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For Immediate Release

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## Susquehanna Bank Donates Half a Million To Genesis Housing Corporation and Pledges Continued Involvement

## Donation Through Neighborhood Partnership Program to Benefit Housing Counseling Program, Local Literacy and Arts Education Programs

**POTTSTOWN, P.A.**—October 22, 2007— Through the Neighborhood Partnership Program, a program of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development that connects businesses with local organizations to develop and implement neighborhood revitalization plans, Susquehanna Bank will donate \$500,000 to Genesis Housing Corporation (GHC) over the next five years. The Montgomery County, PA organization is dedicated to the development of affordable housing and to the education of low-income consumers on housing and financial issues. In addition to its monetary donation, the bank has pledged continued proactive involvement with GHC, including providing mortgages to low-income homebuyers and administrative support to ensure the effectiveness of the organization.

GHC is actively involved in providing affordable homes in Montgomery County, targeting the older distressed towns, especially Norristown and Pottstown, to stabilize housing values, promote home ownership and provide safe and decent housing for lower income families. To achieve this mission, GHC implements a Housing Counseling Program, which provides free classes and individual counseling, helping over 2,200 potential first-time homebuyers including understanding credit, credit repair, money management, saving plans, grant programs and understanding the home buying process. A portion of Susquehanna Bank's donation will support this program as GHC implements a comprehensive community-based revitalization of Washington Street in downtown Pottstown.

In addition, to supporting the Housing Counseling Program, Susquehanna's donation, through the administration of GHC, will fund the expansion of English language literacy programs through ACLAMO's Pottstown center. Specifically, the donation will provide educational support for English language learners in Kindergarten - 5th grade, including after-school tutoring and enrichment.

"Because Susquehanna Bank is committed to supporting the communities in which it serves, I felt this was a perfect opportunity to participate in the revitalization of Pottstown. This initiative is unique in that it does not end at the monetary donation, rather the bank will maintain a

## proactive supportive role throughout its five-year partnership," said Ellen Crain, senior vice president of Susquehanna Bank.

The Centre Theater Children's Touring Company, a part of the Montgomery County Cultural Center, will also benefit from the bank's donation. The donation will bring children's theater to Pottstown Schools in late spring of 2008, producing high quality Children's theater for elementary schools that educate, challenge and inspire the children through theatrical performances that coincide with literature the students are reading in the classroom.

"Genesis Housing Corporation is overjoyed that Susquehanna Bank has chosen to support our neighborhood revitalization efforts. With their support, GHC is able to make a significant impact on the Pottstown community, not just on housing development, but also on the development of the children – which is the most important part of revitalizing this community," said Judith Memberg, executive director of GHC.

## About Susquehanna Bank

Susquehanna Bank DV, headquartered in Camden, N.J., is a subsidiary of Susquehanna Bancshares, Inc. (NASDAQ: SUSQ), which has assets of \$8.3 billion. Susquehanna Bank operates 51 retail branches throughout Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland and Gloucester counties in New Jersey; and Berks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery and Northampton counties in Pennsylvania. For more information, visit <u>www.susquehanna.net.</u>

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