



NewsLight

A newsletter for contributors and friends of the Virginia Community Foundation

Fall/Winter 2007

Vol. 12, No. 2

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NewsLight

NewsLight is the official semi-annual publication of the Virginia Community Foundation.

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www.virginiafoundation.com

The Great Virginia Get-Together, an Opportunity to Grow

By now, most of you have received an invitation to the Great Virginia Get-Together, an all-community, all-class reunion scheduled for July 1-6, 2008. Your Virginia Community Foundation Board of Directors is excited to sponsor this event, held in the likeness of past All-Class Reunions, but expanded this time, to include all residents of our community, past and present.

We hope you make plans to come! You won't be disappointed, as planning committee members work to create an event that brings back memories for all of us, as well as making extraordinary new ones.

As our history reflects, the Foundation has established a commitment to enriching the lives of those who live in or visit the city of Virginia. Building a permanent and long-lasting endowment to fund projects assures we will always be able to contribute to the health and vitality of our community. The Foundation has the ability through its granting

priorities and good will to create a community pride that sustains us in good times and in leaner times. It is in this spirit that we endeavor to create the first community-wide party, festival, gathering, reunion, "great get-together"; a celebration of our past and a recognition of all we have to offer today and in the future.

The Virginia Community Foundation has gone from just an idea in the early '90s to a robust and growing community resource. With its goal of raising \$5 million by the end of 2008, the Foundation has the potential to end up firmly rooted as a substantial feature of the Virginia landscape. At the granting level \$5 million allows, approximately \$250,000 a year, we are assured a rich community life filled with hope and excitement.

The Great Virginia Get-Together gives the Foundation the opportunity to share our vision for the future.

And, we remain committed to giving you as many

*continued on
next page*



The Great Virginia Get-Together
All-Class & Community Celebration * July 1-6, 2008

Message from the Chair



I have had the pleasure to be involved with the Virginia Community Foundation for nearly eight years, serving on the board of directors. I first

became involved with the Foundation because I had a desire to donate my time and resources in a way that would impact the lives of those living in my community.

Throughout the past several years, it has been my privilege to work with numerous volunteers, businesses and

residents on various fundraising projects and special events focused on building the Foundation's endowment fund. The investment returns from the endowment fund support the Foundation's grant program. With everyone's commitment and hard work, the Virginia Community Foundation has been able to award many grants, which have improved countless lives.

However, in celebrating the successes of the grant program, I recognize that there is an opportunity for the Foundation to make a much larger impact on our community. Due to an increasing lack of resources, there remain many organizations in

need of financial support for their programs and projects. It is my hope that the generosity of foundation supporters will enable the Foundation to provide additional grants in support of our community parks, lakes, school, library, seniors and youth.

The Virginia Community Foundation is a reflection of the generous donors who share our commitment to this community. Whether you are a current resident, past resident, or community friend, I hope each of you is inspired to support the Virginia Community Foundation. Every single gift makes a difference.

Foundation Receives National Standards Designation



We are delighted to announce that the Virginia Community Foundation recently received confirmation of compliance with National Standards, for operational quality, donor service and accountability in the community foundation sector.

Placing the National Standards Seal by the Virginia Community Foundation

name indicates official confirmation from the Council on Foundations that we have met the most rigorous standards in philanthropy. It affirms our commitment to financial security, transparency and accountability.

The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations Program was established in 2000 in cooperation with the Council on Foundations. The 43 National Standards require the Virginia Community Foundation to document its policies in donor services,

investment management, grant making and administration. To receive confirmation of National Standards compliance, the Virginia Community Foundation submitted its organizational and financial policies and procedures to a rigorous peer review.

Obtaining the prestigious National Standards designation further demonstrates the Foundation's dedication to continue its mission of building the health and vitality of the community through its grant program.

continued from front page

The Great Virginia Get-Together, an Opportunity to Grow

opportunities as possible to reflect on your hometown and consider a gift to the Foundation's endowment. This makes you a part of building our future so you can continue to take pride in a place that is a part of your history.

There are many ways to contribute. You can add the Foundation to your list of annual charitable giving targets, put the Foundation in your will, contribute an asset that allows you to benefit your tax standing, or, most importantly, make the July Great Virginia Get-Together a priority and send in your

reservation. Once in town, you will have opportunities to share your insights with the Foundation and make contributions with the benefit of expressing what excites you the most about what we've done or hope to do.

The Great Virginia Get-Together is an opportunity for all of us to reminisce, reestablish old relationships and create new ones. What a time for all of us to remember where we come from and to take back to our everyday lives those things that remind us of who we are.

We hope to see you in the summer of 2008!

Great Virginia Get-Together Events

Class Gatherings
All American Lumberjack Show
& Kids Lumberjack Sports Camp
Celebration Dance
Classic Car Show
'50s & '60s Cruise Night
Special Golf Event
Neighborhood Picnics
Parade
Street Dance
Fireworks
Alumni Baseball Game
Reunion Music Concert
Outdoor Movie
Garage Band Event
Tennis Mixer Event
City Band Concert & Song Fest

Good Food, Good Friends, Good Times!



Henry Tamminen shares a message from his son, Capt. Joseph Tamminen.



Fairview Singers welcome guests at Bay View Lodge in July.

The Virginia Community Foundation held two fundraising events this year, focusing on building the permanent endowment fund. Much like a tree, the Foundation cannot prosper without a good root system. In the Foundation's case, it is our donors and their contributions to the endowment fund that feed our growth and ultimately help our community prosper.

The Virginia Community Foundation held its 3rd Annual We Believe Fundraising Luncheon on May 3rd at the Miners Memorial Building. The luncheon was a huge success with over 300 people attending. One highlight of the program was Hank Tamminen reading a letter from his son, Capt. Joseph Tamminen, USMC. Joe wrote about his experiences growing up in Virginia and how those experiences have helped him through two tours of duty in Iraq. Joe has seen the changes and the cutbacks to programs in Virginia. He wanted to make a difference and did so by sending a \$500 check with his letter.

In July, the Foundation hosted a fundraising breakfast at Bay View Lodge on beautiful Lake Vermilion. This event provided an opportunity for people from all over the United States to hear our story and to contribute to the Virginia Community Foundation. In making a considerable contribution to help the Foundation do more, one former Virginia resident stated "I had

no idea the Foundation was doing such great things."

The two events were a huge success! The Foundation welcomes Keith & Laurie Harvey and Rosemary Rowell as our newest members of the We Believe Giving Society. Special thanks go out to the Iron Range Rehab Center for sponsoring the May 1st

Lunch and to the wonderful Table Captains for inviting their families and friends.

Please contact the Foundation office if you are interested in learning more about the Virginia Community Foundation or would like to attend an upcoming fundraising event.

Successful Annual Fall Fundraiser

Seventy-six volunteers called on residences during the recent community canvas as a part of the foundation's Annual Fall Fundraiser. Formerly called Turn on Your Lights, the fundraiser will wrap up in the coming weeks. Once again, donors generously supported the request for

donations to the community endowment fund. The fundraiser is a broad-based, grassroots campaign to encourage donations of all sizes from the community. Preliminary forecasts indicate potential for a record-breaking year. Final results will be announced later.



Land of the Loon volunteers pause as they head out to canvas their section.

Community Grants in Action

Students at Roosevelt Elementary now have the opportunity to interact with nature right outside the schoolroom doors! The Virginia Community Foundation was proud to support an outdoor experiential learning classroom for grades four, five and six with a \$2500 grant. Elements of learning in the outdoor classroom will include rocks and minerals, birds, butterflies and other insects, weather, trees and flowers. Roosevelt Elementary Principal, Willie Spelts, said

“The grant from the Virginia Community Foundation allowed our Virginia Roosevelt Elementary students to have immediate access to an outdoor learning laboratory. They can do hands-on science right here on our school site. We are very thankful and appreciative. Thanks so much!”

Emergency patient care for trauma or critically ill patients will now be safer, more timely and efficient with the completion of a helipad at the Virginia Regional Medical Center. The

Foundation demonstrated commitment to our community with a \$10,000 grant to assist with the construction of a rooftop helipad. Board Chair, Jody Vest said, “This project will significantly decrease the amount of time involved in stabilizing and transporting a patient to a tertiary care center. When the life of a loved one is at stake, a rooftop helipad can make the difference.”

Other recent grants included \$2900 to the Lyric Center for the Arts for cornice repair and second story window painting on the theater; Foundation support for the restoration and rehabilitation of the Friends of the B'nai Abraham Synagogue for use as a museum by providing a \$2500 grant; and an award of \$1350 to Range Respite for a new dementia-specific adult group respite program.

Cumulative community grants now exceed \$357,000.



Students prepare to fill planters for the Outdoor Classroom at Roosevelt Elementary



Kathleen Murray and Keith Harvey, VRMC, accept the foundation grant from Linda Niskanen and Board Chair, Jody Vest

Foundation Thanks Newsletter Volunteer



The Virginia Community Foundation would like to extend a special thank-you to Nadene West, who has been a valuable NewsLight volunteer for the past few years. Each spring and fall, Nadene spends hours sorting mailing labels, ensuring that each newsletter reaches its destination. Thank you Nadene, for your time and commitment to the Foundation!



Contributors to the Virginia Community Foundation

(contributions since our last newsletter)

Barb Alaspa
Pearl Alaspa
John & Cindy Altobelli
Ameriprise Financial
Anonymous Donor
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Robin & Brian Aronen
Arrow Auto Supply
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Wells Fargo
Nadene West
Betty Zalkowski
Z-Tech

Memorials

(since last newsletter)

In memory of Robert R. Leiviska

Bob & Barb Baldrica, Donald & Joann Halunen, Virginia & Elmer Kempainen, Richard & Pat Lenci, Ernest & Marsha Maki, George & Marian McCall, Norma Nekich, Bobby & Nancee Norri, Deanne Polski & Tom Butorac, Raymond & Opal Ranta

In memory of Sally Grierson

Jean Abramson, Renee Aro, Mike & Sue Blaeser, Linda Jarmer, Mary Murphy, David Putzel, Barb Raihala, Kathy Smrekar, Jeanette Rodorigo, Bill & Kay Wernecke

In memory of Janice Lundeen Lammi

Carolyn & Paul Ahlquist, Charlene & Dominic Buffetta, Joan Doherty, Hartley & Lois Halunen, Barbara A. Johnson, Joan McRaith, Dorothy Parish, Susan & Charles Redditt, Barbara Thiede

In memory of Marcella Tamminen

Bob & Barb Baldrica, John & Linda Cope, Keith & Julie Hendrickson, Michael & Nancy Kearney, Rick & Mary Ann Robinson, Tony & Kathy Sacchetti, Michael Swor, Al & Mary Williams

Anonymous Donor in memory of Wally Jones

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in memory of Dory Bartoletti Barry and Reuben Bartoletti

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in memory of Sophie Chiarello

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John & Linda Cope in memory of Brian Erickson

Lois Curry in memory of George Curry

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in memory of Benedito Gentilini Family

Katie Finc and Siiri Gilness in memory of Jessica Lishinski

Steve Gentilini in memory of August Gentilini

Jim & Cindy Harrington, Kevin & Patricia Harrington, Tim & Debora Harrington in memory of Lucille & James Harrington, Sr.

"From his friends and family"
in memory of James J. Harrington, Sr.

Ralph & Ruth Harvey in memory of August Gentilini

Ed & Cora Hawkinson in memory of Leslie Hafdahl

Brad & Tammy Hejda and Dan & Erin Henderson
in memory of Dave Vack

Dennis & Carole Hendricks in memory of Lucy Pocrnich

Jarrett & Karlene Hubbard in memory of Karl E. Ruthenbeck

Josie Ilse in memory of Les Hafdahl

Peter & Colette Johnson

in memory of Marilyn Peterson, Betty Bertolas

Lt. Col. David Jones in memory of Forrest H. Jones

Mike & Nancy Kearney in memory of Marilyn Peterson, Pat Foschi

Audra Keller in memory of Leo & Karen Ducharme's sister, Norma

Janet Koski in memory of Creighton Koski

Bernie & Rose Marie Lacher in memory of Marilyn Peterson

Sharon Lager in memory of Pat Foschi

The Richard Lenci Family in memory of Emmett Sund

Deb & Ray Luoma in memory of Dorothy Dargan

Ernest & Marsha Maki in memory of Robert Koebensky

Helen Marconett in memory of Les Hafdahl

Ron & Kathy McLaughlin in memory of Sophie Chiarello

Gerald & Esther Miettunen, Dan & Mary Jo Miettunen & sons,
Steve & Carol Miettunen & family,

Mark Miettunen & Patricia Lesemann & family
in memory of Elsie Janckila Maganani

Mark & Alison Muhich in memory of Vic Lager

Mary Ann Nelimark in memory of Dr. D.R. Nelimark

Linda Niskanen in memory of Dorothy Dargan

Marlene Oelrich in memory of Norma Preimer

Dick & Carol Okerstrom, Sue Okerstrom,
Joe & Sally (Okerstrom) Mayasich
in memory of Elsie Janckila Maganani

Perpich TV & Music in memory of Elda Perpich & Art Peterson

Dan & Becky Peterson in memory of Marilyn Peterson

Erik & Carol Peterson in memory of Lucy Pocrnich

Deanne Polski & Tom Butorac
in memory of August Gentilini, Pat Foschi, Les Hafdahl

David Puzel in memory of Betty Bertolas

Range Office Supply in memory of Philip R. Carlson, Sr.

Tim & Kathy Riordan in memory of Lucy Pocrnich

Byron & Luann Rowell in memory of Mary Segog Dean

Tony & Kathy Sacchetti
in memory of Lucy Pocrnich, Philip Peterangelo, Marilyn Peterson

Scott, Linda, Hannah & Sam Sinjem
in memory of Betty Mae Bocchi

Bob & Beth Skalko in memory of Ed Hoff

Peter & Brenda Skorich in memory of Robert E. Nelson

Mike & Vicki Skubic in memory of August Gentilini

Isabelle Stoia
in memory of sisters, Rose Hanson and Jessie Edwards

Roger & Brenda Suihkonen in memory of Betty Bocchi

Lorraine Sullivan in memory of Thomas Sullivan

All Blue Pride Fund donations are recognized in the Blue Pride Fund Annual Newsletter.

Memorials

(since last newsletter)

Robert & Iris Teasck
in memory of their parents Teasck & Whitmarsh

Jody & Chris Vest in memory of Brian Erickson, Millie Kirsch

Ken & Mary Waschke in memory of Judge Scherkenbach

Wells Fargo Private Client Services in memory of Shirley Cohan

Karen Wilde in memory of Jim & Harriet Wilde

Albin Zaverl in memory of his wife, Arlene

Albin Zaverl in memory of Dr. Cathy Brenner's mother

Named Gifts

(since last newsletter)

H. Jeffrey & Nancy Peterson
In honor of Barb & Tom Pakkala's 50th Anniversary

Virginia Public Library Fund Contributions

(since our last newsletter)

Carl Baranzelli

Karen Haarala
In memory of Dr. Peter A. Haarala

Sandra Markovich

John & Virginia Trucano
In memory of Phil Peterangelo, Kate Rukavina

Crown Jewel Donors

(new or cumulative gifts since last newsletter)

Ruby Givers \$500 to \$999

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Tony & Kathy Sacchetti

Mary Eddy Samuelson

Peter & Brenda Skorich

Joe & Tiffany Tamminen

Chris & Jody Vest

W.A. Fisher

Emerald Givers \$1,000 to \$4,999

Steve Gentilini

Joseph Kraker

Mark & Donna Leese

Henry & Pat Tamminen

Al & Mary Williams

We appreciate gifts of all sizes – Thank You!

These lists have been prepared with care, but if your name has been omitted or is in error, please inform us of the oversight in order that we may correct our records.

Yes, we believe in building the health and vitality of Virginia!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date _____ Phone _____

- Check here for a change of address.
- Send me information about Automated Giving.
- Send me information about establishing a fund in my name or my family's name.
- Send me information about how to leave a bequest to the Virginia Community Foundation.
- Have a foundation representative call me.

I hereby pledge a sum of \$ _____ payable annually or as follows: _____

Donation enclosed _____

Charge my major Credit Card:

No. _____

Expiration Date: _____

Bill me: _____

My gift is in memory/honor (please circle one) of:



make checks payable to:
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www.virginiafoundation.com

Sharing the Story in the Twin Cities

With so many Virginia alumni living in the Twin Cities area, the Foundation hopes to continue reaching out to share our story. Foundation board members and staff are anxious to gather friends and alumni together to learn more about

the Virginia Community Foundation.

Venturing out on slushy late-winter roads, Virginia alumni gathered at Hazeltine National Golf Club to hear about the history and mission of the Virginia Community Foundation. The

foundation sends “special thanks” to Jeff Okland, VHS 1993, for assisting with the wonderful accommodations.

Little else brings out more feelings of warmth and reminiscing than getting Virginia alumni together in the comfort of one’s home. Linda (McKenzie) Sinjem and her husband, Scott, were wonderful hosts for an alumni gathering at their home in Savage, Minnesota.

If you would like to coordinate or attend a future “Meet Your Community Foundation Gathering” in the Twin Cities, please contact a board member or the foundation office at 218-749-8239 or by email to director@virginiafoundation.com



Tyler Harvey, Chris Pearsall, Board Member Brandon Seppala and Jeff Okland enjoy the opportunity to reminisce about Virginia.

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