



EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- West Springfield, MA

April 13, 2009
More Info: Catherine Pappas
413-205-5041
Info Line: 413-205-5115

BIG E DONATES \$164,375 TO THE BIG E/WEST SPRINGFIELD TRUST FUND

Eastern States Exposition has donated \$164,375 to The Big E/West Springfield Trust Fund, which represents 1% of the organization's gross revenues for 2008. Including this year's donation, Exposition contributions since the fund's inception in 1994 now total \$2,136,098.

ESE President Wayne McCary said, "The Exposition recognizes its role in supporting the city of West Springfield. In light of the present economy, we are pleased to be able to share our success with our hometown and support a myriad of projects that serve the residents of West Side. We pledge to continue to play a part in the economic well-being of our 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 2008 resulted in the allocation of more than \$89,967 and included grants for projects such as: Mittineague Congregational Church's Alzheimer's support group; West Springfield Park & Recreation; Memorial School, video security system; West Springfield Council on Aging Woodshop; Grateful Citizens for the Appreciation of Veterans, luncheon; West Springfield Historical Commission, repair and renovate antique carriage; Mittineague Children's Center playground fence; Fausey Elementary School Physical Education Golf Program; Melissa Harrington Hughes Foundation; Precinct 1 & 2, 12 light pole banners; West Springfield Arts Council; West Side Wildcats Youth Baseball; W.S.H.S. Robotics Team equipment; Springfield Symphony Orchestra's Music Matters Program; Ramapogue Historical Society, student transportation for tours; and three West Springfield Middle School Smart Boards.

Exposition payments to West Springfield grow each year and in 2008 exceeded \$1.2 million including taxes, fire and police protection, licenses and fees.

	2008	
Real Estate Taxes		\$ 335,492
Police Protection & Training		317,038
Fire Protection & Ambulance Service		237,130
Water & Sewer Fees		110,654
Licenses & Fees		50,550
Inspectors		13,384
Excise Taxes		<u>1,159</u>
		\$ 1,065,407
2008 Big E/W. Springfield Trust Fund donation (1% of 2007 revenues)		<u>\$ 178,922</u>
Total		\$ 1,244,329

In 2008, the Exposition waived rental and parking fees for agricultural shows as well as special events for West Springfield including 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.

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. 18 - Oct. 4.