

## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BREAKS GROUND

### AT NEW OFFICE LOCATION



*A groundbreaking ceremony on Monday, March 13, marked the beginning of construction for the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore's new offices and Nonprofit Support Center in Salisbury. Local dignitaries participating in the event were (l to r) Mike Dunn, Council President, City of Salisbury; Bob Cook, founding member; Salisbury Mayor Barrie Parsons Tilghman; Gregory Stein, Current Foundation Board Chair; Tom Hershey, founding board member; Palmer Gillis, project developer and builder; Marianna Holloway, founding board member; Cindy Betts, representing Sen. Barbara Mikulski; and Tony Sarbanes, Wicomico County Council President and former Foundation board member.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(March 13, 2006) – A groundbreaking ceremony today marked the start of construction for new offices for the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore which will also house an Eastern Shore Nonprofit Support Center to be operated by the Foundation.

Community Foundation Chair Gregory Stein led a group of local community leaders in turning the first shovel of dirt for the new building. Stein said, "This facility has been in the planning for several years and we are all excited to reach this milestone. This Nonprofit Support Center will allow us to continue the growth of the Foundation and support even more nonprofit organizations in new ways."

Spicer Bell, President of the Foundation, commended the Community Foundation Board and community leaders who have supported the Foundation. "The Lower Shore is truly fortunate to have a strong community foundation like ours. As a result of the vision of our founders and the dedication of those who have followed," Bell said, "we have a foundation that will be working to improve the quality of life for our citizens for generations to come."

The new facilities will occupy about 5,000 sq. ft. of an office building to be constructed at East Park Professional Center located adjacent to the westbound lane of US 50 between Beaglin Park

Drive and Civic Avenue in Salisbury. Access to the professional center is available from Belmont Avenue. East Park Professional Center is being developed by the firm of Gillis Gilkerson, Inc., of Salisbury.

The Community Foundation offices and Nonprofit Support Center will be fully handicapped accessible to encourage use by nonprofit organizations and their clients from throughout Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore. There will be on site parking for at least 40 vehicles with access to additional parking.

A large meeting room will be available for use by nonprofit groups for meetings and events. The new facility will support the latest technology, including internet access and visual and audio systems to accommodate presentations. The new building will also provide a resource center for local nonprofits so they will have access to the most extensive and comprehensive library for nonprofits on the Eastern Shore, including computer access that charitable organizations can use to search for grants and other information.

The Nonprofit Support Center will have a separate entrance so it will be available to local charities for evening and weekend use. The Community Foundation will utilize the Center to conduct workshops and provide consulting support to help nonprofits in all areas of operation and provide staff development and volunteers.

The purpose of the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore is to empower donors to make a profound difference in the quality of human and community life in Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore, today and tomorrow. The Foundation believes in the power of philanthropy to change the lives of people and communities.

The Community Foundation has been an effective steward of the community's charitable resources since 1984, inspiring philanthropy in the Maryland counties of Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester.

More information about the Foundation's endowment funds and other services to nonprofit organizations and charitable giving opportunities may be found on this website or by calling the Foundation office at (410) 742-9911.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Gee Williams 410-742-9911**