

Community Foundation Week Celebrates Giving
More Than \$3.2 Billion In Grants Paid Out By Community Foundation Throughout the Nation
November 16, 2006

Martinsville, VA - Martinsville Area Community Foundation (MACF) will join more than 700 community foundations across the country for Community Foundation Week, November 12-18, to celebrate local charitable giving.

With collective assets of approximately \$44.8 billion, community foundations are one of the fastest growing sectors of philanthropy in the United States today. In 2005, community foundations gave \$3.2 billion to a wide variety of nonprofit activities, including urban affairs, the arts, education, environmental projects, health, and disaster relief. Community foundations received an estimated \$5.6-billion in gifts in 2005, a 34-percent increase over the previous year's \$4.2-billion total.

"Donors of all kinds find that community foundations are an ideal vehicle for their philanthropy, offering people the opportunity to give back to the community," said Steve Gunderson, president and CEO of the Council on Foundations. "Their strength and ingenuity have put them in financial positions that better serve their communities."

Community foundations have far-reaching benefits for anyone interested in philanthropy. They are located throughout the nation and offer their services to all donors, including those of modest means. People can get involved by establishing a fund with their local community foundation, serving on an advisory committee or volunteering with an agency the foundation supports.

"Community foundations are at the heart of our cities and towns. Here at MACF we are working to bring good people and good causes together to address important community issues." said April Haynes, Office Manager. "We are privileged to have the opportunity to work with local donors to create funds that will carry out their charitable intent forever."

Community Foundation Week began in 1989 with a proclamation from former President George H.W. Bush and a congressional briefing on community foundation activities. The observance has raised awareness of community foundations' charitable activities and services to donors seeking to maximize their philanthropic dollars.

Martinsville Area Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) philanthropic organization, serves the City of Martinsville, Henry County and surrounding area. We currently hold twelve endowment funds totaling approximately \$10 million in assets.