



EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- West Springfield, MA

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BIG E DONATES \$178,922 TO THE BIG E/WEST SPRINGFIELD TRUST FUND *Largest Donation to Date*

Eastern States Exposition has donated \$178,922 to The Big E/West Springfield Trust Fund, which represents 1% of the organization's gross revenues for 2007. Including this year's donation, Exposition contributions since the fund's inception in 1994 now total \$1,971,723.

The 2008 payment is the largest donation the Exposition has made to the fund and represents an 8.2% growth over last year.

ESE President Wayne McCary said, "We are pleased to have the opportunity to share our success and support a wide variety of projects that serve the residents of West Side. Our continued, significant support of this fund and its growth are important to the Exposition and the community."

Trustees of the Fund are: West Springfield Mayor Edward J. Gibson, ESE Chairman of the Board Donald R. Chase, and Attorney Mary Paier Powers. Each year, the committee appropriates a portion of the donation to agencies benefiting education, youth and the elderly of the community, leaving the remainder to accrue.

Funds donated to The Big E/West Springfield Trust in 2007 resulted in the allocation of more than \$77,000 and included grants for projects for: Park & Recreation -- fee waivers and rain drop water feature at the renovated Memorial Pool; The Melissa Harrington Hughes Foundation; Coburn School -- traverse climbing wall, Friends of the West Springfield Library; Mittineague Children's Center; Parish Cupboard; Fausey School -- to establish a Robotics Club; Springfield Symphony Orchestra -- for in-school performances for all third graders; St. Thomas School; Council on Aging; Historical Commission; the Middle School -- smart boards; Police Department -- Project Lifesaver; West Springfield Public Schools -- climbing wall; Youth Softball, Football and lacrosse; and suburban softball.

Exposition payments to West Springfield grow each year and in 2007 exceeded \$1.2 million including taxes, fire and police protection, licenses and fees.

	2007	
Real Estate Taxes		\$ 335,338
Police Protection & Training		332,945
Fire Protection & Ambulance Service		262,526
Water & Sewer Fees		114,166
Licenses & Fees		47,988
Inspectors		13,933
Excise Taxes		1,040
		<u>\$ 1,107,936</u>
2007 Big E/W. Springfield Trust Fund donation (1% of 2006 revenues)		<u>\$ 171,331</u>
Total		\$ 1,279,267

In 2007, the Exposition waived rental and parking fees for agricultural shows as well as special events for West Springfield including the High School's annual graduation ceremonies and the town's Summer Concert Series on Storrowton Village Green. Town residents also receive free parking for year-round events.

In-kind services and donations include providing free Big E admission for all town students on West Springfield Day, a value of close to \$45,000.

In addition, ESE loans and transports its ticket booths to the town for use by the West Springfield Rotary at West Side's Taste of the Valley each June and provides sponsorship and marketing support. ESE has been a longtime supporter of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee with an annual donation of \$3,000.

Eastern States Exposition is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit federally designated corporation committed to excellence in providing year-round opportunities for the development and promotion of agriculture, education, industry and family entertainment. It is host to more than 100 annual events and the largest fair in the northeast.

Dates for this year's Big E are Sept. 12-28.