

NEWS RELEASE

Chester County Futures, Inc.
704 Haywood Drive
Exton, Pennsylvania 19341
610-458-9926/9976
www.ccfutures.org



Established in 1996 to help deserving at-risk, students graduate from high school and have a chance at a college education.

Release Date: February-March 2008

Topic: **Sat., April 5, 2008**
Evening at the Races Benefit Event

Contacts: Catherine Mesaros, Executive Director, 610-458-9976

Chester County Futures to Host 3rd Annual Evening at the Races

Area residents can experience the thrill of horse racing on an indoor track on Sat., April 5 at a lively, rip-roaring charity event, Evening at the Races 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 menu 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

M O R E --

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. The event also includes dancing and a silent auction with nearly \$13,000 worth of exciting items up for bid.

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.

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.