

The Education Improvement Tax Credit ("EITC") Program!

This is one of the best programs to bring local businesses and the community together. The EITC program has made this partnership possible. Businesses, (*C Corps, Sub S Corps, and Banks*) can redirect their state tax dollars to the local community. Businesses that pay the following taxes, can benefit from the program.

- PA Net Income Tax
- PA Capital Stock Tax
- PA Bank and Trust Shares Tax
- PA Title Insurance Shares Tax
- PA Insurance Premiums Tax
- Mutual Thrift Institutions Tax.

The tax credit is a 75% credit against taxes owed. If, however, an eligible business provides a two year

commitment of equal donations, the credit is increased to 90% of taxes owed. Eligible companies may take up to \$100,000 in tax credits per year. A business can earmark its contribution for the benefit of a particular school.

The application process is a very simple, one page form. Businesses can download the application by going to www.inventpa.com or give us a call at (814) 226-4160 ext. 15, and we will mail it out. Also, we will assist any business in the approval process. We have an excellent relationship with the Department of Community & Economic Development.

3rd Party Administrator for Your School!

The Children's Scholarship Fund can be a 3rd Party Administrator for any school in Pennsylvania. We are currently working with 6 schools. We have the experience and the know-how to get your school up and running under the EITC Program and to involve local businesses in your area.

By us acting as your administrator, we eliminate all the paperwork and filing requirements with the State of PA and the IRS! Many schools have found this to be the economically way to go. Give us a call to discuss this in more detail.

The Children's Scholarship Fund



\$250,000 in Scholarships Awarded in 2001!

During 2001, the Children's Scholarship Fund awarded 251 scholarships to 178 families, totaling over \$250,000. These families are located in Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Jefferson, McKean and Venango Counties!

Contributions from businesses are being pledged for 2002. We are hopeful that we will be able to award more scholarships in 2002 for the 2002/2003 school year. The need is great in our area!

Al Lander, Co-Chairperson and a major business contributor to the

fund, said *"It's amazing the contributions from local businesses and how they have affected the local families. A quarter of a million dollars is a huge amount of money remaining in the local economy. This money would otherwise be sent off to Harrisburg."*

Milissa Bauer, Co-Chairperson remarked *"The Education Improvement Tax Credit Program ("EITC") was one of the best programs created under Governor Ridge's Administration. What better way for a business to have their*

tax dollars spent, than educating children in the local community. This was truly a winning strategy to get businesses and the community together."

The Children's Scholarship Fund was the first fund to apply and the first to be approved to accept businesses contributions. More information on the EITC program and how to participate are covered on page 4 of this newsletter.

The Children's Scholarship Fund

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Saint Michael's Says: "Hats off to all The Contributors!"



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An Education is the Greatest Gift that One can Give a Child!

The Children's Scholarship Fund Awarded Scholarships to 6 Schools in 2001!

Saint Michael's Catholic School located in Fryburg.

Founded in 1847, Saint Michael's School is the oldest school in the Catholic Diocese of Erie. St. Michael's is committed to developing their students spiritually, intellectually, morally, and socially.

Lori Cratty has been the Principal of the school for the past 2 years. In addition, to her duties as Principal, she also teaches Language Arts to the sixth grade class. St. Michael's has classes from kindergarten to 6th grade. Their current enrollment is 61 students. Each classroom has computers specifically for student use. The school also has a library and gymnasium. Lori Cratty remarked "That the Children's Scholarship Fund was a Godsend to many of their families this year."

Saint Joseph's Catholic School located in Lucinda.

Sister Monica has been the principal at St. Joseph's school since 1989. "We are dedicated to the education of our students" remarks Sister Monica.

There are 81 students attending the school, which has classes for Kindergarten to 6th grade. The school boasts a library and computer lab. The Children's Choir at the school is one of the best choirs in the area. Miss Wolbet, directs the singing of the choir. Due to the Children's Scholarship Fund, the school is looking for more student enrollment for next year.

Immaculate Conception Catholic School located in Clarion

Immaculate Conception School sits along Main Street in downtown Clarion. Donna Gaydash has been the school's principal for the past 4 years. The school is dedicated to the education of the children at IC School.

There are 12 full time faculty and staff members, including a Music instructor, a Spanish instructor, and a Computer Center with the latest technology available for children from kindergarten to 8th grade. Many of the teachers at IC have been recognized by National Organizations.

The enrollment at IC has increased 25% since the Children's Scholarship Fund was formed in early 1999. There are currently 156 students in Kindergarten to 8th grade.

Donna is one of the founding members of the Children's Scholarship Fund. Because of the fund, "We have a diversified student body, where many religions are well represented."

Venango Catholic High School Is located in Oil City

Venango Catholic High School is in Oil City. The school has 105 students in the 9th through 12th grade and 15 staff members. Father John Malthaner is in his third year as Headmaster. Venango Catholic offers many extracurricular activities to students in academics as well as sports.

Venango Catholic is pleased to be apart of the Children's Scholarship Fund. Father John was quoted as saying: "The Children's Scholarship Fund has really opened the door and provided opportunity for more families to seek and choose a Catholic education at the secondary level. For this, Venango Catholic is very grateful."

North Main Street Church of God located in Butler.

North Main Christian School in Butler is one of the schools The Children's Scholarship Fund has worked with as Third Party Administrators. Karen Milliken has been the Director at the school for the past five years. There are 100 students who attend in the preschool through the 7th grade.

Karen remarked "The Children's Scholarship Fund is a blessing to all of the families who applied and received scholarships. They are looking forward to working with the scholarship fund in the future."

The Learning Center located in Bradford

Ellen Mialky has been the Director at the Learning Center in Bradford since it was founded in 1984. Staff members work closely with each family to help teach the students social responsibilities and to function as a community. "The Children's Scholarship Fund has helped our school and has brought us children who otherwise would have never had the opportunity to be here. It's Fantastic!" says Ellen.

Enrollment at IC School has increased over 25% since the Children's Scholarship Fund became involved!

Many Thanks to Our Contributors!

Please Thank Them by Giving Your Support to Them!

Many businesses in our area contributed to the Children's Scholarship Fund. Without their contributions, we would not have been able to help the families in our local community. These businesses are shown in alphabetical order:

Car*Mate Trailers manufactures and sells cargo, utility, equipment, and dump trailers.

Clarion Animal Hospital, Inc. a Veterinary hospital providing health care to animals in Clarion and Punxsy.

Clarion Coach, Inc. builds custom coach interiors and leases luxury coach buses to the entertainment industry.

Clarion Fruit Co. distributes produce to the local area.

Commodore Homes is a builder of Affordable Modular Homes.

Farmers National Bank servicing customers in Clarion, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson and Venango Counties.

First United National Bank servicing customers in Clarion and Venango Counties.

Fran J. Palo Inc. constructor of bridges and roads in the surrounding area.

Law Offices of Greco & Lander providing legal services to the business community.

The Kriebel Group of Companies investing in Natural Gas Development. "Developing Resources, Sharing Successes". (Kriebel Minerals, Inc., Kriebel Gas & Oil, Inc. and Kriebel Production Co.)

New Bethlehem Bank servicing customers in Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, and Indiana Counties.

Rosebud Mining, Inc.

providing jobs to the local community and supplying coal to local electrical utilities.

S&T Bank servicing customers in Allegheny, Armstrong, Clarion, Clearfield, Indiana, and West Moreland Counties.

Seneca Hardwood providing jobs in manufactured lumber in our local community.

The Snyder Group of Companies is providing jobs and servicing customers in Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Elk, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, and McKean Counties. (Allegheny Minerals, Corp, Armstrong Cement & Supply Corp., Snyder Associated, Co., Inc., and Snyder Brothers, Inc.)

Tunnelton Liquids, Inc. provides water treatment for the Natural Gas Industry.

The Women's Health Care of Clarion provides health care to women in Clarion and the surrounding community.

Support the Businesses that Support the Children!

Business Highlight: Car*Mate Trailers

Car Mate Trailers located near Leeper on State Route 66 is one of the many contributors to the fund. Car Mate Trailers consists of both a retail store and a manufacturing facility.

Car Mate manufactures cargo, utility, equipment, and dump trailers. They are also distributors of Leer truck caps.

The owners of Car Mate know

how important it is to support local families and businesses. The corporation purchases many materials, tools and maintenance equipment locally. The 105 employees at Car Mate also live within a 30-mile radius of the plant.

Fred Ochs, one of the owners of Car Mate Trailers, was born

and raised in the Lucinda area, attended St. Joe's elementary school, graduated from North Clarion H.S. and attended both DuBois Business College and Clarion University.

When asked why it was important to him to contribute to our scholarship organization?, he responded, "While the tax advantages are attractive, I wanted to give something back to those who are not as fortunate as I was to obtain a good Catholic education. A quality Catholic education is a very strong and worth while entity in the marketplace."

