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For Immediate Release

Faringer Family Homestead Achieves Permanent Protection

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Forty-two acres of an Upper Salford farm north of Schwenksville received permanent protection thanks to the persistence of long-time resident Barbara Faringer and the efforts of Montgomery County Lands Trust. Barbara and David Faringer, Jr., raised their six daughters on the farm, which will now never be developed.

Barbara began her first discussions about land conservation with Upper Salford Township in the early 1990's and stuck with her idea. With her health in decline, she turned the work over to Montgomery County Lands Trust and gave daughter Linda "the legs and voice behind this project" the responsibility of seeing it through. After discussing options with builders about developing only a portion of the farm and also exploring land conservation, the Faringers opted to conserve their land. They realized they could gain the financial security they needed for their mother through a combination sale and donation of the development rights to Montgomery County Lands Trust. The Montgomery County *Green Fields/Green Towns* program provided match funding for the Faringers' charitable donation.

Barbara Faringer long valued the beauty and the peace of her land which her daughter Linda describes as being “close to her mother’s heart.” She decided she wanted to keep the farm as a home base for her daughters and grandchildren and that it was where she wanted to complete her life. Linda notes that “we as a family made a commitment and are making it possible to help mom stay and be comfortable where she is... It’s our way of giving back to our parents who have been so generous with us.”

Through much of the project, another daughter Debbie in Hershey, PA provided moral support to both Linda and Barbara, with the entire family supporting their mother’s wishes.

Walking across the upper Faringer field with Linda, one is struck by the serenity and dramatic beauty of the high land. The brisk, early winter air awakens the senses while the brilliant yellow maples framing the barn suggest why this family homestead is so special and why its permanent protection is a gift to our entire region.

As a non-profit conservancy, Montgomery County Lands Trust works to preserve and connect the natural areas, farmland, and neighborhood green spaces which contribute to our quality of life, to a clean and abundant water supply and to the health of our region’s economy.

--- Montgomery County Lands Trust

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