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## **P R E S S R E L E A S E**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Sharon Hospital Donates \$10,000 to Sharon Center School Millennium Fund**

**Sharon, CT** – Sharon Hospital will donate \$10,000 over five years to help build the endowment of the Sharon Center School Millennium Fund, part of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. The Fund sponsors programs and projects, not covered by tax dollars, that enhance the educational experience of the students and teachers of the Sharon Center School.

“Sharon Hospital is proud to support the extraordinary learning opportunities that the Millennium Fund will offer our community’s children,” said Charlie Therrien, president and CEO of Sharon Hospital. “We hope this gift will encourage others to help maintain quality education in our schools and thereby ensure a brighter future for our towns.”

The hospital’s gift is a significant step toward matching a challenge grant established by an anonymous donor through Berkshire Taconic. The Fund must raise a total of \$40,000 by December 2007 to release the donor’s gift of \$20,000.

“This is a wonderful gift and an important commitment to our students,” said Patricia Chamberlain, superintendent of the Region One School District. “By contributing to the Millennium Fund’s endowment, Sharon Hospital is helping us build a permanent resource to enhance public education today and in years to come.”

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Local residents established the Sharon Center School Millennium Fund in 2001 as an endowment of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. In its first years, through private and local contributions, the Fund purchased laptop computers for each teacher and one system with 20 laptops for classroom use. It also provided training for teachers to develop online expertise. The program has tripled in size and, over the years, become a model for the region. As the Fund grows, it will support a full range of projects for the students, both in the classroom and after school.

“Educational enrichment funds like the Millennium Fund play a vital role in ensuring that public school students receive the best possible educations,” said Jennifer Dowley, President of The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. “We appreciate Sharon Hospital’s investment in its neighbors’ children.”

For more information about the Millennium Fund or to make a donation, please contact the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation at 413.528.8039, [info@berkshiretaconic.org](mailto:info@berkshiretaconic.org) or visit its website at [www.berkshiretaconic.org](http://www.berkshiretaconic.org).

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