

NEWS RELEASE

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Silent Auction Features Unique Items to Benefit Local Non-Profit Organization

Exton, PA-- A handmade quilt featuring the artwork of disadvantaged teens who are getting a real chance to succeed. Lodging accommodations in some of the most fabulous places far away and close to home, including: an old world apartment in Tuscany, a 5 star resort in Costa Rica and a multi-million dollar vacation home in Stone Harbor, New Jersey. A men's night out evening hosted in a private Main Line wine cellar. These are just a few of the items available for bid at Chester County Futures "Evening at the Races" event on April 5 at the Concordville Inn. In addition to the evening's indoor horse racing, dinner and dancing event, a silent auction featuring \$24,000 in items with over 40 packages and nearly 100 items will be held to benefit the programs of Chester County Futures.

The silent auction portion of the event features a wide variety of items up for bid including a fabulous list of sports collectibles, restaurant packages, various vacation get-aways and family friendly day trips, just to name a few. The centerpiece of the auction is a hand-made quilt donated by Paoli resident Joann Huntington, that features hand drawn squares created by the students in the Chester County Futures program. Chester County Futures is an eleven-year old academic, mentoring and scholarship organization serving 220 area students whose socio-economic plight places them at risk of dropping out of high school. "These are bright kids nominated by their school counselors," said Catherine Mesaros, Futures' executive director. "If their personal circumstances were different, they could easily earn a diploma. Instead, through no fault of their own, they face an unfair share of roadblocks." Despite the odds, Mesaros said that 100 percent of Futures' students earn their high school diploma and 90 percent head on to college or trade school. In addition to the quilt, several

one-of-a-kind lodging accommodation packages will be featured. Auction participants will vie for the chance to win a 7 night stay at a private borgo apartment in an old world castle style building nestled among the olive groves just outside of Tuscany, Italy. Also featured is a 7 night stay in a two bedroom private hotel suite in an upscale Costa Rican resort, and 7 nights in a stunning mansion in Stone Harbor, New Jersey.

In addition to the silent auction element, area residents can also experience the thrill of horse racing on an indoor track at the event sponsored by First National Bank of Chester County. The elegant Concordville Inn Gold ballroom will be decked out in Kentucky Derby style for the 7 p.m. event benefiting 220 disadvantaged students served by Chester County Futures. A 20-foot indoor race track will be the main attraction. An authentic race announcer will call the indoor track action as a live jockey in colorful race attire moves large horse replicas down the indoor track on a roll of the dice. Guests will be track-side to cheer on their favorites and wager Derby charity bucks as 24 horses take to the track in five races.

Betting windows, an odds board, hay bales, race books, and colorful Derby-style men will add to the race day feeling. Ticket prices begin at \$90 a person and include entry fee, appetizers, dinner, dessert, two bar tickets, \$1,000 in Derby bucks to play the horses, a fabulous silent auction, and lots of door prize giveaways, including a \$ 600 gift certificate for Benari Jewelers and a one hour champagne hot air balloon flight for two. Every Derby charity buck bet at the indoor track represents a donation to Futures. Guests can make additional donations throughout the evening in order to earn extra Derby Bucks.

All races will be called in true track form. Winning bets will be paid off in Derby bucks, with prizes awarded for a variety of special contests throughout the evening. All guests are eligible to enter the door prize drawings for a chance at more than \$1,000 in prizes. In true Derby tradition, women are encouraged to wear extravagant hats and vie for the top prize in the annual Derby hat contest.

Along with First National Bank of Chester County, event sponsors include Wal-Mart's Morgantown, PA, store and Persistent Marketing, Inc. Proceeds will support Futures' program outreach in Coatesville Area, Phoenixville Area, Kennett, Oxford Area and West Chester Area high schools. Tickets for the April 5 event are available online at www.ccfutures.org or by calling Chester County Futures at 610-458-9926.