

The Times

Investment counselor secures grant for Women's Center of Beaver County

By Marsha Keefer

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BEAVER – Women's Center of Beaver County received a \$5,000 grant from an international life insurance and financial services trade association that will be used to upgrade the center's technology.

The grant was awarded by the Million Dollar Round Table Foundation, which supports members' philanthropic acts within their communities. In its nearly 60-year history, MDRT has contributed more than \$30 million to charitable organizations in the United States and 70 countries, including Make-A-Wish International, Habitat for Humanity; Heifer International; and The Salvation Army.

Tom Young, founder and president of 1st Consultants, Inc., a financial planning and wealth management firm on Third Street in Beaver, initiated the grant process.

"He sponsored our application for funds," said Darlene Thomas, executive director of the women's center, which is the county's comprehensive domestic violence and sexual assault resource center that offers crisis services, emergency shelter, legal and medical advocacy, counseling, and prevention education.

"To be able to apply to the Million Dollar Round Table Foundation, one of their members has to recommend you for funding and submit a letter supporting your application, so he did that for us."

The grant was used to purchase laptops to support remote operations, which have become “critically important,” Thomas said, during the novel coronavirus pandemic.

While the center has remained open during the crisis – primarily as an emergency shelter – few staff members are working on site, but rather, remotely, and laptops support continuation of staff services.

Young has been a member of MDRT for nearly 30 years and achieved its top membership level – Top of the Table – the past eight years that’s granted only to those who demonstrate exceptional professional knowledge, client service and ethical conduct, according to the foundation.

“The Women’s Center of Beaver County has always been my primary charity,” he said.

For the past 20 years except for this year because of COVID-19, Young’s firm hosts a barbecue where attendees are asked to bring canned goods and non-perishable items to stock the center’s food pantry.

“I fill their pantry in July with a truckload of canned goods,” he said.

When he hosts catered dinners, he shares leftovers with the center.

“I’ve always supported them for a long, long time,” Young said.

“He’s really made a personal investment,” Thomas said, in his support of the center.

Young, who has been in the financial planning business for more than 40 years, said he has more than 500 clients nationally in 26 states. He recently published a book, “The Family Money Farm: The CFO Project.”