



***The Alleghany Foundation Awards More than \$1 Million to Area Projects***  
*Region's vitality, wellness of citizens are primary focus*

**COVINGTON, Va. (May 7, 2009)** – *The Alleghany Foundation announced today that it has awarded \$1,100,503 in 15 grants to 10 area organizations for projects designed to improve and enhance the quality of life for citizens of the Alleghany Highlands.*

*Investment in the growth and stability of the Highlands, and support for its community services and wellness programs, were the main focus of the grants awarded by the private foundation, which was funded by the sale of the region's hospital to HCA in 1995.*

*"The Foundation recognized the importance of investing in initiatives and programs that will have a far-reaching impact on the vitality of our region," said Charles Kahle, Foundation President. "The grants awarded in this cycle illustrate our strong belief in our citizens and in the future of the Highlands."*

*The largest grant, \$350,000 to Alleghany County, will fund the completion of the first seven miles of the Jackson River Scenic Trail. The trail spans 17 miles along the former Chesapeake & Ohio railroad bed, and was purchased by the county in 2004 because of its recreational, scenic and cultural value. Enhancements will include resurfacing, signage, screen planting, fencing and construction of trail heads.*

*The Alleghany Highlands YMCA was awarded \$300,000 to curtail its current debt associated with the construction of its new facility. The YMCA, which has raised \$7.1 million for its capital campaign, serves more than 3,500 members in the area. Its programs include childcare, swimming, teen fitness, weight management and employee health enhancement for area companies.*

*The YMCA also received \$62,500 for child care scholarships. The funds will provide financial assistance to children and families for its childcare program. The YMCA operates childcare centers in Covington, Low Moor and Eagle Rock and assisted 190 children through this program during the last school year.*

*Alleghany County also received \$62,500 for expenses related to regional consolidation discussions. The City of Covington, in cooperation and conjunction with the County's application, made a similar request and was funded in the amount of \$62,500. The planned consolidation talks come as the result of a citizen-led initiative last year to address the need for providing the most efficient and effective citizen services and for concentrating efforts and funds on future economic development in the Alleghany Highlands.*

*Also receiving funding this cycle from The Alleghany Foundation are:*

- *Alleghany Highlands Arts & Crafts Center: \$35,389 to leverage fundraising with a dollar for dollar match, for school residency programs, for gallery lighting equipment and for marketing expenses.*
- *Alleghany County: \$64,000 for two annual tire amnesty days over a two-year period. This community cleanup program will rid the area of approximately 12,000 tires.*
- *City of Covington: \$45,887 to complete the third phase of the Alleghany Avenue Beautification Project. The grant will cover costs for landscaping and for informational and directional signage.*
- *Town of Clifton Forge: \$38,000 to remove blighted structures as part of the town's Neighborhood Improvement Project.*
- *Jackson River Enterprises: \$24,103 to purchase recycling equipment and a vacuum system. Also \$5,460 to purchase two defibrillators to provide employees with advance medical rescue techniques until professional assistance is available.*
- *Alleghany Humane Society: \$24,000 to provide veterinarian services for one year.*
- *Southwest Virginia Area Health Education Center: \$19,364 for personnel and other related expenses to continue the Youth VIP Program at Alleghany Regional Hospital.*
- *C.O.P.E. Food Pantry: \$5,000 to provide food for local families in need.*
- *Special Olympics area 18: \$1,800 to purchase and install two DVD players in vans used by special needs individuals*

*"The Alleghany Foundation board members are dedicated to the future of the Alleghany Highlands and to being good stewards of the Foundation's assets," says Beth Webb, executive director of The Alleghany Foundation. "This area is fortunate to have these volunteers who believe in the organization's mission to enhance the lives of the people who will always make this region so special."*

*The Alleghany Foundation is a nonprofit foundation based in Covington. Since its formation in June 1995, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$28 million to 57 organizations for programs to benefit Alleghany Highlands residents.*

*The Foundation received 39 grant requests during this funding cycle, according to Webb. The Foundation awards grants twice annually. Nonprofit, 501(c)3 tax-exempt organizations interested in requesting funding from the Foundation should submit an application, following the instructions outlined in the Foundation's Application Guidelines Brochure. For more information about the Alleghany Foundation, please visit [www.alleghanyfoundation.org](http://www.alleghanyfoundation.org).*

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## **The Alleghany Foundation**

**May 2009**

### **Grants**

#### **Alleghany County**

-Jackson River Scenic Trail	\$350,000
-Tire amnesty days	\$64,000
-Consolidation discussion expenses	\$62,500

#### **Alleghany Highlands YMCA**

-Curtail new facility construction debt	\$300,000
-Child care program scholarships	\$62,500

#### **City of Covington**

- Consolidation discussion expenses	\$62,500
-Alleghany Avenue Beautification	\$45,887

#### **Town of Clifton Forge**

-Neighborhood improvements	\$38,000
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#### **Alleghany Highlands Arts & Crafts Center**

-Matching grant, residency, marketing, lighting	\$35,389
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#### **Jackson River Enterprises**

-Equipment purchase	\$24,103
-Defibrillators	\$5,460

#### **Alleghany Humane Society**

-Veterinarian services	\$24,000
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#### **SW VA AHEC**

-Continuation of Youth Volunteer Program	\$19,364
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#### **C.O.P.E.**

-Food pantry purchases	\$5,000
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#### **Special Olympics Area 18**

-DVD players for vans	\$1,800
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#### **TOTAL**

**\$1,100,503**

