

2013 Community Improvement Awards

Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce
Huntingdon County Planning Commission

March 2014

Award Promotes Excellence in Development

The Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce and Huntingdon County Planning Commission are proud to announce the winners of the ninth annual Community Improvement Awards.

The Planning Commission and the Chamber's Community Improvement Committee have jointly reviewed the nominees, with the final selection being made by the Planning Commission. Sponsor for the awards is Kish Bank.

The Award categories are Community Spirit, New Construction, Preservation and Special Merit. New Construction includes any type of new construction, residential, commercial or public/non-profit. Preservation includes the restoration, preservation and/or rehabilitation of buildings of all types. Community Spirit includes the recognition of individuals and organizations who have made a significant contribution to Huntingdon County in the field of community development.

A Special Merit Award may be made for projects, persons or groups that demonstrate outstanding achievement on their own merits. Substantial renovation or restoration projects are eligible in any category.

The principles of sustainable development include:

- ⇒ Creating walkable neighborhoods;
- ⇒ Directing development toward existing communities;
- ⇒ Creating housing choices;
- ⇒ Providing transportation choices;
- ⇒ Encouraging a mixture of land uses; and
- ⇒ Preserving open space, farmland and environmentally sensitive areas.

Community Improvement Awards are based on both the visual and the environmental impact of the project. Nominations will be judged on how the project:

- Enhances the attractiveness of Huntingdon County;
- Is compatible with the site area and environment;
- Shows creativity/innovation in design and use of materials;
- Enhances the quality of life, including job creation; and
- Exhibits the principle of sustainability.



Preservation Award

300 PENN STREET, HUNTINGDON, PA PHASE I

This 1907 historic property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is located in Huntingdon's Historic District. The property owner, Neal Campbell, has enhanced the property by repainting the exterior, repairing and replacing the 106 year old slate roof, replicating the original shingle pattern, installing period-appropriate half-round gutters, and restoring the original windows of the second floor apartment. The pictures below contrast the building before and after renovations.





Community Spirit Award

GATEWAY ARCH AND PILLARS

This multi-media project took over three months to design and four months to construct. The entire arch spans 50 feet. Approximately 336 bricks were used to create the four twisting brick pillars, which vary in height from six to eight feet. A large forged steel archway with an intricate pattern of scrolls, basket twists and the letter “H” for Huntingdon join the center pillars while the two end pillars are topped with a large forged steel basket twist. Each piece of the iron was heated and forged by hand and the materials chosen blend with the surrounding buildings to transform an ordinary parking lot into something extraordinary. The structure is moored several feet deep for stability and requires very little maintenance.

This project, designed and built by David Berger, was financially supported by the Huntingdon County Arts Council and by Huntingdon Borough, who has assumed ownership.





New Construction **N.E. REIHART & SONS, INC.**

The new 55,000 square foot metal building meets all environmental requirements and has been called a state of the art facility. Traffic flow for shipping and deliveries was designed to allow for smooth traffic flow around the entire building while providing easy access to Shaner Boulevard. High value insulation was used in the wall panels and in the standing seam roof. A hydronic (hot water) floor heating system is powered by natural gas and energy efficient T4 fluorescent fixtures are used for lighting. The building also includes twenty-three state of the art IP cameras, a digitally encoded access system, Wi-Fi transmitters, a cell phone amplification system, an IP telephone system, a beautiful break room with vending machines, four individual offices, a conference room with a Smart Board, an IT room, an office work room and a general office open space.

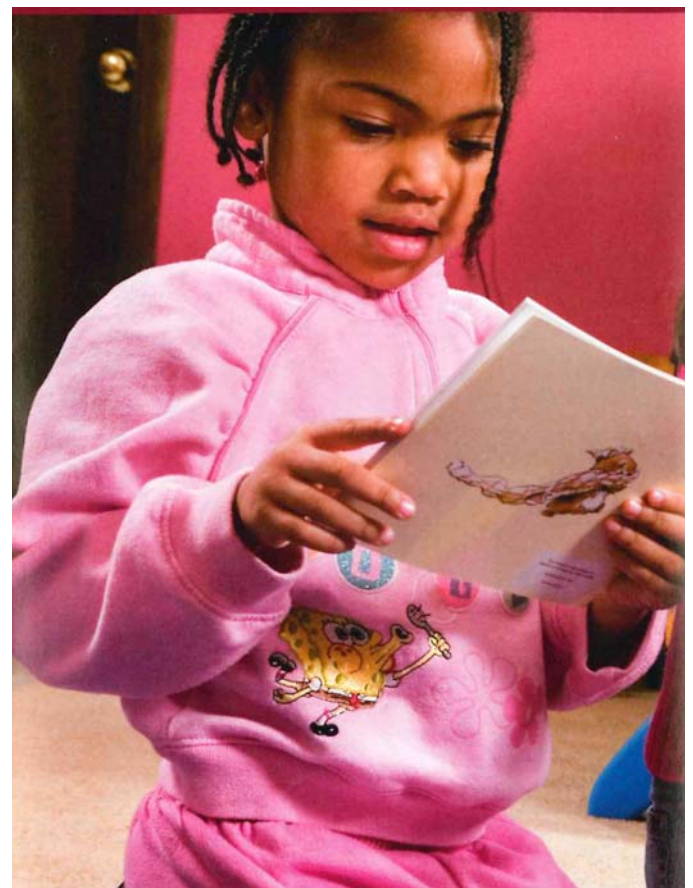


Special Merit Award FIRST BOOK-HUNTINGDON

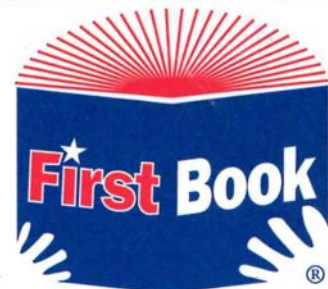
The mission of First Book is “to give children in need the opportunity to read and own their first new books”. Since 2004 the Huntingdon County affiliate has distributed over 32,000 books.

First Book accepts applications from programs that serve children from low income families living in or near Huntingdon County and provides successful applicants a grant to order new books from First Book Marketplace. Since the first Huntingdon County distribution in 2004, programs that have received new books include: Pre-School Head Start, Early Head Start, WIC, Early Intervention at PRIDE, First Choice Child Care and the Home Nursing Agency’s Nurse/Family Partnership.

First Book receives funds from local partners, regional sponsors and individual donors. The Huntingdon Advisory Board was formed in 2003 and has thirteen active members.



Inspiring Imagination – Motivating Learning



HUNTINGDON COUNTY

- 61% of low-income families have no children’s books at all
- Almost 15 percent of children in Huntingdon County live below the poverty line
- Children from low-income families are more likely to have trouble with their school work
- Books are essential to reading development
- Studies show that having access to a variety of reading materials is essential for developing strong reading skills
- Students who do more reading at home are better readers and have higher math scores

Community Improvement Awards

Partners

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