



Press Release

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Flood Recovery Efforts Celebrated in Richwood

FHLBank Pittsburgh provides \$2.3 million for housing in 12 counties declared disaster areas

Richwood, W. Va., Feb. 21, 2017 – Community groups, funders, elected officials and citizens joined U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito and City of Richwood Mayor Bob Henry Baber today to celebrate progress to date in recovering from the flood that ravaged a 12-county area* in West Virginia last summer.

Other speakers included Jeromy Rose, former Mayor of the City of Richwood, Incident Commander; Ray Moeller, WVSU Extension Agent, New River Gorge Regional Development Authority and Blueprint Community Team Lead; Patrick A. Bond, founding general partner at Mountaineer Capital LP, Charleston, and Chairman of the Board of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh (FHLBank); Winthrop Watson, President and CEO of FHLBank; Jeff Miller, Market President of United Bank, Inc., and Erica Jones, mother of four who is living in temporary rental housing while awaiting a new home from the funding celebrated today.

FHLBank Pittsburgh presented a ceremonial check for \$2.3 million, representing grants made through its Affordable Housing Program (AHP) and a special Flood Relief program targeted directly to households affected by the flooding. All these grants were provided by FHLBank through member financial institutions United Bank, Summit Community Bank, Pendleton Community Bank, Bank of Monroe and Mars National Bank.

"The damage from last summer's flooding was profound, but I am so proud of the way West Virginians have joined together to rebuild the affected communities. It is wonderful to see community groups, faith-based organizations, businesses and local funders working together with government officials to offer relief and hope," **said Senator Capito.** "I applaud FHLBank Pittsburgh, our neighbor to the north, for setting aside significant funds to help in our recovery."

Mayor Baber, who hosted the event at Richwood City Hall, expressed the resolve of the Richwood community. "We are a resilient community, and with the amazing support of everyone here today and many others, we are winning," he said. "We have a long, long way to go, but it's good to pause and celebrate how far we've come."

Erica Jones, whose home was a total loss in the flooding, told her story in sign language that was interpreted by her mother. Erica is the mother of four and married to Alden, a security guard. The family is using their FEMA money for a rental home and is hopeful to receive a new home.

Pat Bond spoke on behalf of FHLBank Pittsburgh. "Management and the Board of FHLBank Pittsburgh considered what we could do to provide help for neighbors like Erica Jones in what the

National Weather Service called a 'one-in-a-thousand-year event,' " he said. "We are privileged to make these grants available through our member financial institutions."

United Bank, one of four financial institutions that served as a conduit for the \$2.3 million in FHLBank funding, also contributed to flood recovery efforts through corporate donations and employee fundraising and volunteerism. Across the state, United Bank office locations served as collection sites for supplies. Jeff Miller organized efforts in the southern part of the state and told of driving a large boxcar truck, loaded with cleaning supplies, diapers and food, to flood areas multiple times. He also talked about the *Women Helping Women* campaign, an initiative started by his mother to help women in need. To help her efforts, United Bank collected more than 1,600 purses stuffed with toiletries and personal care items.

Prior to today's ceremony, Senator Capito, speakers and other dignitaries took a tour of the Richwood recovery effort, which included the armory that was used as the command center and supply warehouse, small temporary homes and the restored community "Red" gym.

About FHLBank Pittsburgh

As an intermediary between global capital markets and local lenders, FHLBank Pittsburgh provides readily available liquidity, as well as affordable housing and community development opportunities, to member financial institutions of all sizes in Delaware, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The Bank is one of the banks in the Federal Home Loan Bank System, which was established by Congress in 1932 and serves as a reliable source of funds for housing, jobs and economic growth in all cycles.

* The 12 West Virginia counties declared federal disaster areas by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Roane, Summers and Webster.

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