

Longwood Foundation awards \$100,000 for DCRAC's Economic Impact Center

WILMINGTON, Del., January 2, 2008 —The Longwood Foundation awarded the Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council, Inc., (DCRAC) a \$100,000 grant, the largest single award received in DCRAC's history. This award is designated for the Economic Impact Center that will house a low-income community credit union, the Point & Click E-training center, the community training room, and an office. The Center will be located at 603 N. Church Street in Wilmington, just next door from DCRAC's main office.

"This grant is a great way to end the planning phase of our Economic Impact Campaign, which is rooted in the premise that by combining resources and expertise, we can implement solutions for all economic issues impacting the underserved communities in Delaware," said Rashmi Rangan, Executive Director of DCRAC.

"The Economic Impact Center shows our collective faith and confidence in the East-side which has been our home practically forever," **said Domenic Pedante, chairperson of the board of directors of DCRAC.** "We deeply appreciate the support from the Longwood Foundation and look forward to demonstrating that they can be proud to support our vision."

Everyone in our community deserves a chance to succeed and provide for their family. But right now some financial institutions are stacking the deck against specific segments of our community while providing benefits to others. They are charging unjustified and unpayable interest rates and fees in areas of the community where people have no place else to turn for capital. We need to implement workable solutions that provide alternatives to predatory lending and help to those who were injured by predatory lending practices. As a result, we implemented a proactive approach to consumer finance issues that relied on strong partners, including our financial institutions, who helped raise the issues and find workable and viable solutions to them.

The low income community credit union was a viable alternative to high cost loans through payday loans, title loans, and other such loans. A 10 day \$2000 Refund Anticipation Loan for 10 days can carry an Annual Percentage Rate as high as 1,700%. DCRAC views the e-learning center as a necessity as regulated financial institutions move out of communities like the east side. The community training room will serve as the facility in New Castle County where we will bring our Money Matters! in an effort to continue our tradition of creating a pool of qualified borrowers since 1995.

About DCRAC:

The Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council is a tax exempt, charitable nonprofit whose mission is to ensure equal access to credit and capital for the underserved populations and communities throughout Delaware through education, outreach, advocacy, and legislation. Founded in 1987, DCRAC was awarded the Standards for Excellence Seal of Excellence in 2007 after completing a rigorous voluntary review that is a visible symbol of the most well managed, responsibly governed organizations.

About The Longwood Foundation:

Longwood Foundation Inc. is a not-for-profit foundation with \$651 million assets under management. The foundation focuses on education, health, human services, environment, and arts. It was founded in 1937 and is based in Wilmington, Delaware.

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