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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESERVATION LEAGUE ANNOUNCES FLOOD RECOVERY GRANT **Tioga County Historical Society Secures \$13,000 from American Express**

ALBANY, NY – 1/21/11 – The Preservation League of New York State will present a **\$13,000 grant from American Express** to the **Tioga County Historical Society** on **Sunday, January 22 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Tioga County Historical Society at 110 Front Street in Owego.

The Tioga County Historical Society, Inc. is an educational organization which collects, preserves and interprets the history of Tioga County. Their collections, research center, heating systems and portions of the museum building were severely damaged in flooding from Tropical Storm Lee. Before the building could re-open to the public, the furnace and boiler had to be replaced, and repairs had to be made to the building's security infrastructure.

“New York’s historic structures have weathered many storms, but when a natural disaster like Tropical Storm Lee comes along, they require special treatment and timely care to survive,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League of New York State. “While the League moved quickly to provide technical advice to groups across the state, there were some organizations that very simply needed financial assistance to secure the future of their historic buildings. We were pleased to facilitate this grant from American Express to ensure that the Tioga County Historical Society could once again serve the residents of the region and the public at large.”

“One of the most important aspects of preserving archival items is temperature and humidity control,” said Kevin Lentz, Executive Director of the Tioga County Historical Society. “The restoration of heat to our building was crucial not only for the operation of our museum,

but for the safety of our collections. We are grateful for this support from American Express, and for the Preservation League's leadership in helping us secure this grant."

According to Cheryl Green Rosario, Director, Philanthropy for American Express, "We believe in supporting organizations and projects that preserve and sustain historic places. Supporting the Tioga County Historical Society in its flood recovery efforts is one way we can ensure these important sites provide ongoing access and enjoyment for current and future generations."

"Late this summer, flooding put historic resources at grave risk across New York State," said Tania Werbizky, the League's Regional Director of Technical and Grant Programs in western New York and the Southern Tier. "A building and its contents may seem beyond hope, but if you do things right, a flooded building can be cleaned up, dried out and reoccupied. We applaud the Tioga County Historical Society for acting quickly to mitigate the worst of the damage, and were delighted to make American Express aware of their immediate needs. We are looking forward to the day when the Society can get back to its primary mission: 'To make history a living presence in people's lives.'"

For more information on the Preservation League, please call 518-462-5658 or visit the League's website at www.preservenys.org.

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