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Contact: Patricia Azriel
Director of Communications
York County Community Foundation
pazriel@yccf.org
717.848.3733

OR

Sharon Ilgenfritz
Director of Development and Communication
YMCA of York and York County
717.812.0119 x.308
silgenfritz@yorkcoymca.org

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New Project Will Empower Neighborhood Groups, Improve Neighborhoods

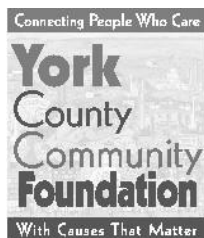
YORK, PA - A new project in York City will help mobilize and empower neighborhood groups to create positive change and improve the quality of life in city neighborhoods. The two-year pilot project, called Resources For Urban Neighborhoods (RUN), will be administered by the YMCA of York and York County and is funded by a \$125,000 grant from the Women's Giving Circle of York County Community Foundation and a \$50,000 grant from York County Community Foundation's Fund for York County.

The goal of RUN is to build residents' confidence in their ability to effect positive change in their neighborhood and the greater community, and to provide support through technical assistance, connection with resources, and funding for special projects, according to Jessica Martin Fieldhouse, who has been hired by the YMCA as the new Community Resource Coordinator for RUN.

"RUN is a huge opportunity for city residents and their neighborhoods to gather momentum on projects they've been dreaming about," says Fieldhouse. "They have the drive to improve their neighborhoods, and RUN can be the catalyst that helps bring about their dreams."

Fieldhouse grew up in Pennsylvania and has lived in York for more than five years. She was a project manager at First Capital Engineering, and prior to that, she was a city planner in

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(Page 2, Project RUN)

York. Fieldhouse was drawn to this position because it was an opportunity to use her talents to give back to the York City community where she resides.

An advisory committee of city neighborhood stakeholders and funders will work with the YMCA to oversee the project. The project is the next step in the YMCA's urban renewal initiatives that have resulted in numerous neighborhood improvements over the past several years. This includes the successful rehabilitation of 27 blighted properties on West Market, West King, and North Beaver Streets. Future initiatives include rehabilitation of 11 blighted properties and the new construction of five townhomes near the corner of Princess and West Streets; the renovation of four properties in the first block of North Newberry St; and selection of the YMCA as the lead agency in a newly designated Elm Street District.

The RUN project was initiated by the Women's Giving Circle (WGC), a program of the Community Foundation, and was inspired by the WGC's successful 2007 Safe City neighborhood grants program. This program provided technical assistance and funding for seven City neighborhood groups to help design and implement security improvements, including new porch lights, motion-activated lights in alleys, and alley gates.

The Women's Giving Circle brings together women who want to learn more about their community and leverage their charitable dollars for greater impact. Currently the group has close to 90 members.

Founded in 1961, York County Community Foundation is committed to preserving and enriching the quality of life in York County. Through leadership in advancing, encouraging, and celebrating philanthropy for the public good, we strengthen our community, now and for generations to come. York County Community Foundation granted \$4.3 million in 2008.