



For Immediate Release
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Hershey Volunteer Fire Company Kicks off Community Campaign to Fund Expanded Fire Station

Hershey, PA - At a press conference this morning, Hershey Volunteer Fire Company officials kicked off the community phase of the five year capital campaign to fund its 6.8 million dollar fire station renovation and expansion. Work is expected to begin in March 2015 and completed in February 2016.

To date, the Fire Department has secured more than 5 million dollars from state, county and local funds in addition to generous corporate donations. Officials plan to seek additional support from area businesses and local residents as well. The Hershey Volunteer Fire Company is also contributing \$500,000 of its own funds to the project. Through the Industrial Commercial Development Authority (ICDA), the Township will guarantee a loan to the Fire Company for 5 million dollars so work can be started before final funding is secured.

“We are very pleased with the initial response to our capital campaign and know we can count on the residents we serve to show their support,” said Fire Chief Pat Leonard.

The station will be more than double the size of the current station. It will feature a two-story addition, four drive-through truck bays to accommodate both current and future apparatus, sleeping quarters for up to 12 crew members, a functional training tower and additional parking. The original 1928 section of the fire station will remain a central element of the new modern station and will showcase the fire company’s historical pieces, including Mr. Hershey’s original fire apparatus. This project is the first

renovation to the station since the 1970s. The Hershey Fire Company was founded by Milton Hershey in 1905 and has served the community for 109 years.

“Renovating and expanding our antiquated fire station will allow the volunteer fire company to better serve the needs of Township residents now and for several decades to come,” said Derry Township Supervisor Chairman and longtime firefighter John W. Foley. “The Fire Company has partnered with the Township and Downtown Hershey Association to incorporate its plans into the overall vision for our downtown,” he added.

The public is invited to donate any amount to the campaign. For those interested in leaving a lasting impression, custom-engraved Memorial Walkway Commemorative Bricks are available for \$250 or \$450 each. Naming opportunities inside the fire station are available for donations starting at \$1,000.

“We have received extraordinary support from local corporations and government funding,” said Campaign Chairman Ray Brace. “We are now counting on residents to help us raise approximately 1.6 million dollars so we can make this much-needed evolution of the fire station a reality,” he added.

Since its founding in 1905, Hershey Station 48 has tirelessly served the residents and businesses of Derry Township and neighboring communities, protecting lives and property. The fire company is the busiest all-volunteer company in Dauphin County, responding to fire calls, emergency rescues and natural disasters. Since the company is all-volunteer, it is estimated to save the Township approximately 6 million dollars per year in operating expenses. In addition to fire calls, the volunteer firefighters donate thousands of volunteer hours each year providing fire safety training and other community service.

To learn more about the Hershey Volunteer Fire Company and its capital campaign, please visit www.HersheyFire.org.

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