



Guy A. Fletcher
Allegheny Energy
(301) 790-6174
Jean Woods
Washington County Museum of Fine Arts
(301) 739-5764

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Allegheny Energy pledges \$25,000 to establish The Klaus Bergman Endowment
with the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts**

Hagerstown, Md., January 23, 2002 – Allegheny Energy has established an endowed fund that will total more than \$25,000 for the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in memory of former Company Chairman Klaus Bergman, who died November 22, 2001.

Allegheny Energy frequently contributes to organizations such as the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts through its Corporate Giving Program, which contributed more than \$1.3 million last year to educational, human service, and cultural organizations in areas served by the Company.

“We are pleased to honor Mr. Bergman’s outstanding leadership and business achievements by establishing an endowed fund in his name with the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts,” said Alan J. Noia, Chairman of the Board, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Allegheny Energy. “Klaus was a patron of the arts and enjoyed visiting the museum. This endowment will help the museum continue its excellent programs and exhibits.”

A native of Nuremberg, Germany, former Chairman Bergman joined Allegheny Energy in 1971 as Vice President of Legal before ascending to other executive positions, including Executive Vice President and President, before being elected Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board. He retired as Chief Executive Officer in 1996 and as Chairman of the Board in 1997.

Jean Woods, Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, said, “We are delighted to have the named endowed fund in memory of Mr. Bergman. The fund will be used for exhibitions, care of the permanent collection, and a variety of art education programs for children and adults. This splendid gift sets a superb example for corporate leadership and philanthropy in support of the arts and culture in our region.”

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President of the Museum of Fine Arts' Board of Trustees Mr. William P. Young, Jr., said the gift from Allegheny Energy is an important step forward in attracting more named endowment funds to the museum and generating support for its annual Benefactors' Program.

Those wishing to donate to the fund should direct their contributions to The Klaus Bergman Endowment and make their checks payable to the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts. Contributions are tax-deductible and should be sent to the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, P.O. Box 423, Hagerstown, Md., 21741. For more information about the endowed fund, contact Christine Shives at the museum at 301-739-5727.

Allegheny Energy, Inc. is a diversified energy company headquartered in Hagerstown, Md. It has been named to the *Fortune* 500 list, the Standard and Poor's 500 index, and the *Forbes* "Platinum 400" list. The Allegheny Energy family includes *Allegheny Power*, which delivers electric energy and natural gas to about three million people in parts of Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia; *Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC*, which develops, owns, and operates electric generating facilities and supplies and trades energy and energy-related commodities in selected domestic retail and wholesale markets; and *Allegheny Ventures*, which invests in and develops telecommunications and energy-related projects. For more information, visit its web site at www.alleghenyenergy.com.