



NewsLight

A newsletter for contributors and friends of the Virginia Community Foundation

Your community. Your legacy.

Summer 2012

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INSIDE

- Message from the Chair, page 2
- Eight Years of Service, page 2
- New Staff Member, page 3
- Grant Award Recipients, page 4-5
- Explore VCF Funds, page 6
- Legacy Fund, page 7
- Veteran's Memorial, page 8

NewsLight

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

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- Paul Carlson, Chair
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- Keith Harvey, Treasurer
- Carol Sundquist, Secretary
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- Mike Appelwick
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- Mary E. Hermanson, Executive Director
- Kristin Ryan, Administrative Assistant

 Questions, comments or donations may be sent to:
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Mural Committee Marches On

Virginia's fifth mural featuring the history of the Virginia High School Band was unveiled in May of this year. This mural follows the debut of the Koski mural in 2008, the Marty Mural in 2009, the Veterans Mural in 2010, and the Canelakes Mural in 2011. The Band Mural is located on 1st Street North on the south wall of Arrow Auto Supply Inc. and features images of 66 former and current members of the Virginia Marching Band. All of the murals are located on space donated by local business owners.

Bill Bauman, a father of a past band member, community business owner and dedicated volunteer for the Marching Blues said it best when he

said, "I believe the mural projects add so much to our city by honoring and remembering the people, businesses, and organizations who have unselfishly given of themselves to make our city a better place. The Band mural, in particular, acknowledges the dedication and spirit of Blue Pride of all those involved in creating, maintaining, and supporting Virginia's Marching Ambassadors: THE MARCHING BLUES. This mural is a testimony to all members, past, present, and future that as the band gives of their time and talents without question, our community supports them in the very

continued on page 3



Message from the Chair

I continue to be impressed and heartened by the generosity of the people, near and far, who are connected to the city of Virginia. And I have been fortunate to witness this generosity during my past three years on the Virginia Foundation Board. I am so pleased that local citizens had the foresight to create this organization as a means of giving back to the community.

The Virginia Foundation's mission is to strengthen the community and serve as a catalyst for improvement and growth. This year finds the Foundation Board and staff carrying out several new strategic initiatives to further our mission.

A primary effort this year is geared towards growing our Foundation's endowment through the development of Legacy Funds. These funds are designed to allow individuals or families an opportunity to create a named fund that will live into the future. These funds supplement the larger

endowment fund, and a portion is subsequently returned to the community in the form of improvement projects.

The Board established a 2012 funding focus of community projects related to serving youth.

Our first round of community improvement funding for the year was completed this spring with six projects funded that will support and strengthen the community as well as serve the youth population.

We have several events planned for later in the year and look forward to engaging the community in these events. We will continue to provide opportunities for individuals to contribute to the future of our community by volunteering their time and contributing financially.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank our many donors, our staff, and the host of volunteers for helping make Virginia a better place. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Paul Carlson

Completing 8 Years of Service

We would like to congratulate Nancee Norri on recently completing 8 years of commitment and service to the Virginia Community Foundation. Nancee was an active member of the board, serving on multiple committees throughout her tenure, as well as serving as Board Chair in 2011. In each role she impressed board members with her hard work, commitment and devotion to this community.

Thank you, Nancee, for being an inspiration and role model. Your hard work and generosity have helped ensure that the Virginia Community Foundation and the people it serves will be here for many generations to come. You will be greatly missed!



Mural Committee Marches On

continued from front page

same way. It is awe inspiring and humbling all at the same time.”

The murals are truly a reflection of the past, present and future. Joyce Pepelnjak, a 1942 graduate of VHS who still resides in Virginia, is one of the majorettes depicted on the Band mural. Pepelnjak said, “My family thinks it is wonderful to have my depiction on the mural; it is something they will always be able to remember.”

The Canelakes Mural is another reflection of Virginia’s past, present and future. Installed in 2011, the mural depicts portions of the Canelakes store front from 1922, 1938 and 1982. Committee Chair,

Alicia Cope, said “it was a special moment when John Canelake arrived at the mural site to oversee its installation; his smile said it all”. Canelake’s daughter, Pamela Matson, also present during the installation, said, “We are honored by the mural and the recognition of the Canelake family’s role in the history of our hometown.” John Canelake expressed a similar family sentiment, stating, “We are very thrilled, very touched and very proud of the mural.”

The Mural Committee hopes to continue the enhancement of Virginia’s downtown area through artistic murals that inspire pride in



our community and remind residents and visitors that the main street is still a place worth visiting and doing business. The next mural, scheduled for partial installation during the fall of 2012, will depict the Ojibwe heritage of Northern Minnesota. With a backdrop of beaded artwork, it will display the emblems of the seven Anishinaabe reservations, together with 6-8 photographic images portraying the Ojibwe culture and traditions. Also, in the near future, the committee plans to work on a classic car themed mural. For more information about the murals and the Mural Fund, please contact the Virginia Community Foundation, or look at the website at www.virginiafoundation.com



Welcome *New Staff Member*

We would like to introduce our new Administrative Assistant, Kristin Ryan. Kristin and her husband, Dan, and their two children have lived in the area for ten years. She has worked behind the scenes at the Foundation since 2007 serving as the data base manager. Until recently, she also worked at a group home for adults with developmental disabilities.

“We’ve lived in several different areas of the country and are amazed at the sense of community pride, strong history, and vision for a better future that is displayed here in Virginia. It is an honor to be a part of the Virginia Community Foundation team.”



**Connect With
Us On Facebook**

The Virginia Community Foundation has launched a new facebook page. Connect with us at 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.

2012 Grant Award Recipients

Total granted in 2012: **\$18,050**
Total awarded to date: **\$472,058**



Mesabi Community Orchestra

A grant of \$1,000 for a multi-media performance for Virginia elementary school students



Children's Memorial Park

A grant of \$5,000 for the Angel of Hope statue



Summer Work Outreach Program

A grant of \$1,500 to help fund the six-week summer program that teaches life skills to 11-14 yr. old Virginia youth



Minnesota Discovery Center

A grant of \$1,850 for the Discover Virginia! Educational Program for Virginia 6th Graders



First Grant Award from the Parks, Lakes & Recreation Fund

Virginia Little League

A grant of \$5,000 to support the Rick Lanari Field Renovation Project

The Virginia Community Foundation is pleased to announce that the first grant recipient from the newly established Parks, Lakes, and Recreation fund is the Virginia Little League Association, managed by the Virginia Baseball Association.

The awarded grant of \$5,000 will be used in the revitalization of the Rick Lanari Field, located in Olcott Park, to be compatible with current Little League requirements as well as to correct field issues for softball and baseball play.

The Parks, Lakes, and Recreation Fund was established through a generous contribution by P & H Mining Equipment and the Joy Global Foundation. The fund assists City of Virginia 501C3 organizations in providing recreation and conservation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. For every dollar that is contributed to this fund, \$.30 will be non-endowed and available for immediate use, while \$.70 is invested in the endowed portion.



Mesabi Range Community & Technical College Alumni Association

*A grant of \$3,700 to fund Phase 2 of
grounds beautification at the Virginia
campus*

Explore Virginia Community Foundation Funds

Virginia Community Foundation Unrestricted Fund

The Unrestricted Fund makes it possible to respond to the ever-changing needs in our community. The fund has awarded over \$472,000 in grants throughout the community to date. These grants support every corner of Virginia.

Blue Pride Fund

The Blue Pride Fund is dedicated to supporting high-school league activities (athletics and the fine arts) at Virginia High School. Since its inception in 2001, the Blue Pride Fund has awarded more than \$30,000 to meet students' needs.

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.

Friends of the Library Fund

A strong and thriving public library is the mission of the Friends of the Library Fund. Organized in 2003, the fund was established to support ongoing needs for the Virginia Public Library.

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.

George Munig Economic Scholarship Fund

This annual scholarship is awarded to Virginia High School students who are studying George's favorite subject; Economics.

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.

Parks, Lakes and Recreation Fund

Established by P&H Mining Equipment, through the Joy Global Foundation, the Parks, Lakes and Recreation fund will assist in providing recreation and conservation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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.

Virginia's Mural Fund

Contributions to Virginia's Mural Fund will be expended to support murals for the greater downtown area.

Legacy Fund

Meeting Ever-Changing Community Needs

Leaving a legacy can be one of the most meaningful things we do with our lives. We do this many ways; through our family, friends, accomplishments, and reaching out into the lives of others. Sometimes we think our legacy begins when we pass away, but really it begins today. We can choose to change the lives of others around us even now.

The mission of the Foundation is to be a catalyst for community improvement and innovation through private giving. We envision Virginia as a dynamic community with cultural, economic, technological and educational health and vitality. We reach out into the lives of this community and try to make a lasting difference in people.

Now we have a way to join together this important mission with a lasting legacy. It's called a Legacy Fund, and it's available to anyone who would like to partner and make a long term difference in our community.

The Legacy Fund enables our staff and board to do what they do best — assess community needs and respond by awarding grants to the nonprofit organizations that undertake our community's most critical work. Legacy Funds enable your community foundation to support long-term solutions, respond quickly to emergencies, and meet changing social, cultural, educational, or environmental needs in Virginia.

When a Legacy Fund is

established, it will help address a broad range of local needs — including future needs that often cannot be anticipated at the time your gift is made. We evaluate all aspects of community well-being: arts and culture, education, environment, health and human services, neighborhood revitalization, and more.

Community grants are made possible by the fund you establish, creating your personal legacy of giving. The minimum gift to establish a Legacy Fund is \$10,000, which can be paid over a period of time at your convenience. You may give your gift immediately, over time, through your will, or another estate planning strategy. Whichever method you choose, your fund name will be recognized right away and will become a permanent part of the Virginia Community Foundation.

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/news

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!

If you would like to find out more about starting a Legacy Fund, please contact Mary

Hermanson, Executive Director, at 218.749.8239 or email director@virginiafoundation.com



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

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.

*Congratulations to the
Iron Range Veterans
Memorial Committee*

*for the installation of
“Shoulder to Shoulder
Even the Fallen
Stand Tall”
Statue!*



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