

## **2002 Annual Report Executive Summary**

### **Upper Kanawha Valley Enterprise Community**

For FY2002, the Upper Kanawha Valley Enterprise Community (UKVEC) has made good progress in initiating new programs and sustaining existing projects. After reviewing Year 2000 figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, progress has been illustrated across the UKVEC's three census tracts by a 2-3% decline in the poverty level for its residents.

For the past three years, the UKVEC has been significantly involved in infrastructure development, housing rehabilitation, and other community programs. The UKVEC Board of Directors and other organizations are steering the UKVEC to take a stronger interest in attracting new businesses/entrepreneurs and providing support to our existing economic base. Other signs of progress and renewed interest in the Upper Kanawha Valley has been illustrated by the demolition of the former East Bank Junior High School for a site to construct a new shell building, completion of the new health clinic at Riverside High School, completion of the Handley Community Building, progress toward the development of 400 new homes in Quincy Hollow, continued development on the UKVEC Business Center in Chelyan, continued development of the Technology Park in Montgomery, planning for a new community center in Cabin Creek, continued development of the Cabin Creek Phase II Sewer project, and a new motor sports park to host 25 races per year.

Future projects include sanitary sewer service to the communities of Winifrede, Lens Creek, Kelly's Creek, and Witcher Creek. Also, a building in Marmet for a future incubator is in the planning stages to create 275-300 new jobs. The UKVEC is also working with the city of Chesapeake and has applied to the Small Cities Block Grant program for a Human Resources building. Another project that has made significant progress is the Rails-to-Trails project for hiking and biking in the Upper Kanawha Valley.