



# NewsLight

A newsletter for contributors and friends of the Virginia Community Foundation

*Your community. Your legacy.*

Summer 2011

Vol. 16, No. 1

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## NewsLight

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

### Board Members

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- Paul Carlson, Vice Chair
- Rudy Harvey, 2nd Vice Chair
- Carol Sundquist, Board Secretary
- Keith Harvey, Board Treasurer
- Brandon Seppala, Past Chair
- Michael Appelwick
- Christopher Bialke
- Brittany Chopp
- Donna Leese
- Mike Perala
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Questions, comments or donations may be sent to:  
Virginia Community Foundation,  
P.O. Box 559, Virginia, MN 55792  
218-749-8239

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[www.virginiafoundation.com](http://www.virginiafoundation.com)

## P & H MinePro Services Establish a New Parks, Lakes and Recreation Fund

The Virginia Community Foundation is proud to announce the recent establishment of the Parks, Lakes, and Recreation Fund made possible by the continued generosity of a \$17,500 gift from P & H MinePro Services, through the Joy Global Foundation. We are extremely grateful to P & H MinePro and Jon Anderson, P & H Midwest Regional Manager, for their continued support of the Virginia Community Foundation.

Joy Global and its operating company, P & H MinePro Services, consider the broader interests of society by taking responsibility for the impact of their companies' activities. They believe that their responsibility extends beyond the statutory obligation to comply with legislation. They voluntarily take action to improve the quality of life among their employees, families, local communities and the society at large - as well as protect the environment.

Their belief that strong neighborhoods, towns, and cities are vital to the well-being of our society is evident in their commitment to the Virginia Community Foundation. We thank them again for their continued support and investment in our community with the establishment of the Parks, Lakes, and Recreation Fund as well as their past establishment of



the Fund for the Arts.

For every dollar contributed to the Parks, Lakes, and Recreation Fund, \$.70 will be invested in the endowed portion, while \$.30 will be non-endowed and available for immediate use. This fund will assist City of Virginia non-profit (501C-3) organizations in providing recreation and conservation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Recreational projects may consist of basic outdoor recreation facilities (and related

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# Message from the Chair

I would like to take the opportunity to thank those who have made the choice to become a part of the Virginia Community Foundation and I look forward to welcoming new individuals as well.

Each gift is truly a gift that keeps on giving and is an investment for the future of our community.

The past few months have been a busy time for the Virginia Community Foundation. It has been a time of transition and change. This period of transition provides a unique moment for our organization to step back and reflect on the vision and mission of the Foundation and strategically outline future opportunities.

Deb Luoma, a dedicated staff member, recently retired as the Administrative Assistant. Deb's perspective, leadership and passion for the foundation have been invaluable and will be greatly missed.

I would like to thank Bob Prittinen, who has been a devoted board member for the past eight years. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

It is with great pleasure to announce the new Executive Director, Mary Hermanson, to the foundation. Mary brings a great deal of understanding of the benefits of

philanthropy and non-profit efforts.

In our most recent round of grant making, the Virginia Community Foundation awarded over \$14,000 to ten grant recipients that will make a big difference in our community. We would like to thank the generosity of each and every donor. Your charitable giving makes the vision of these many projects become a reality.

For the past few years, P & H MinePro Services, through the Joy Global Foundation, have generously donated to the Fund for the Arts. This year, the foundation was awarded \$17,500 to begin a new Parks, Lakes and Recreation Fund. We are privileged to have their continued support to build a stronger community.

It is with sincere appreciation to the George Munig Family who has embarked on establishing a scholarship fund in honoring the memory of George, a dedicated teacher.

I am grateful to be a part of this incredible organization and to be working with a remarkable Board of Directors. The future looks bright and optimistic with the many opportunities we have in coming months.

Once again, thank you for your past and continued support.

Nancee Norri

Virginia Community Foundation Board Chair

## *Farewell to Friends*

We would like to say farewell to **Bob Prittinen** who has served on the Virginia Community Foundation board since 2003. He has been an established community leader who also has experience with the Chamber of Commerce, VRMC Foundation, the Virginia Tennis Program and many other projects. He has been instrumental in helping raise money and awareness for the "Tennis for All" project, as well as spreading passion and enthusiasm about the local downtown murals. Thank you

Bob for all your hard work and dedication.

On behalf of the Virginia Community Foundation Board, we would like to give a special thank you and farewell to **Deb Luoma**, the Foundation's Administrative Assistant, who is retiring after working here for over seven years. Deb has been a vital part of the foundation, volunteering her personal time to serve on numerous committees, and always ready to share a smile. She will be greatly missed.

## P & H MinePro Services Establish a New Parks, Lakes and Recreation Fund

*continued from front page*

support facilities) to serve the general public, provided the project is in the best public interest. Eligible projects may include, but are not limited to, recreational support facilities, beautification, gardens, renovations and redevelopment, trails, aquatic facilities, etc. All projects must comply with the City of Virginia codes and regulations. A complete listing of guidelines is available from the Foundation office.

To make a donation or learn more about this fund, please contact the Virginia Community Foundation Office at 218-749-8239 or visit us online at [www.virginiafoundation.com](http://www.virginiafoundation.com).

# Mural Projects in Motion

In May, the Virginia Community Foundation's Mural Committee announced its 5th mural project, a Virginia Marching Band theme. As with the Veterans Mural, individuals are being given an opportunity to memorialize a loved one, by placing his or her image on the next mural. Committee Chair, Alicia Cope, advises that space is still available, but it is being sold on a first come first serve basis. For \$125, a loved one can be depicted. The depiction will include the loved one's face, name and year of graduation. It is a wonderful opportunity to recognize someone special to you, and also support the current and future mural projects in Virginia. In addition to images, musical notes can be purchased for \$50 and will include a name and year of graduation.

Existing murals honor the Koski Brothers, Marty



Biondich and our veterans. The fourth mural, depicting Canelake's Candy, was installed August of this year on the Access Broadband building on 5th Avenue. It is anticipated that a portion of the Marching Band Mural will be installed in October with the

balance being completed over the winter and installed in the spring of 2012. The Marching Band Mural will be posted on the Arrow Auto Supply building on First Street North. "We couldn't do this without the very generous donations of building space; we are very grateful to all of the building owners who are supporting these projects," Cope said.

If you would like to be a part of this Virginia Marching Band Mural, please contact the Virginia Community Foundation at 218-749-8239.



## *VCF Welcomes New Executive Director*

We would like introduce our new Executive Director, Mary Hermanson. Mary recently moved to Virginia with her husband, Erick, and their two children. She was previously on staff at St. Mary's Duluth Clinic Foundation, the Lake Superior College Foundation, and Youth for Christ, a non-profit organization. She has been involved in philanthropy for over 10 years and calls it her passion. Mary says, "I am so excited to be here and be connected to a community with real values,

strong history, and a love of their fellow neighbors. I believe the Virginia Community Foundation has made a big impact in this area and I know that it will continue to strengthen the Iron Range. I look forward to being a part of the team."



# 2011 Spring Grant Award Recipients

Total granted to date in 2011: **\$14,840**

Total awarded to date: **\$444,177**



## **Bess Metsa Garden**

*(fiscal agent Friends of the Greenhouse)*

*A grant of \$3,000 for the rose sculpture for the Metsa Garden*



## **Virginia Historical Society**

*A grant of \$1,695 to bring the Minnesota Home Front World War II exhibit to the B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center from May 21 to July 10*



## **Mesabi Range Community & Technical College Alumni Association**

*A grant of \$2,500 to fund grounds beautification at the Virginia campus*



## **Lyric Center for the Arts**

*A grant of \$200 to fund the router and modem parts of their internet project to offer business seminars online to artists in the region*



**Laurentian Chamber of Commerce**

*A grant of \$945 for the CEO in the classroom program*



**Virginia Area Ski Boosters**

*A grant of \$1,000 to purchase a tent to use on the hillside during races for families and skiers to stay warm during race events*

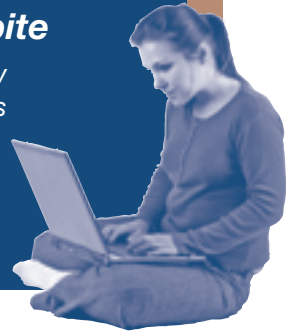


**Mesabi Family YMCA**

*A grant of \$2,500 to help fund their men's and women's restrooms and family locker room project to make them accessible for the disabled*

**Range Respite**

*A grant of \$500 for a new laptop computer which is part of their overall Caregiver Training & Education project*



**Blue Line Club**

*A grant of \$500 for the Carlson Brothers Tribute at the Miners Memorial Building*



**I.S.D. 706**

*A grant of \$2,000 to support their Anti-Texting Campaign*

# Explore Virginia Community Foundation Funds

## **Mesabi Range Youth for Christ Fund**

Developed to ensure that area youth will continue to be served, the Mesabi Range Youth for Christ Fund was established in 2008. All gifts to the fund become a permanent part of the Mesabi Range Youth for Christ Fund and produce investment returns to provide funding to support ministry to area youth.

## **Downtown Revitalization Fund**

To support revitalization efforts, the Downtown Revitalization Fund will be used for current efforts such as planning, vacant lot redevelopment, and other initiatives for the greater Chestnut Street area. This fund is not endowed, so your gift principal will be available for current downtown expenditures.

## **Virginia's Mural Fund**

Contributions to Virginia's Mural Fund will be expended to support murals for the greater downtown area. The fund is not endowed, so your gift principal will be available for current downtown expenditures.

## **Virginia Education Fund**

Organizers established the Virginia Education Fund in 2008 to create connections to the classroom, to enhance available resources, to enrich experiences, and to provide the best educational opportunities for all students in Virginia Public Schools. Gifts to the fund provide an opportunity to support education beyond what tax-supported funding can provide. 70% of each gift is endowed, while the remaining 30% will be available for current educational needs.

## **Blue Pride Fund**

The Blue Pride Fund is dedicated to supporting high-school league activities (athletics and the fine arts) at Virginia High School. 70% of each contribution is added to their endowment and the remaining 30% is available for current funding needs. Since its inception in 2001, the Blue Pride Fund has awarded more than \$30,000 to meet students' needs.

## **Fund for the Arts**

Established by P&H Mining Equipment, through the Joy Global Foundation, Fund for the Arts supports the Virginia Community Foundation's mission to build a better community by providing additional resources for the arts. It is used exclusively to support the arts in the greater Virginia community.

## **Virginia Public Library Fund**

A strong and thriving public library is the mission of the Virginia Public Library Fund. Organized in 2003, the fund is established with 70% of each gift becoming a part of an endowment and the balance of 30% available for today's needs.

### UPCOMING FUNDS IN 2011

**George Munig Economic Scholarship Fund**

**Parks, Lakes and Recreation Fund**  
**P & H MinePro**

## **Sign Up For Our E-newsletter**

Help us keep in touch with you regarding special events and Foundation news. Sign up for our e-newsletter today at

**[www.virginiafoundation.com/enews](http://www.virginiafoundation.com/enews)**

E-newsletter subscriptions will also help us reduce overhead costs such as printing and postage, allowing the Foundation to spend more where it counts – on our community!



## **Connect With Us On Facebook**

The Virginia Community Foundation has launched a new facebook page. Connect with us at [www.facebook.com/virginiafoundation](http://www.facebook.com/virginiafoundation) for news updates, events, photos and discussion boards, and please share our link to your facebook page to spread the word to friends and family.

# VHS Class of 1991 Honors Memory of Teacher and Classmates

In July, the VHS Class of 1991 celebrated our 20 year class reunion with a Smear Tournament, an evening of catching up and dancing, and a more than \$2,000 donation to the Virginia Community Foundation in honor of our six classmates who have passed away.

The idea to make a donation started three years ago at the all-class reunion when I was struck with an overwhelming sense of urgency to give back. Though I moved away many years ago, I wanted to give back to this community, working hard at celebrating itself and supporting those that live here. I wanted to give back in honor of my classmates in a tangible way that would be felt within the community in which we all had lived.

After asking around, it was clear that others felt the same way. It was also clear that the Virginia Community Foundation would help us accomplish our goal. Once Mrs. Munig established the George Munig Economics Scholarship Fund after her husband's passing this spring, it seemed the perfect vehicle to honor our classmates as

Mr. Munig was a beloved teacher of us all.

So in the midst of celebrating, I "made the ask" as fundraisers say. Our goal was \$1,000. Because of the willingness of my classmates to open their checkbooks and wallets, I walked out with \$1,517 and promises for online contributions in the weeks to come.

Today, I am humbled to say that a \$2,427 donation has been made to the George Munig Economics

Scholarship Fund on behalf of the VHS Class of 1991 In Memory of Gary Bushey, Amy Claesson, Jennifer Debreto, Christopher Lloyd, Nick Schrader and Dan Schultz.

Most importantly, the Foundation will contact each classmate's family to let them know that their son or daughter are remembered and were honored.

— *Sherrie (Robinson) Wolfe,*  
VHS Class of 1991



## View Donor Lists Online

In order to reduce our mailing and production costs, the Foundation will no longer print donor lists in Newslight. To view donor lists, please go to:

[www.virginiafoundation.com/donors](http://www.virginiafoundation.com/donors)

If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact the Foundation and request a print out of the donor list from the website. We will be happy to mail the list to you. This change will save the Foundation hundreds of dollars each year, allowing more resources available for grants.



# Save the Date

*The Foundation Board will be hosting its first*  
**“Celebrating Our Community”**  
*fundraiser*  
**Friday October 7, 2011.**

This two day event will include a community wide door to door informational canvas and a rally in Olcott Park. Plans are still underway but you can expect music, food, an unveiling of the first “Virginia Marching Blues over the Years” mural panel, Steve’s Hamburgers, and a return of the very popular Garage Bands.

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