

## **Media Release**

*For Immediate Release*

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### **Charities Start New Year with \$1.6 million in Major Gifts from Caesars Foundation Floyd County**

Seven local charities will have an added reason to celebrate the New Year. They received major grants totaling \$1.6 million from the Caesars Foundation of Floyd County. These exceptional grants were awarded to the organizations on **Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007**. The gifts ranged in size from \$400,000 to \$150,000. Only seven previous major grants have been awarded by the Foundation. The organizations receiving funding include:

The Falls of the Ohio Foundation received \$150,000.00 to use for the redesign and planning to replace the 13-year-old exhibits at the Interpretive Center. The project will update current exhibits with state-of-the-art displays in line with contemporary museum practices for the 21<sup>st</sup> century student, family, and visitor. It will emphasize the immersive experience and be interactive to engage the thousands of visitors who attend the exhibits annually.

Rauch, Inc. was awarded \$150,000.00 to fund an Autism resource center for families, professionals, school staff, community and ancillary staff. This three year project will address the critical needs of persons in Southern Indiana diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Cardinal Ritter Birthplace Foundation's \$200,000 gift will complete the internal renovation of space to preserve the birthplace of Cardinal Joseph Ritter and it will house charitable service providers and a community center for families on the east side of New Albany. Cardinal Joseph Ritter, one of New Albany's least known but most famous native sons, was a national leader in school integration long before it became law.

Guerin, Inc. received \$200,000.00 to leverage matching funds for the construction of two self-contained residences designed to provide "aging in place" opportunities for elders of southern Indiana. The residences will be a home-based model rather than an institutional facility will be located at Guerin Woods, a 15 acre development for senior citizens in Georgetown.

St. Mary's Church in New Albany was given \$200,000.00 to match funding for the restoration of the historic steeple. Added to the church in 1865, the steeple has long been a landmark of the city's skyline. Due to damage from the elements and time, the steeple needs major repair or it will have to be removed.

The New Albany-Floyd County Education Foundation's \$300,000.00 gift will match fund-raising efforts to help provide full-day Kindergarten for approximately 850 eligible children per year. The Educational Foundation is raising funds to cover the cost of the program for two years until it is fully funded by the state beginning in 2009. Full Day Kindergarten is essential to the

successful future of children in Floyd County and the Foundation felt too many children would be left behind if they waited for full state funding.

BridgePointe Services and Goodwill Industries of Southern Indiana were awarded \$400,000.00 to help fund the construction of a community center that will house a “social service campus” as well as several non-profit organizations. The building will provide a home for the Pediatric Services, Children’s Academy, Youth Programs, Career Services, and administrative offices. This is part of a major capital project for BridgePointe as they rebuild from the fire which devastated their Goodwill Industries store and relocate all their services on a single campus.

Neil Walkoff, Assistant General Manager of Caesars Indiana shared with the awardees the desire of Caesars Indiana to be a good corporate citizen. “We are grateful for the work that local charities do to make the community a better place. The Foundation recognizes the good work and the benefit to so many of our citizens.”

In early December, the Foundation awarded nearly \$370,000 in the biannual grant cycle. The maximum level of funding in the two annual cycles is \$25,000 per organization. Major grants are not given annually and are for projects which have a significant impact on Floyd County. In the last 7 years, the Caesars Foundation of Floyd County has awarded \$12.75 million to local non-profit organizations in Floyd County.

Caesars Foundation of Floyd County was established in 1999 by Caesars Indiana in partnership with Floyd County and New Albany officials. The Foundation was established as a way to provide an additional funding source for community organizations in Floyd County. It provides a funding resource to nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and governmental agencies for the benefit of residents in New Albany and Floyd County. For additional information, go to the web site at [www.caesarsfoundationfc.org](http://www.caesarsfoundationfc.org) or contact Jerry Finn, Executive Director at 923-2332, [jfinn@caesarsfoundationfc.org](mailto:jfinn@caesarsfoundationfc.org).