



The Alleghany Foundation Awards More than \$800K to Area Projects

Spring Grants to Impact Quality of Life through Transportation, Healthcare, and Other Initiatives

COVINGTON, Va. (May 8, 2008) – The Alleghany Foundation today announced that it has awarded \$807,098 in 10 grants to nine area organizations, further demonstrating the foundation's commitment to partnering with local agencies to improve the quality of life in the Alleghany Highlands.

The private foundation, which was funded by the sale of the region's hospital to HCA in 1995, awarded assistance to projects across several areas key to the region's well-being: public transportation, area beautification, cultural enrichment, environmental education, community health and wellness, childcare, and recreation.

"The Foundation is pleased to have an opportunity to work with so many groups who are so clearly committed to our region, and we believe that the services supported by these awards will significantly impact the lives and welfare of the citizens of the Alleghany Highlands," said Charles Kahle, Foundation President.

One of the larger grants--to the Unified Human Services Transportation System, known as RADAR--will impact many Highlands citizens who need transportation to shopping, medical visits, and other area businesses. The \$60,000 award will match funds available through a Department of Rail and Public Transportation grant, and will help the agency expand its Alleghany Highlands Mountain Express, a fixed route bus service between Iron Gate, Clifton Forge and Covington.

"With this grant, we will purchase a second bus, which will allow the Mountain Express to expand its current service to include additional stops throughout the Highlands," said Curtis Andrews, executive director of the RADAR program. "We hope to begin the new service in the fall."

The RADAR service is used by the general public at the subsidized rate of \$.50 per trip, says Andrews. The service, launched in 1997 with the help of a grant from The Alleghany Foundation, served 10,527 riders in 2007.

The Foundation continued its support of youth recreation with a \$13,485 grant to the Alleghany Highlands Youth Soccer Foundation (AYHSA). The award will be used to bring a professional soccer trainer to the area to work with AYHSA players and coaches during an eight-week program, fund a week-long Major League Soccer clinic for teen players, and install additional soccer nets along the sidelines at the Jackson River Sports Complex. Previously, the Foundation had awarded \$34,000 for soccer field improvements.

The largest grant, for the sum of \$407,050, was awarded for the Greater Alleghany School Health Project, an initiative that the Foundation has supported since its inception in 1996. Funding in this cycle will fund a part-time nurse in every Covington and Alleghany County school for 4-6 hours a day over a three-year period.

Three additional grants -- two to the city of Covington and one to the Clifton Forge Main Street project -- will help beautify those municipalities. In Covington, the awards, totaling \$52,123, will be used for the demolition of abandoned structures in the city, as well as landscaping projects at the historic C & O Depot and along South Alleghany Avenue. The Clifton Forge Main Street Project, which is affiliated with the Virginia Main Street Program, was awarded \$40,000 in Foundation funding for efforts to give area business owners financial incentive to improve existing building facades.

The Alleghany Highlands Arts Council also received significant support through the Foundation in the form of dollar-for-dollar matching funds, as well as for underwriting for its seven Artists-In-Residency programs for the coming season.

Also receiving funding this cycle from The Alleghany Foundation are:

- Alleghany Highlands YMCA: \$50,000 for ongoing support of the after-school and day care programs for more than 180 children from those families in need of financial assistance in the Alleghany Highlands..
- Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District: \$35,000 to provide environmental education programming, including the construction of outdoor classrooms, to all schools in the City of Covington and Alleghany County for the school year 2008/2009.
- Bear Trust International: \$6000 in matching funds for the organization's Adopt-A-Dumpster program, which will help purchase and install eight wildlife-resistant containers in area parks and recreation areas.

Beth Webb, executive director of The Alleghany Foundation, praised the work of the Foundation's volunteer board members who spend untold hours analyzing the many requests for funding.

“This area is very fortunate to have members who are not only willing to invest their time in this process, but who also understand the needs of our region," said Webb. "With so many worthwhile requests and so many clearly important needs, it's no simple task to make these kinds of decisions, and I'm grateful to have such a strong and committed board.”

The Alleghany Foundation is a nonprofit foundation based in Covington. Since its formation in June 1995, the Foundation has awarded more than \$26 million to 70 organizations for programs to benefit Alleghany Highlands residents. 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 Alleghany Foundation

May 2008

Grants

Greater Alleghany School Health Project

-School Nurse Program \$407,050

Unified Human Services Transportation System (RADAR)

- Mountain Express Bus Line \$60,000

Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District

- Environmental Education Program \$35,000

Alleghany Highlands Arts Council

- Artists-in-Residence Series \$103,440

- Matching Funds \$40,000

Alleghany Highlands YMCA

- Day Care and after-school care \$50,000

City of Covington

- Demolition projects \$25,900

- Landscaping projects \$26,223

Clifton Forge Main Street

-Facade Incentive Grants \$40,000

Bear Trust International

-Matching funds for Adopt-A-Dumpster program \$6000

Alleghany Highlands Youth Soccer Association

-Multiple projects \$13,485

TOTAL \$807,098