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## **York County Community Foundation Awards Largest Ever Strategic Alliance Grant**

**York, PA** — York County Community Foundation recently awarded a \$40,000 grant to support the merger between the York County Chamber of Commerce and the York County Economic Development Corporation (YCEDC) to create the York County Economic Alliance. The York County Economic Alliance seeks to be York County's leading resource for economic and community development and job creation and retention.

The grant is the Foundation's largest grant for nonprofit strategic alliances that has been awarded since the Strategic Alliance Grant Program was launched in 2009. "Today more than ever, organizations are strategizing on how to do more with less," says Bill Hartman, president of the Community Foundation. "This merger combines two economic drivers to create a powerful force for economic growth in York County." In addition to awarding the grant, the Community Foundation served as an advisor during the merger's development.

The Community Foundation's Strategic Alliance Grant Program was developed during the midst of the economic downturn to encourage innovative and courageous approaches to help nonprofits advance their missions, improve service delivery, increase efficiency and strengthen sustainability. Since 2009, the Foundation has awarded \$142,000 in support of strategic alliances and mergers, condensing 18 organizations into 10. Because of the program's success, the Foundation will continue to offer grants in 2012 to nonprofits seeking to combine.

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*York County Community Foundation creates a vibrant York County by engaging donors, providing community leadership, and investing in high impact initiatives while building endowment for future generations. York County Community Foundation granted \$2.5 million in 2011.*