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York, March 23, 2009 – YorkCounts honored several leaders at its annual YorkCounts Community Summit March 20. The YorkCounts Regional Leadership Award went to Springettsbury and Spring Garden townships for their creation of the York Area United Fire and Rescue. The YorkCounts Award for Outstanding Organizational Support went to York College of Pennsylvania and the York County Commissioners. Awards for outstanding board service went to Don Gogniat and Austin Hunt, whose terms ended this month. Gogniat is the former campus executive officer at Penn State York and was an original member of YorkCounts' board of directors. Hunt, president of Three M Tool and Die Corp. in York County, is a former Spring Garden Township supervisor and a key player in the fire department merger. And a special volunteer of the year award went to Bob Woods, executive director of the United Way of York County. Woods has been the chairman for several YorkCounts committees, including the Indicators Committee and the County Health Department Task Force, and he is co-chairing the Metro-York Stay In School Initiative.

YorkCounts named Dan Fink communications specialist. Fink will provide staff support for various YorkCounts projects and will shape communication with YorkCounts volunteers, local elected officials, the media and the community. Fink was previously managing editor at the Central Penn Business Journal in Harrisburg and was a longtime reporter and editor at the York Daily Record in York.

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YorkCounts is a community-based coalition working to assess, sustain and enhance York County's quality of life – building alliances, introducing partners, spotlighting issues and facilitating conversations on education, economic development, health and safety and diversity. Partners include Better York, the United Way of York County, WellSpan Health, York College of Pennsylvania, the York County Chamber of Commerce, the York County Commissioners, the York County Community Foundation and the York County Economic Development Corp. Learn more at yorkcounts.org.
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