

Letter to the Editor
January 29, 2009

To the Editor:

On behalf of the board of directors and staff of Schuylkill Area Community Foundation, I would like to express my appreciation for Billie Payne and her commitment to the Greater Pottsville Winter Carnival. On January 24, I had the honor to present the first annual Billie Payne Scholarship Award at the 2009 Winter Carnival Snowflake Pageant. Without the tireless efforts and dedication of Billie Payne, the scholarship presentation would not be possible.

The Community Foundation will administer this scholarship with great pride and appreciation for the exceptional young women who participate in the great county tradition of Winter Carnival. A committee consisting of Henry Nyce, Thomas Palamar, Jestyn Payne, Joseph Schlitzer and Robert Weaver established this fund in August 2008 as a way to recognize Billie's dedication to Schuylkill County. The scholarship committee contacted "Major Payne Donors" from throughout the county who contributed \$1,000 each to support the development of the scholarship fund, and with other significant donors throughout the community, the committee was very successful in creating this legacy for Billie Payne and the Greater Pottsville Area Winter Carnival.

The scholarship committee developed the following criteria for the award recipient:

- a). Was crowned the Greater Pottsville Winter Carnival Snowflake Princess provided that, if the Snowflake Princess does not meet the remainder of the criteria set forth in this paragraph, then the first runner-up shall be eligible, and if the first-runner up does not meet the remainder of the criteria set forth in this paragraph, then the second runner-up shall be eligible, as so on;
- b). Has maintained a 3.0 or better grade point average through her senior year of high school;
- c). Has demonstrated leadership skills;
- d). Has engaged in meaningful community service, and;
- e). Will attend a post-secondary educational institution in the summer or fall after her high school graduation.

As the 2008 Snowflake princess, Kelsey Fanelli met all the criteria set forth by the scholarship committee and Kelsey was awarded the first annual Billie Payne Scholarship Award in the amount of \$1,000 for her college education at the University of Pittsburgh where she will be pursuing a degree in Speech Pathology.

Working with the scholarship committee and the countless donors from the community has been a remarkable experience. Contributions to the Community Foundation are accepted in any amount and at any time throughout the year. All donations are tax-deductible. Please contact Eileen Kuperavage at Schuylkill Area Community Foundation for further information about the Billie Payne Scholarship Fund or any of our other funds.

Thank you all for your support and dedication to Schuylkill County.

Sincerely,
Eileen Kuperavage
Schuylkill Area Community Foundation
Executive Director