

The Meadville Tribune

www.meadvilletribune.com

1 Morning
NG CRAWFORD
OUNTY FOR
25 YEARS



work? You'd
get moving
your job these
worth scrambling to
one — fast.
months of
ment, your chances
work dwindle.
Page A12



g for some
tuff'?
the 1970s, you've
d "Hot Stuff: Disco
remaking of
Culture."
Page C3



ter rules!
icians' 37-year-old
joys a resurgence
ctor pays big bucks
Coming Monday

Crawford Heritage Foundation — Part two of two



Shirley Casella



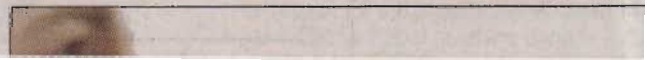
A strong foundation upon which to build

Funds designated by late former Titusville resident Shirley Casella will be used to bring smiles to many young people's faces by a \$1.1 million fund being established through the Crawford Heritage Foundation.

*Find out more about the organization's largest gift received to date on **Page A2***

U.N. criticism not likely to stop CIA

Meadville spikers welcome

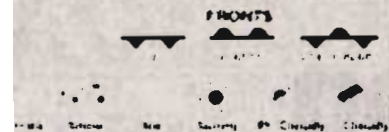


Forecast

WS
TRACK
HER

2
ologist

ner on the Internet
vicu12.com



Forecast

8 p.m. Partly cloudy
1 a.m. Partly cloudy

Casella's \$1.1M gift could benefit area students and world's kids

By Ryan Smith
MEADVILLE TRIBUNE

Students around the region — and not just those in high school — and some children worldwide could soon benefit from a new, \$1.1 million fund being established through the Crawford Heritage Foundation.



It's anticipated to be the countywide, nonprofit community-giving organization's largest gift received to date, according to foundation Executive Director Christian Maher.

The donor, former Titusville resident Shirley Casella, designated the foundation beneficiary of her individual retirement account assets before she died in early March in Chapel Hill, N.C. She requested that roughly 80 percent of the funds be used for the creation of a local, annually awarded scholarship, while the remaining dollars will be distributed yearly to Operation Smile, a Norfolk, Va.-based international charity that works to provide reconstructive surgeries for children born with facial deformities and conditions like cleft lip and cleft palate.

Along with her late husband, Ross, Casella — who died at age 74 — was formerly the owner of Keystone Honing Corp. in Titusville. She was also a member of the Crawford Heritage Foundation Legacy Society.

"I'm very proud," Casella's daughter, Rosalynn Casella of Titusville, said re-

GET INVOLVED

The Crawford Heritage Foundation, the nonprofit community foundation serving all of Crawford County, helps philanthropy-minded people get the most from their giving by administering grants to organizations selected by the donors who fund the foundation's permanent endowments.

It's one of more than 700 community foundations across the United States that work to benefit a variety of nonprofit activities in fields including but not limited to the arts, education, environment, disaster relief, and health and human services.

To find out how to get involved and for more information, write the Crawford Heritage Foundation, PO Box 908, Meadville, Pa. 16335; phone 336-5206; or go to crawfordheritage.org on the web.

cently of the gift left to the foundation by her mother.

The benefit of giving through the foundation, according to Maher, is that its donors have the ability to direct their support to the programs they care most about, and the money they give is permanently invested. Year after year — perpetually — a percentage is used to achieve the charitable purpose the donor specified.

Over time, that means much more than the original gift amount will be awarded in the donor's name, according to Maher. He estimated Casella's gift will translate into between \$45,000 and \$50,000 awarded each year between the scholarship endowment and the continuing support for Operation Smile.

It represents both a "significantly large" new scholarship endowment for the region, said Maher, and, in regard to

Operation Smile, a gift geared toward "making some children's lives better."

In keeping with Casella's wishes, the scholarship endowment — which will award a \$20,000 scholarship each year — will be among the first of its kind in the region "not geared just toward high school graduating seniors" but also toward non-traditional adult students seeking help in achieving a higher education, said Maher.

"We get a lot of calls from non-traditional students," he said, and up to this point there's been "very little in scholarship money out there" that could be available for their use.

Maher noted the scholarship is planned to be available exclusively to students (or prospective students) who reside within the Titusville Area School District, where Casella previously lived, or the Dover and New Philadelphia areas of Ohio, where she was born. It's not to be established as an educational track-specific scholarship, said Maher, but applicants' community involvement will be especially taken into account along with other factors.

"Volunteerism is going to be a key decision-making tool" in determining those to be awarded the scholarship, he said, adding it's likely to be "pretty competitive" among applicants.

"The cost of a college education doesn't seem to be going down anytime soon," said Maher, and Casella's gift will "help a few people at least to receive that much-needed college education without having to pay back such huge amounts of debts. ... (It will) be supporting some really great students."

Ryan Smith can be reached at 724-6370 or by e-mail at rsmith@meadvilletribune.com.