



Lancaster County  
**Community  
Foundation**



## ***GEO Profile***

On August 23, ten Lancaster County nonprofit organizations began working to raise operating funds for a one-to-one match through the Lancaster County Community Foundation. In total, \$1 million of new money will flow to these organizations in 2010-2011.

The matches are available through the newly launched Nonprofit Sustainability Matching Fund at the community foundation. The focus of the fund is to support nonprofit organizations in Lancaster County, helping them to generate funds to enhance their long-term sustainability. This is the first time the foundation has provided operating support through a community foundation fund.

According to local nonprofit leaders, operating support is particularly difficult to raise. In a survey conducted by the foundation in December 2009, more than half of nonprofit respondents identified operating dollars as their highest funding need. The community foundation hopes to play a key role in helping promote the need for this type of support.

“The community foundation recognizes the tremendous benefits nonprofits bring to our community. We believe it is important for us to play a leadership role by supporting these vital organizations, enabling them to fulfill their missions for years to come. The influx of funding through the Nonprofit Sustainability Matching Fund Program goes directly towards supporting the missions of our partner organizations. The matching requirement will encourage others to do the same.” said Sam Bressi, president and CEO of the Lancaster County Community Foundation.

From a strong pool of nonprofit applicants, ten organizations were chosen to participate in the program, and each has approximately one year to reach their respective goals. The nonprofits selected benefit various community needs, ranging from the arts to homelessness. A diverse committee of community volunteers and community foundation staff reviewed the proposals and selected organizations based on specific criteria. In addition to a written proposal, each organization was asked to provide documentation in the areas of governance and operations.

The community foundation’s funding will assist grantees in expanding their reach in the community and enhancing long-term organizational sustainability. For more information about the Nonprofit Sustainability Matching Fund, visit [www.LancasterCountyFoundation.org](http://www.LancasterCountyFoundation.org).