

LOCAL Philanthropy IN ACTION

A publication of the
Community Foundation
CENTRAL BLUE RIDGE

Connecting people who care
with causes that matter

Serving Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta, Nelson, and Highland counties

FALL 2011

As cuts in government funding increase, private philanthropy is increasingly important to sustaining a well-balanced, well-integrated cultural life in our community.

Cultural development happens slowly which is why we're taking the long view. The Community Foundation enriches the cultural life of our community today, and will continue to do so for future generations. This year we invested in these organizations:

- Staunton Music Festival
- Historic Staunton Foundation
- Children's Art Network
- American Shakespeare Center
- Valley Symphonic Concerts
- Wayne Theatre Alliance
- Waynesboro Heritage Foundation
- Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra
- The Big Read



GIVE BROADLY TO ARTS & CULTURE

- » the arts feed the mind
and nourish the soul.

www.communityfoundationcbr.org

Funding the *arts*
& sustaining *culture*



James W. Thacker Jr., a former editor with The News Leader, and his wife, Celeste, recently left a total of \$800,000 to be divided equally among four local charitable organizations. The Community Foundation has established an endowment fund designated for reading and instructional programs at Bessie Weller Elementary School in Staunton.

The Bessie Weller Elementary School gift was made in loving memory of Thacker's mother, Mary Jane Thacker, who ran the school's cafeteria and was a faithful friend of the school for many years.

Gifts That Inspire



Dear Friends,

This summer I was fortunate to attend the Rural Philanthropy Conference, attended by leaders of over 100 community and private foundations from across the country. I came away more inspired than ever, and I'd like to share some of what I learned:

- The Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, is proposing a Rural Philanthropy Growth Act that will provide federal challenge grants to local communities to develop community foundations. According to Secretary Vilsack, this kind of public-private collaboration in rural communities is an "extra untapped power we've never thought about."
- Foundation leaders proposed that community foundations encourage farmers and landowners to give or bequeath a portion of their estates to community foundations rather than leaving all the money and land to children who may not live in the area. As wealth is transferred between generations, there is an opportunity to gift back a portion of the estate to the community in which the wealth was built.
- Robert Groves, the Director of the United States Census Bureau, says that we live in an "amenity-rich rural area." Even so, he says most rural areas are experiencing marked declines in population, economic difficulties, and limited economic opportunities. It is critical that we preserve and enhance our quality of life by investing in a sustainable, thriving community.

Among many rural economies – just like ours - an idea is spreading. People are giving part of their land or money to community foundations and other institutions that commit to help their home towns in perpetuity.

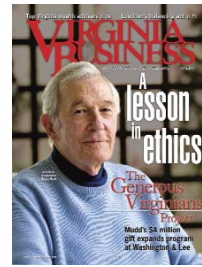
We welcome the opportunity to help you further your philanthropic objectives, even if it is not ultimately with the Community Foundation. Together we can make a difference and improve the quality of life in our community.

Sincerely,

Becky Kohler

Becky Kohler, CFP
President & CEO

Community Foundations Donate Without Fanfare



They are the quiet stewards of philanthropy in Virginia. They do good works but rarely make a splash or try to bring undue recognition to themselves. Virginia's 27 community foundations have disbursed hundreds of millions of dollars over the years from their

endowments, but many Virginians hardly know they exist. Unlike many charities, community foundations generally do not make annual appeals for funds with high-profile publicity and event-driven campaigns. Instead, they typically work with bankers, trust officers, lawyers, financial planners and others to secure gifts from persons who want to help their communities either now or after their deaths by establishing charitable funds, usually with favorable tax advantages.

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Hearing is Believing!



In 2011, we gave a grant to the **Wayne Theatre Alliance** so they could purchase assistive listening devices for their hard of hearing patrons. Although the theatre is not yet complete, the equipment is already being used in the temporary performance space. The equipment will be permanently installed in the new theatre when it is complete.

INVESTING IN LOCAL TALENT

Charles Lawhorn, of Buffalo Gap High School, is the recipient of this year's \$5,000 Martin Lightsey Scholarship for Technical Education.

"Charles is an exceptional young man," says Becky Kohler, President and CEO of the Community Foundation. "He overcame a tragic childhood, and was raised by his grandmother in a house of nine." At Buffalo Gap High School, Lawhorn graduated with a GPA of 4.0, started on the football and wrestling teams, was the wrestling



Martin Lightsey, Chairman of the Board, Cadence, Inc. with Charles Lawhorn

PHOTO BY CINDI JOHNSON

team captain, and qualified for the State Wrestling Tournament. He excelled at the regional Governor's School, and is the first in his family to go to college. Now enrolled at Virginia Tech, Lawhorn is pursuing an Electrical Engineering degree and plans to focus on creating better and more efficient electric vehicles.

■ The Community Foundation awarded just over \$50,000 in scholarships to 39 area students in 2011. "Our goal is to reduce the financial concerns of these promising young people, so that they can focus on their studies and achieve great things in the future," says Becky Kohler.

"I've got a taxable event."

"I want to make a difference."

It's simple. When you give gifts of appreciated real estate or securities (or cash) to a Donor Advised Fund at the Community Foundation:

- You get a tax deduction
- You avoid capital gains tax
- You determine which organizations receive funds
- You have access to the Foundation's research & knowledge

It starts with a conversation... ...and it's simpler than you think.

This year, the Community Foundation was the recipient of a wonderful gift. We received an anonymous donation of real estate which was sold for more than half a million dollars. No tax was paid on the property which was owned by the Foundation at the time of sale. The donor received a tax deduction. Proceeds were invested in the donor-advised *WISE Fund*, which gives back to our community in the interest areas that are important to the individual. The donor will recommend local causes and organizations to the Foundation's Board of Directors for many years. The donor will also learn more about local funding opportunities from Community Foundation staff. At the death of the donor, these funds will become unrestricted for grants that will be made at the discretion of the Foundation's Board, depending on the current needs of the community.



Community Foundation
of the Central Blue Ridge
P.O. Box 815
Staunton, Virginia 24402-0815

(540) 213-2150
info@CommunityFoundationCBR.org

www.communityfoundationcbr.org

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Have a
great idea?
Let's talk.

We respond to community needs in a variety of major categories including education, health and human services, arts and culture, historic preservation, recreation, and the environment. Grants are presented to 501(c)(3) charitable organizations that satisfy the requirements of the IRS. The next round of competitive community grant applications will be due in January of 2012.

Visit our website for an application.
www.CommunityFoundationCBR.org

Giving to the Community Foundation
means your money "stays local."

To donate to these or other funds, please call (540) 213-2150 or contribute online through our website.



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Bridge Fund



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for Education
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