



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 27, 2009

Contact: Eileen Kuperavage  
(570) 624-7223

### **Nonprofit Organization Helps Man Gain His Independence**

On behalf of the Dr. Gail D. Mackey, VMD, DABVP Animal Fund, Schuylkill Area Community Foundation is honored to provide financial support for Freedom Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which delivered a new guide dog to Lenny McHugh who resides in Pottsville with his wife, Karen.

According to Mr. McHugh, he suffered surgical complications that resulted in additional physical problems and every well-known school in the country denied him the use of a dog guide. He learned from Freedom's website that they had matched dog guides with people with much more severe challenges and made contact with Eric Loori, founder and trainer. Since then he always referred to Freedom as the smallest school with the biggest heart.

"I will forever be grateful to Freedom for providing me with my independence" stated Len McHugh. "The dog guide that I am now training with is the third dog provided by Freedom. I met Indy, my first Freedom Guide Dog in 1998 and worked with him for about nine and a half years; the next dog, Micah, for almost two years. Unfortunately, Micah had some serious health issues that interfered with his work and a few weeks ago he crossed the rainbow bridge. I am looking toward a long working relationship with this new dog guide. I will always be thankful for Freedom Guide Dogs and Schuylkill Area Community Foundation, especially the Dr. Gail Mackey Animal Fund".

#### About the Community Foundation

The Schuylkill Area Community Foundation is a charitable nonprofit organization that works to strengthen philanthropy in Schuylkill County. Since 1967, area residents and organizations have been turning to the Community Foundation to make their philanthropic giving as effective as possible.

The foundation is a collection of philanthropic funds, each created by a different donor at a different time for a different purpose. Each fund retains its own identity, donor defined objectives and benefits from pooled investment with other funds.

For more information, please contact Eileen Kuperavage at Schuylkill Area Community Foundation office at (570) 624-7223.