Storch, and Bob Veleker; representing Sullivan County-Norton A. Borges Jr., Frank Comfort, Dora McCarty, Anastasia McMahan-Farrell (Chair), Newt Pendleton, Bob Raff, and Tom Shannon; representing Tioga County, PA-Deb Bastian, Lowell Coolidge (Chair), Cheryl Edgcomb, Tom Freeman, Fred LaVancher, Leo Parchesky, Eugene Seelye, and Susan Sweet; and representing Tioga County, NY-Marty Borko (Chair), Sue Brumbaugh, Linda Jayne, Elaine Jardine, Richard Friend and Dot Richter,.

The Finance/Investment Committee charged with overseeing the investment of the endowment funds and general financial matters of the foundation consists of Larry Alderson, Frank Comfort, B. John Gee, Joe Landy, Leo Parchesky (Chair), Joseph Picco, and Bill Ransom. Leo Parchesky gave a summary of the work of the committee and its success in 2008.

In closing Marilyn Bok made the announcement the CFTT is a beneficiary of the Floyd Hooker Estate for the benefit of the children of Tioga County, NY. Mr. Hooker who died in 2007 had won the New York State Lottery in 1999 and in his will had left thirty-percent of his estate for a foundation to benefit the children of Tioga County. Over a seventeen year period the Foundation will receive close to \$3.2 million with yearly payments of over \$180,000. A Donor Advised fund has been established at the CFTT with these funds.

The Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers (CFTT) is a non-profit public charity established to encourage community philanthropy in order 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. The mission of the CFTT is to continuously improve the present and future quality of life in the counties served by the Foundation. The CFTT establishes endowment funds for charitable purposes from contributions of companies, individual citizens, other foundations, other charitable organizations and government agencies. As the endowment funds grow, the interest earned on these funds is returned to the community in the form of grants.

To learn more about the CFTT or to establish a fund you can contact the organization by any of these methods: telephone - 570-888-4759; fax - 570-888-0814; email – cftt@stny.rr.com ; or visit the website - www.twintierscf.org.

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