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Valley agencies combine resources for collaborative development project

Warren, Feb. 18, 2009 — With cuts in federal and state funding, Dave Arnold of Family Service Agency in Youngstown needed an employee to focus solely on development projects. Tim Schaffner of Valley Counseling Services, Inc. in Warren found himself in the same position — too many tasks to accomplish and not enough personnel or time.

The two decided to join their grant requests and share a development director between the two agencies. The Raymond John Wean Foundation noticed the collaborative spirit of their request and helped fund the development director position.

“It takes more than a year to reach a level of sustainability, and this is a great way to make that money last a lot longer,” Schaffner said.

Supporting infrastructure improvements in the Mahoning Valley’s nonprofit organizations is a large component of the work of the Wean Foundation. “They were really excited about a collaborative project,” Arnold said.

With grant support from the Foundation, Schaffner and Arnold set to find a co-development director, sharing duties at both agencies. They hired Lindsay Molnar, a Trumbull County native returning to work in the Valley. “It’s worked out really well. The agencies have similar objectives and its been interesting to learn what each agency offers,” Molnar said.

After conducting her first foundation board meeting, Molnar will begin work on several goals for both agencies including searching for board members, writing grants and planning several major fundraising events.

“This is a step toward collaboration and affiliations that will benefit the client community,” Arnold said.

“Their effort is a great example of how collaboration between agencies can work. Under this model we can better utilize our resources and more agencies benefit from grants,” Ratner said.

For more information on this project please contact Joel Ratner, President of The Raymond John Wean Foundation, at 330-394-3213.

About The Raymond John Wean Foundation

The Raymond John Wean Foundation was created by Warren industrialist Raymond John “Jack” Wean in 1949. Annually, the Foundation gives approximately \$4 million to nonprofit organizations with a majority of those funds earmarked for nonprofits in Mahoning and Trumbull Counties.

The mission of The Raymond John Wean Foundation is to enhance the community’s well-being and vitality through grant making, convening, advocating and providing leadership with a focus on economically disadvantaged people and neighborhoods. Please visit www.rjweanfdn.org to learn more about the Foundation.

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