

Chester County Futures Honored as Non-Profit Business of the Year



Stephen Aichele, Saul Ewing, (at left) with Catherine Mesaros and Jeremy Allen, Chester County Futures.

The Great Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce has named Chester County Futures the 2006 “Non-Profit Business of the Year.” The Chamber presented the award to CC Futures at its 16th Annual Profile Awards Dinner March 9 at the Desmond Hotel in Malvern.

“It’s with great pleasure that we congratulate the recipients of our 16th Annual Profile Awards,” GVRCC president Mary Ann Severance said. “They have been chosen for their unique contribution...they demonstrate the search for excellence that brings out the very best in all of us.”

Stephen Aichele, Saul Ewing LLP, introduced CC Futures and presented the Profile Award. He was joined by Saul Ewing representatives Michael S. Burg, Christine Kovan and Christopher J. Pippett.

Since 1996 Chester County Futures has given academic, mentoring and scholarship help to over 270 deserving public high school students of limited means from the Coatesville Area, Phoenixville Area,

Oxford Area and Kennett Consolidated school districts. All faced unfair challenges and needed a helping hand to make it through high school and have a chance at a college education.

Futures operates before and after-school programs right in the schools, providing a rich array of customized curriculum topics to help students perform on a par with their better off school peers. Three fulltime program coordinators monitor grades and attendance, organize community service projects, set up job shadowing visits, and make sure every student is on track to graduate and head off to college or post-secondary schooling.

Futures invests \$24,000 per student over the eight years they’re enrolled during high school and college. The payoff is huge!

- a 100% high school graduation rate
- 90% post-secondary enrollment rate
- and 83% college retention/graduation rate – 33% better than the national average

This school year, Futures is serving 139 high school students and 48 college students at 30 different campuses. Futures has awarded nearly \$80,000 in scholarships to its students since 1996 – money well invested! Today’s college grads earn \$23,000 more a year than high school drop outs. Now stack that \$23,000 extra earnings in a single year against the \$24,000 Futures invests per student. In one year, a near 100% return on investment. The young person wins. The Chester County community wins. And a family legacy of poverty might finally be broken.

- Sections re-printed from the Great Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce “Profile Awards Dinner program with very special thanks to Mary Anne Severance, President, GVRCC and Saul Ewing, LLP for making this award possible.