

National Penn donates \$25,340 to Freedom Valley YMCA program

BOYERTOWN — National Penn announced a \$25,340 donation to Freedom Valley YMCA, a pre-kindergarten scholarship organization, that offers programs, services and facilities that promote strong families, good health, fitness, wellness, community services and child and adult development. The contribution was made under the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program, through which National Penn Bank and its divisions are contributing more than \$300,000 in 2008.

The funds will go into the YMCA's Financial Assistance fund and will be used to support pre-kindergarten scholarships available to qualified families. The YMCA offers state approved curriculum, character development programs and food programs in well-equipped learning areas through four locations: Audubon YMCA Child Care Center, Phoenixville YMCA

Child Care Center, Pottstown YMCA Child Development Center and Spring Valley YMCA Child Care Facility. Children also participate in field trips, special in-house events, foreign language instruction, swimming and music lessons and physical education through indoor and outdoor play areas.

"Through National Penn's generous donation, we can continue our mission to provide activities and programs that introduce kindergarten readiness skills in progressive steps to encourage social, emotional and physical development — regardless of a family's ability to pay," said Jay R. Schaeffer, Freedom Valley YMCA President and CEO.

Freedom Valley YMCA was formed Jan. 1, 2008, as a result of a merger between the Family YMCAs of Pottstown & Upper Perkiomen Valley and Phoenixville Area YMCA. With histories dating back to 1880 and 1952, re-

spectively, the Freedom Valley YMCA has served thousands of families, including 433 children in its pre-K program. YMCA teachers work closely with 11 area school districts to ensure a smooth transition into kindergarten programs, in which children from the YMCA program generally enter at least halfway through the kindergarten level.

"National Penn Bank is proud to be an ongoing supporter of local programs, like the Freedom Valley YMCA, that provide opportunities for local youth to receive quality education in an environment dedicated to providing creative solutions to community needs," said Scott Gruber, President of the Central Region of National Penn.

National Penn operates 11 community offices and one business center in Montgomery and Chester counties through its National Penn Bank and FirstService Bank divisions.

