



The Alleghany Foundation Awards More than \$1 Million to Area Projects Economic Development is Major Focus of Fall Grant Cycle

COVINGTON, Va. (Nov. 12, 2008) – The Alleghany Foundation announced today that it has awarded \$1,193,628 in 13 grants to 11 area organizations for projects designed to improve and enhance the quality of life for citizens of the Alleghany Highlands.

Business development and regional tourism, key drivers in the region's economic growth, were the primary 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 grants awarded by the Foundation for this cycle will help support a number of services that significantly impact the growth and economic health of our region, and, ultimately, the wellbeing of the citizens of the Alleghany Highlands," said Charles Kahle, Foundation President. "In this period of economic uncertainty, it is even more important that we create a business and tourism-friendly environment to attract new revenue to our region."

The largest grant, \$399,000 to the Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Corporation, will fund four separate projects:

- A Downtown Visioning, Planning & Implementation Strategies study, including consultant fee for a planner/architect/retail specialist who would focus on the needs of the downtown districts for three years to include both Covington and Clifton Forge downtown districts.
- Tourism Needs Assessment and Visitors' Center Marketing Plan to increase the tourism market share in the area.
- Consultant fee to analyze workforce characteristics in Covington and Alleghany County, as well as in Bath, Botetourt, Craig, Greenbrier, Highland, Monroe and Rockbridge Counties and in Lexington and Buena Vista, which would help to overcome workforce availability objections by prospects for available properties such as AET.
- A study of an abandoned limestone mine near Low Moor to determine feasibility of use of the property as a data security center. The study will test the mine's structural stability as well as prepare 3-D mapping.

Alleghany County received \$192,000 to implement a master plan for the Regional Commerce Center in Low Moor. The funds will target an initial 21 acres of the 140-acre site, and will provide a landscaped entry to the Center that will feature an illuminated sign.

The Alleghany County Historical Society received \$65,000 in funding to complete the renovations to the circa-1890 C&O Freight Depot, which will be used as an annex to the Society's Visitors Center and Museum.

The Foundation awarded three separate grants totaling \$201,645 to the Alleghany Highlands Free Clinic to fund salaries and benefits for a physician assistant, administrative support personnel and a pharmacy services coordinator for a period of one year.

A grant in the amount of \$142,042 was awarded to Dabney S. Lancaster Community College to continue and expand its Emergency Medical Services Training Program. To date, approximately 100 local volunteers have enrolled in the college's EMS courses.

Also receiving funding this cycle from The Allegheny Foundation are:

- Allegheny Highlands YMCA: \$53,500 to purchase a mini-bus for their daycare and after school care programs.
- Allegheny County United Fire and Rescue: \$66,000 to purchase thermal imaging cameras for each of the County's eight fire departments.
- Jackson River Enterprises: \$61,741 to expand its recycling efforts in the community by placing recycling trailers at additional locations.
- Local Office on Aging: \$10,000 to reimburse mileage costs for its Vital Services Transportation Program.
- Safehome Systems, Inc.: \$1,700 to replace two garage doors for the donation storage area of this service for victims of domestic violence.
- Virginia Hunters Who Care: \$1,000 to process and distribute venison, a lean source of protein, to local food pantries for people in need .

"The prospect of re-energized downtowns and increased tourism is very exciting," says Beth Webb, executive director of The Allegheny Foundation. "I applaud the efforts of the Foundation's board of directors for positively impacting the economic viability of the Allegheny Highlands."

The Allegheny Foundation is a nonprofit foundation based in Covington. Since its formation in June 1995, the Foundation has awarded over \$27 million to 72 organizations for programs to benefit Allegheny Highlands residents.

The Foundation received 28 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.

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**The Allegheny Foundation
November 2008**

Grants

Allegheny Highlands Economic Development Corporation	\$399,000
Allegheny County -Commerce Center Master Plan Implementation	\$192,000
Dabney S. Lancaster Community College - EMS Training Program	\$142,042
Allegheny Historical Society -Interior Restoration of C&O Freight Depot	\$65,000
Allegheny Highlands YMCA - Mini Bus for Daycare Program	\$53,500
Allegheny Highlands Free Clinic -Physician Assistant Salary	\$78,635
-Pharmacy Services Coordinator	\$45,580
-Administrative Salaries	\$77,430
Allegheny County United Fire and Rescue -Thermal Imaging Cameras	\$66,000
Jackson River Enterprises -Recycling Equipment	\$61,741
Local Office on Aging -Vital Services Transportation Program Mileage	\$10,000
Safehome Systems, Inc. -Replacement of Garage Doors	\$1,700
Virginia Hunters Who Care -Venison for the Hungry Program	\$1,000
TOTAL	\$1,193,628