

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Fresh Paint Days Recipients Complete Community Improvement Projects

City of Shamokin and Northumberland County Council for the Arts Partner to Improve City

(November 9, 2017) – Each year, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful in partnership with The Home Depot and a paint retailer, awards eight community groups with paint and painting supplies enabling them to renew a community structure in need into something beautiful.

This year, partners in the City of Shamokin joined together for the Shamokin Mural and Bench Project. The City of Shamokin, Northumberland County Council for the Arts, local artists, and volunteers worked together to bring a mural to life on the façade of the Kalloway Center for the Arts, located on Lincoln Street. This stately home was bequeathed to the Arts Council and is used for various classes, including children's art classes. Three children from the community were chosen to pose for the artists while they sketched the mural, depicting children in various activities and encouraging children and adults alike to explore the arts offered inside.

The benches, owned by the City of Shamokin and lining Lincoln Street, were dismantled and transported to the Northumberland County Career and Technical Center to be repaired, sanded and painted with the BEHR paint. An Arts Council artist drafted patterns with a patriotic theme and the students followed the specifications provided. The benches were brought back to Lincoln Street where final artwork and sealer was applied.



Left: Local artist, Claude Harrington paints a portion of the mural on the Kalloway Center for the Arts. Right: Jeff Tweed, designed the patriotic artwork used on the benches.

"We are so thankful to have been awarded this grant. It has encouraged a rather depressed community to have pride in what we have. There are no businesses or industry in our area and this project was a huge encouragement to our town, to the government, the Arts Council and most of all the residents. The Shamokin bench and mural project made possible through a grant provided by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, BEHR and The Home Depot will be added to our Anthracite Heritage Festival of the Arts historical wagon tour as a successful project done in 2017," stated Jeanne Shaffer, Executive Director, Northumberland City Council for the Arts.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is delighted to play a part in the Shamokin mural and bench project. It is so inspirational to see what can be accomplished when community members work together. The transformations are a visible

reminder of the pride that people have for the places they live. Through our partnership with BEHR and The Home Depot we are honored to be a part of these community revitalization efforts,” added Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

For a complete list of 2017 projects, visit www.keeppabeautiful.org, Grants and Awards.

About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful’s mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to make our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed over 126 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania’s roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit www.keeppabeautiful.org.

###