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NYC Foundation Honors the Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts

November 17, 2011: Freda Welsh, executive director of the **Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts**, today announced that **The Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation** has renewed its support of the Levitt Pavilion with a grant for operational support of \$50,000.

Based in New York City, the small private foundation supports a variety of programs including arts organizations, medical and social services and is the largest donor of operating funds in the Pavilion's 38-years history.

The directors are **Janet and Fred Plotkin** of Weston and their children, **Carolyn, Amanda and Jonathan**, who reside in New York City. The Schnurmacher gift marks 16 years of personal and financial commitment to the Pavilion on behalf of the Plotkin family.

Before moving to Weston, Mr. and Mrs. Plotkin were Westport residents for almost thirty years. Mrs. Plotkin stated "One of the reasons we moved to Westport was because of its commitment to the arts and its excellent cultural facilities. We believe the Pavilion is a wonderful asset to the Town and unique in its mission of providing outstanding entertainment, free of charge, for area residents of all ages." A former teacher, Mrs. Plotkin was appointed to the Pavilion Governing Board in 1995 and currently serves as its Chair.

Freda Welsh, the Pavilion's executive director, stated, "We are so fortunate to be one of the many Westport organizations that benefit from the Plotkins' generosity. The family has dedicated their personal energies and their foundation's resources to strengthen and enrich the lives of so many."

The mission of the **Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation, Inc.** is to make a positive difference in the lives of others. We have a variety of focuses including -- but not limited to -- human and social services, the arts, children and the elderly, and health care. We are flexible with our grant-making procedures as long as we are helping causes we feel are important. We focus our grant giving in the New York City and Fairfield County, CT, areas.

The Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts is dedicated to providing FREE and abundant access to the performing arts, presenting a dynamic and diverse constellation of established and emerging artists, and preserving a beautiful outdoor space where people of all ages and backgrounds are always welcome to enjoy the arts, enjoy nature, and enjoy each other. Founded in 1973, The Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts produces a unique open-air Summer festival along the banks of the Saugatuck River in downtown Westport, lighting up Fairfield County with over 50 nights of FREE entertainment. The Pavilion presents a vibrant range of performing arts including music, dance and comedy. Every summer also includes the acclaimed Children's Series on Wednesdays and RiverSwing, an annual series of six evenings sprinkled throughout the season on which the Pavilion offers free pre-concert dance lessons led by professionals in the style of the music about to be enjoyed.

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