



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FRIENDS OF DRAKE WELL, INC. PARTICIPATES IN WEEK OF GIVING

Titusville, PA—Friends of Drake Well, Inc. is pleased to announce participation in the first *Week of Giving* event hosted by Bridge Builders Community Foundations. The *Week of Giving* event kicks off on Monday, March 20th at 8:00 AM and will run until 11:59 PM on Friday, March 24th.

This collective philanthropy event will be prorated through the foundation and will allow donors to give to numerous nonprofits throughout Clarion, Forest and Venango counties as well as the community of Punxsutawney.

Sheri Hamilton, Executive Director of Friends of Drake Well, Inc., says, "We have a goal of raising \$5,000 and need all of our friends and supporters to donate to our organization during that week."

Friends of Drake Well, Inc. is the non-profit community membership association that supports Drake Well Museum and Park in its mission to educate the public about the oil and natural gas industries in Pennsylvania, their founding, development and growth into global enterprises. The museum encourages visitors to explore its 240-acre site as well as the Pithole Boomtown and McClintock Well #1, discovering the relevance of petroleum in their lives through operating and interactive exhibits, public programs and unique industrial collections.

Approximately 10,000 school students are educated annually through the museum's educational programs. They learn about the historic and modern uses of oil and natural gas as well as about the creation, development and conservation of energy in the hope they will improve the future of energy consumption.

In recent years, Drake Well Museum and Park and Friends of Drake Well, Inc. have been particularly challenged by the financial uncertainty facing the oil and gas industry and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Friends of Drake Well, Inc. hopes the Week of Giving will help raise awareness of those needs as well as connect the organization to new donors.

Trenton Moulin, Executive Director of Bridge Builders Community Foundations, says, "We know through our close work with the nonprofit community that there is a need to think bigger when it comes to philanthropy. We needed to look at what the nonprofits needed to boost awareness and fundraising and what donors needed to make it easy to give."

A *Week of Giving* results press conference and celebration will be held Friday, April 7th at 10:00 AM in Oil City to announce the grand totals and hand out checks to each participating nonprofit. Special prizes will be awarded to the nonprofit with the most individual donations, the largest monetary amount of donations as well as the most creative and engaging *Week of Giving* marketing campaign.

Community outreach sponsors for the *Week of Giving* event include Explore Your Town, LLC, which includes Explore Venango, Explore Clarion and Explore Jefferson PA media.

Donations can be given online at bbcfives.org between 8:00 AM on March 20th through March 24th at 11:59 PM:

Donors can select multiple nonprofits to give to within the same transaction and also allocate varying contributions to each nonprofit selected. Donations received through the *Week of Giving* event are fully tax deductible donations under applicable federal and state laws.

Additionally companies can participate by pledging to match their employee contributions up to a certain amount. Corporate pledge forms are available online.

More information is online at www.BBCFgives.org.

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(L) Volunteer, Carole Hall, teaches children about 19th century classrooms.

(R) Students learn about the steam engine in the Replica of Drake's engine house.



(L) Students learn how to "kick down" a well at the spring pole interactive exhibit.