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Community Foundations Celebrate 100th Anniversary in 2014

Harrisburg, PA, November 12, 2013 – In 1913, Frederick Goff, the president of the Cleveland Trust Company, was facing a crossroads. Although his company had successfully managed several endowment funds and charitable trusts, choosing the trusts' beneficiaries was proving to be a challenge. The endowments were also antiquated in scope, with many stipulating policies that were no longer pertinent. One funded watering troughs for horses – a need when it was created in the 19th century, but irrelevant in the age of the automobile. Another, one of a more serious nature, dictated that its income could not be used for women or ethnic or religious minorities. Goff knew something had to change.

He pooled his influence and his own considerable wealth to form the world's first community foundation, an organization dedicated to facilitating charitable efforts within the region. His dream was to yoke the resources of Cleveland's philanthropists and leaders into a single, personal trust that would continually benefit the community, even after they were gone.

On Jan. 2, 1914, his dream was realized in the form of The Cleveland Foundation. Soon thereafter, its members began inspiring not only the residents of Cleveland, but those around the nation and then the world, to mobilize charitable missions in their communities. By 1919, community foundations had taken root in Chicago, Boston, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and Buffalo, N.Y. Projects advancing civic goods flourished, and Goff's former problems of inefficiency and scope were dissipating. His vision for a "community trust," had not only come to fruition; it had surpassed expectations.

Today, "more than 700 community foundations in the United States collectively manage more than \$48 billion in assets and distribute some \$4.5 billion a year to community needs," according to The Cleveland Foundation, the 4th largest such group in the nation. The Cleveland Foundation also reported that there are now 1,700 community foundations worldwide.

One of those foundations, The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC), continues Goff's initial vision here in south central Pennsylvania. Established in 1920 as The Greater Harrisburg Foundation, TFEC is slightly younger – it will be turning 94 next year – than The Cleveland Foundation, but its mission shares similar tones of helping donors advance their charitable goals and improve the health of their communities. It was founded by Donald McCormick, the then president of Dauphin Deposit Bank. Like Goff, McCormick foresaw the impact a community foundation could have on a prospering society. Unlike Goff's foundation, however, progress was slower to foment.

The next 60 years saw incremental growth, with assets rising only to about \$300,000 by 1980. TFEC's governing body devised a plan to ensure future relevancy of the organization. The first staff person was hired. A new strategy was implemented. Results soon followed.

Over the next two decades, charitable assets would grow by tenfold twice. Last year, TFEC's charitable assets eclipsed \$63 million, the highest in its almost 94-year history.

"The progress we've made as a community foundation is a testament to our mission and the leaders who have carried out that mission," said Janice Black, President and CEO of TFEC. "Over the years, we've introduced new services and strategies that have helped us continue to grow and serve our communities."

For more information about TFEC, please visit www.tfec.org.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION FOR ENHANCING COMMUNITIES

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) is a community foundation which aims to stimulate philanthropy and enhance the quality of life in the community through accumulating, managing, and disbursing financial assets while serving as a catalyst and neutral convener to meet a wide range of community needs in the south central Pennsylvania counties of Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon, and Perry, and also in the Dillsburg area. Regional foundations of TFEC include the Greater Harrisburg Foundation, the Franklin County Foundation, the Mechanicsburg Area Foundation, the Perry County Community Foundation, the Camp Hill Community Foundation, and the Dillsburg Area Foundation. For more information on TFEC, please visit www.tfec.org.

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