



## **The Alleghany Foundation Supports Cultural Opportunities in the Alleghany Highlands**

For over 50 years, the Alleghany Highlands Arts Council has offered residents of the Alleghany Highlands access to the performing arts, thanks to funding sources such as The Alleghany Foundation. Even at a time when budget cuts have left many arts organizations out in the cold, the Arts Council continues to present live, professional performances at an affordable price. “Our funding comes from a variety of sources,” says Tammy Scruggs, executive director, “but it is the matching grants from The Alleghany Foundation that give us the leverage to attract additional support.”



To date, the Foundation has granted over \$712,000 to the Alleghany Highlands Arts Council, the most recent award being a \$36,000 dollar grant for the review of four performance halls. The review will not only provide an assessment of performance venues, but will outline the kinds of performances local audiences would like to see presented. “The Alleghany Foundation believes supporting the arts is an investment in our residents’ quality of life,” says Beth Webb, the Foundation’s executive director. “Quality, cultural programs enhance small communities by providing artistic opportunities that might not otherwise be available to its citizens.”

The Alleghany Highlands Arts Council benefits the community in a number of ways. Programs geared towards children, like The Young People’s Theater, enrich school curriculums, provide cultural and artistic experiences, and many times deal with social issues and values. Scruggs believes that when a situation is presented in a creative, non-threatening way, children listen.

Cultivating and nurturing talent is another way the Arts Council brings people together. Adults have the opportunity to participate in the Alleghany Highlands Chorale, the Alleghany Highlands Orchestra and Alleghany Community Theatre. The annual Missoula Children’s Theatre brings together 55-65 children to participate in a first-class theatre experience in a non-

competitive, team-building environment. “Right now we host Missoula Children's Theatre once a year in mid-winter,” says Scruggs. “But it’s become so popular that, this year, we plan to expand and add a summer residency.”

Annual artist-in-residence programs provide workshops, clinics or master classes to the schools and community. Artists live in the community from four days to six weeks, allowing them to mingle with local residents and experience daily life in the Alleghany Highlands. This season’s artist-in-residence program includes storyteller, David Parker, who uses sign language as his first language. In addition, high school chorus members and the Alleghany Highlands Chorale will be working on musical numbers they will perform with the cast of *100 Years of Broadway*, and elementary school students will travel to see the aerial acrobatics of *Cirque Le Masque*.

The Arts Council collaborates with other regional organizations to bring in professional productions and to help keep down costs. Collaborators include Mill Mountain Theater and The Roanoke Symphony Orchestra. “We’re hoping to bring The Roanoke Symphony Chamber Orchestra to the Homestead again this Christmas to present Handel's *Messiah*,” says Scruggs. “And, this season marks the beginning of a new relationship with the Greenbrier Valley Theatre when we present their show *Plaid Tidings* as our holiday offering.”

The 2007/2008 season has attracted some of the largest crowds to date. The Bucky Covington concert on September 16<sup>th</sup> brought an audience of over 2,000 to the Jackson River Sports Complex. “We had folks from as far away as Lynchburg, Staunton, Blacksburg, and deep into West Virginia,” says Scruggs. The Callaghan Bluegrass Festival was held August 17 & 18 and featured seven bands with Nashville's Ronnie Reno as the headline. The festival attracted over 700 fans over the two-day event.

Tammy Scruggs believes that funds raised to support the Alleghany Highlands Arts Council reflect a growing acceptance within the community of the importance of cultural events and the quality of life in the Alleghany Highlands. “The Alleghany Foundation has contributed so much to each person's exposure to arts and culture over the last eleven years. So many extraordinary opportunities have been afforded by the Foundation's generosity.”

Since its inception, the foundation has granted nearly 26 million to the following worthy, 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations with the purpose of improving the quality of life in the Alleghany Highlands:

- Alleghany County
- Alleghany County Parks and Recreation
- Alleghany County Public Schools
- Alleghany County Sheriff's Office
- Alleghany County United Fire and Rescue Association
- Alleghany Health District
- Alleghany Highlands Arts & Crafts Center
- Alleghany Highlands Arts Council
- Alleghany Highlands Community Services Board
- Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Authority
- Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Corporation
- Alleghany Highlands Free Clinic
- Alleghany Highlands Genealogical Society
- Alleghany Highlands YMCA
- Alleghany Historical Society

Alleghany Humane Society  
Alleghany 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