

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2006

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Dana Heiman, Vice President for
Development & Communications
Brandywine Health Foundation
610-380-9080 x102

**Brandywine Health Foundation Announces First FY07 Grants:
Community Dental Awarded \$225,000**

COATESVILLE - The Brandywine Health Foundation today announced grants totaling \$301,700, awarded at its Board of Directors' meeting last night. These grants bring the Foundation's total giving since it started awarding grants in 2002 to over \$3.6 million.

Topping the September Grant List was a one year grant of \$225,000 to Chester County Community Dental, located at 13th and Olive Streets in Coatesville. Since it opened just over one year ago in July, 2005, Community Dental's expert staff of dentists and hygienists have seen over 1,000 patients, and provided more than 2,500 area residents with oral health education. This year's focus is on continuing this upward trend, hiring a new Executive Director, developing a strategic plan for the future, and preparing to move into the new Brandywine Health & Housing Center in early 2008.

For the fourth year in a row, the Foundation unanimously approved a grant to the Maternal and Child Health Consortium for its Insurance Outreach Program. \$40,000 will assist the agency in its efforts to educate and enroll citizens in Medical Assistance, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and adultBasic, and will fund their role as coordinator of other agencies conducting enrollment activities like La Comunidad Hispana and Catholic Social Services.

(more)

Matching grants included a commitment of \$10,000 in each of the next four years for La Comunidad Hispana's "Workplace Wellness" program. The program was one of just 15 health improvement projects funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Local Initiative Funding Partners, with the condition that local funders like BHF come forward with the other half.

A second matching grant of \$10,000 was made to the University of Pittsburgh to launch the new Pennsylvania Medicaid Policy Center. Largely funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts with the support of local funders like BHF, the new Policy Center will study and provide information to health providers, funders, elected officials, and other members of the public interested in Medicaid, a crucial component of our health care system's financing structure.

The Foundation also elected to award \$5,000 to the Coatesville Area School District to support the new Family Center initiative at the South Brandywine Middle School, providing intensive support to high-risk children and their families so that their attendance and test scores improve, and behavioral problems are reduced.

Capacity Building grants were provided to two organizations: the Association of Fundraising Professionals was awarded \$1,700 to enable it to bring the Essentials of Fundraising training program to Chester County. Collaborating with the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation and the Chester County Community Foundation, the goal is to launch this five session program in the fall.

And, for a second year in a row, the Foundation voted to join the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation and Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation in offering the

(more)

Non-Profit Training Institute, a two-day intensive workshop in strategic planning, marketing and fundraising for teams of non-profit agency CEO's and board members. At a cost of \$10,000 from each foundation, the program will again be offered in March, 2007.

Since its founding in 2001, the Brandywine Health Foundation has provided over \$3.6 million in grants to non-profits improving the health of the residents of central and western Chester County. Its largest grant of \$1 million was to open a Federally Qualified Health Center in the City of Coatesville - ChesPenn Health Services. ChesPenn and Community Dental will be housed in the Foundation's planned Brandywine Health & Housing Center, set to begin construction in November, 2006.

For more information about the foundation, please visit www.brandywinefoundation.org.

###