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Foundations sponsor social enterprise series

Six organizations partner with six non-profits for the workshop series

Warren, Jan. 13, 2009 — Six area non-profit organizations will have the opportunity to learn about social enterprise thanks to six area foundations and Community Wealth Ventures, Inc.

The six-month social enterprise series began today.

Beatitude House, Habitat for Humanity of Mahoning Valley, HandsOn Volunteer Network of the Valley, Lien Forward Ohio, Meridian Services and Youngstown Area Goodwill Industries, Inc have been chosen to participate.

The six-month series will coach the groups to develop social enterprises — the practice of creating mission-related businesses or money earning efforts. Throughout the Peer Learning Sessions, the organizations will learn about market research, financial planning and strategy techniques. The culmination of the series will be a business plan presentation to the community in the spring.

Community Wealth Ventures, Inc. began the workshop series in 2000 and has conducted them at 12 locations around the United States. Two consultants will be on hand to lead the sessions.

The first sessions are today and Wednesday beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Community Foundation of Mahoning Valley. All media are welcome to attend to report on this story. Other scheduled speakers and sessions include:

- March 10, Michael Lowstetter, Shepherd Ministries
- April 7, Martin Schwartz, Vehicles for Change
- June 16, Business plan presentations to area business leaders

Valley funders for this event are the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, Dominion, the Raymond John Wean Foundation, the Youngstown Foundation and trusts held at Huntington Bank and National City Bank.

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

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