



Alleghany Highlands YMCA Daycare

September 27, 2007



Children do well when families do well, and families do better when they live in supportive communities. The availability of child care is an important aspect of quality family life and, thanks to The Alleghany Foundation; the Alleghany Highlands YMCA has been able to ensure that affordable, high quality child care remains available to working families throughout the Alleghany Highlands.



“Rural areas have particular challenges accessing licensed child care programs and the YMCA was originally brought into our community to address that challenge,” says Teresa Hammond, board chair of the Alleghany Highlands YMCA. “The Children’s Learning Center has been providing family-centered, value-based child care for 15 years now with sites in Clifton Forge and Covington. And, thanks to the substantial financial support provided by The Alleghany

Foundation over the past eleven years, our programs are open to all families regardless of their ability to pay.”

Since 1996, The Alleghany Foundation has awarded the YMCA Children’s Learning Center over \$365,000.00 which has afforded the purchase of safe and reliable transportation to elementary schools, daycare sites, YMCA aquatic facilities, field trips and special events. The Foundation also supports the Center’s scholarship fund available to income eligible families in need of infant, preschool, and after school child care programs.

Vickie Kerns, Administrator of childcare at the Allegheny Highlands YMCA stresses that the Children's Learning Center is open to all children. "Many families choose the YMCA because it is the best program available to them," says Kerns. "And that diversity provides the balance that every well rounded child must have."

The Center provides an overall learning experience that not only prepares preschool age children for kindergarten, but teaches character values like honesty, respect, caring and responsibility. "Forty percent of our child care staff is college educated, and we have a staff retention rate of at least 3 to 4 years," says Kerns. "Our curriculum meets the standards set by the Virginia Department of Education, and the children participate in enrichment programs from swim lessons to music lessons,"



The future looks bright for the Allegheny Highlands YMCA Children's Learning Center. "In the last 18 months alone, we've doubled our capacity and, just as rapidly, we've nearly filled to capacity," says Kerns. "The Allegheny Foundation has really been the catalyst behind our ability to grow. Saying thank you hardly seems adequate. The YMCA is so fortunate to have The Allegheny Foundation's support."

The Allegheny Foundation has awarded over \$ 24 million to the following organizations for the purpose of improving the quality of life in the Allegheny Highlands.

- Allegheny County
- Allegheny County Parks and Recreation
- Allegheny County Public Schools
- Allegheny County Sheriff's Office
- Allegheny County United Fire and Rescue Association
- Allegheny Health District
- Allegheny Highlands Arts & Crafts Center
- Allegheny Highlands Arts Council
- Allegheny Highlands Community Services Board
- Allegheny Highlands Economic Development Authority
- Allegheny Highlands Economic Development Corporation
- Allegheny Highlands Free Clinic
- Allegheny Highlands Genealogical Society
- Allegheny Highlands YMCA
- Allegheny Historical Society
- Allegheny Humane Society
- Allegheny Mountain Radio
- American Diabetes Association
- American Red Cross
- Appalfolks of America
- Art Museum of Western Virginia
- Bath County
- Bath County Health Department
- Bath County Historical Society
- Blue Ridge Public Television
- Boiling Springs Elementary School

Boiling Springs Fire Department
C.O.P.E.
C & O Historical Society
Callaghan Elementary School PTO
Charles P. Jones Memorial Library
City of Covington
Clifton Forge Little League
Clifton Forge Main Street
Clifton Forge Nursery School
Clifton Forge Public Library
Clifton Forge Volunteer Fire Department
Covington City Schools
Covington Fire Department
Covington Rescue Squad
Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
Diabetes Education Support Group
Falling Spring Elementary School PTO
Falling Spring Fire Department
Falling Spring Rescue Squad
Greater Alleghany Highlands School Health Consortium
Jackson River Enterprises
Jackson river Technical Center
League of Older Americans
Mill Mountain Theatre
Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District
Mountain View Elementary School PTO
Rockbridge Area Community Services Board
Safehome Systems
Science Museum of Western Virginia
Scott Hill Foundation, Inc.
Sharon Elementary School PTO
Sharon Volunteer Fire Department
Shenandoah Autism Center
Southwest Virginia AHEC
Southwest Virginia Second Harvest Foodbank
Special Olympics
Total Action Against Poverty
Town of Clifton Forge
Town of Iron Gate
Unified Human Services Transportation System (RADAR)
West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
Western Virginia Emergency Medical Service Council