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**\$4.1 Million Donation Establishes
M&T/Partners Trust Fund at The Community Foundation**

The gift is the third largest in organization's 55 year history

M&T Bank and The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, Inc. are pleased to announce a \$4.1 million donation of the Partners Trust Bank Charitable Foundation to The Community Foundation -- thereby establishing the M&T Bank/Partners Trust Bank Charitable Fund.

"M&T Bank believes strongly in investing in the communities we serve," said Allen J. Naples, president, Central New York Division, of M&T Bank. "As our presence in the Mohawk Valley expands, so will our commitment. We are looking forward to partnering with The Community Foundation to build upon the Partners Trust legacy of corporate philanthropy -- and to help build a more vibrant community."

The M&T Bank/Partners Trust Bank Charitable Fund will be the largest donor-advised fund administered by The Foundation, and the donation establishing the fund is the third largest gift received by The Foundation in its 55 year history.

The recent donation brings The Foundation's assets to just over \$80 million and accounts for nearly five percent of the total asset base. "This historic gift will have significant impact on The Foundation's ability to improve the lives of community members for generations to come," said John Livingston, chair of The Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Partners Trust Financial Group, Inc. and its subsidiary Partners Trust Bank were acquired by M&T Bank Corporation and merged into M&T Bank on November 30, 2007. "The

directors of the Partners Trust Bank and Charitable Foundation are delighted that our long partnership with The Community Foundation and our legacy of civic engagement and commitment to this community will continue to have positive impacts for future generations,” noted John Zawadzki, former president of Partners Trust Bank.

Throughout The Community Foundation’s history, the banking community has proved to be an integral partner. Partners Trust Bank and its predecessor, the Savings Bank of Utica, shared leaders with The Foundation from 1952 to 1992 in Roy C. Van Denbergh and Addison M. White. The tradition continued from 1995 to 1998 when Savings Bank of Utica President William L. Schrauth assumed The Foundation’s top leadership position. This close relationship continues today.

“We are truly humbled to continue our 55-year partnership through the M&T Bank/Partners Trust Bank Charitable Fund, which honors both the legacy of Partners Trust and M&T’s continued commitment to this community,” said Peggy O’Shea, president and CEO of The Community Foundation. “The Community Foundation was created as a promise by local leaders to address the needs of residents and today and tomorrow. With this fund the promise continues.”

M&T Bank is a subsidiary of M&T Bank Corporation (NYSE:MTB), which is headquartered in Buffalo, NY, has approximately \$63.8 billion in assets and operates more than 690 branches and 1,600 ATMs in New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey and the District of Columbia. M&T Bank has more than 250 branches and nearly 500 ATMs located in New York State.

Commemorating its 55th anniversary this year, The Community Foundation has been a force for improving lives and promoting philanthropy throughout Herkimer and Oneida counties since 1952. The Foundation has made more than 3,500 grants totaling over \$24.5 million in support of causes ranging from education to health care, the arts to the environment. Grants are generated by the more than 230 funds that comprise The Foundation’s endowment, established and advanced by area individuals and families. More information about The Community Foundation is available at 315-735-8212 and www.foundationhoc.org.

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