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## PARKINSON FOUNDATION SUFFERS FINANCIAL ISSUE

BELLEVUE --- The Board of Directors of the Parkinson Foundation Western Pennsylvania recently received information relating to possible financial irregularities related to the Foundation. In response, the Board has taken a number of measures such as the initiation of a full internal investigation, implementation of comprehensive financial security measures to ensure the fiscal security of the Foundation, and contacts with local law enforcement authorities. A leadership change has also taken place. Barbara Farrell, previously PFWPA's Executive Director, is no longer affiliated with the Foundation. The Board plans to appoint an interim executive director while it conducts a search for a permanent replacement.

Board President Michael Wertz stressed that none of these recent developments have impacted the Foundation's ability to carry out the programs and deliver the services for those it serves. "The Foundation is dedicated to assisting those with Parkinson's and their families in overcoming the debilitating effects of Parkinson's Disease, and these unfortunate circumstances have not reduced that dedication one iota," Wertz said.

He added that he and other Board members would be in contact with the Foundation's donors to reassure them that their support is appreciated and that the funds they provide are used for the purposes intended. "Our donors are the lifeblood of the Foundation," Wertz said "and I want them to know that we are committed to guaranteeing that their support is used wisely and carefully in the manner they expect."

Parkinson Foundation Western Pennsylvania is at the center of one of the most active and supportive Parkinson's communities in the country. Established in 1995 by volunteers, Parkinson Foundation Western Pennsylvania has grown to be the leading resource for Parkinson's disease in the area. PFWPA provides services, support, and education for the estimated 12,000 people living with Parkinson's disease in Western Pennsylvania and their families. PFWPA also works to give counsel, hands-on services, and leadership to community groups and allied health professionals in Western Pennsylvania.

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The official registration and financial information of Parkinson Foundation Western Pennsylvania may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.