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## NEWS RELEASE

# THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS OVER \$195,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO 63 AREA STUDENTS

*June 2, 2008*

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The Community Foundation of the Dan River Region has awarded over \$195,000 in scholarships to 63 area students. Presentations were recently made from 22 different scholarship funds within The Community Foundation.

“We are so excited to help open the doors of the future to so many students,” said Debra L. Dodson, Executive Director for The Community Foundation. “We have awarded over \$950,000 in scholarships to almost 320 students since the Foundation was begun in 1996.”

The **James W. Bryant and James T. Collie Scholarship** was established with The Community Foundation of the Dan River Region in 2005 by a retired school teacher. The scholarship is for Pittsylvania County Public Schools graduates, with a preference for those pursuing education or nursing. Three scholarships of \$1,000 each were presented to Gretna High School senior **Ceseley Haynes** (Virginia Tech), Tunstall High School seniors **Jackson Mark Hylton, Jr.** (Virginia Tech) and **Jennifer Slaughter** (University of Virginia). **Kerri Brumfield** from Tunstall High School received \$700 to attend Danville Community College.

The **Bernard C. Calvert Scholarship** was established in 2004 by the Brosville Council #51 of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics. The scholarship is restricted to Tunstall High School graduates, preferably students who attended either Brosville or Stony Mill Schools. Calvert scholarships were awarded to **Virginia Erin Gee** (University of Virginia) who received \$1,150 and **Jameson Finney** (Rochester Institute of Technology) who received \$1,000.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

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The **Danville Academic Boosters Club Scholarship** was awarded to the top five scholastic students in Danville Public Schools – **Ariel Talts** (Galileo), **Juliana Cano-Mejia** (Galileo), **Ramey Williams** (Galileo), **DesRaj Clark** (GWHS) and **Christopher Monioudis** (GWHS).

The **John Watson Daniel Scholarship** was established by the JWD Retirement Club in 1997. One scholarship of \$625 was awarded to **Brandon Clark** to attend Virginia State University.

The **Danville Regional Medical Center Auxiliary/Volunteers Scholarship** was established in 2008 for Danville Regional Medical Center employees and volunteers and their immediate families, who are studying in a medical field. Six scholarships of \$1,660 were awarded to **Joshua Beach** (Campbell University School of Pharmacy), George Washington High School senior **Anne Cox** (University of Virginia), **Akshitkumar Mistry** (Vanderbilt University School of Medicine), **Rhonda Morris** (DRMC School of Health Professions Nursing Program) and Tunstall High School seniors **Sarah Smith** (Lynchburg College) and **Cara Weatherford** (Virginia Tech).

One student received the **John R. and Betty B. Eggleston Scholarship**, established in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Eggleston in 2002. **Natalie Hodges**, a Bartlett Yancey High School senior, received \$1,025 to attend Piedmont Community College.

The **Margaret Spruce Floyd Scholarship** was established in memory of Mrs. Floyd and transferred to The Community Foundation in 2004. The scholarship is awarded to female high school students from Pittsylvania County. Two Margaret Spruce Floyd scholarships were awarded this year. **Elizabeth Cassada** from Chatham High School received \$1,000 to attend Samford University and **Leah Whitt** from Dan River High School received \$1,425 to attend Campbell University.

Six Danville area **Gignac Scholars** will continue their studies at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago with an annual support totaling \$126,400. The Gignac Scholars are **Patrick Bray**, **Jennifer Gambrell**, **Corey Hawker**, **Sayiddah McCree**, **Andrew Mey** and **Andrew Rust**.

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The **Ray M. Harris Scholarship** was created in memory of Mr. Harris and transferred to The Community Foundation in 2004. The scholarship gives primary consideration to Pittsylvania County high school graduates. A total of five **Ray M. Harris** scholarships were presented this year. Each student was awarded \$2,100 – Tunstall High School senior **Kristin Barker** (James Madison University), **Rachel Brinkley** (currently attending University of Virginia), Dan River High School senior **Kayla Dalton** (Danville Community College), **Virginia Shealy** (currently attending Averett University) and Galileo Magnet High School senior **Ariel Talts** (University of Virginia).

The **Stuart Harris Drama Scholarship** recognizes outstanding drama students in the Danville Public Schools. George Washington High School senior **James Meissner** received \$1,400 to continue his education at the University of Mary Washington.

The **John L. Hurt, Jr. Scholarship** supports students from Gretna High School, with a preference for students who have attended the John L. Hurt, Jr. Elementary School. Scholarships of \$1,200 each were given to **Nicholas Hagood** and **Keystin Patrick** to continue their education at Radford University.

Four scholarships totaling \$5,500 were awarded from the **Onnie H & Bertie W. Milloway Scholarship** to assist area students who attend Averett University. Scholarships were presented to current Averett students **Benjamin Boatwright**, **Dustin Echols**, **Pattie Keatts** and **Brittany Shepherd-Walker**.

The **Patrick H. Musick Scholarship** was established recently for needy, talented students attending Averett University, with a preference shown to students who have a tennis-playing background. This year's scholarship of \$625 was awarded to **Pattie Keatts**.

The **Arnold B. Porter & Elizabeth J. Porter Scholarship** was established in 2008 for students who are members of Fairview United Methodist Church. A scholarship of \$1,200 was awarded to Galileo Magnet High School senior **Christopher Andrews** to attend Virginia Tech and a scholarship of \$1,600 was awarded to George Washington High School senior **Kelsey Phillips** to attend the University of Virginia.

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Four area students received scholarships from the **Irene L. Pritchett Scholarship**, created years ago to benefit area black students. The Pritchett scholarship was transferred to The Community Foundation in 2001. Gretna seniors **Evelyn Dearing** (George Mason University), **Dominique Hubbard** (Old Dominion University) and Tunstall senior **DeJane' Carroll** (University of Mary Washington) received \$1,000 each. George Washington High School senior **Jendayi Falero** was awarded \$1,100, to continue her education at Spelman College.

The **Alger Pugh Memorial Scholarship** was created in memory of Alger Pugh, GW High School football coach, after his death in 1984. The scholarship was then transferred to The Community Foundation and is given to deserving GW athletes. Two students were awarded \$1,150 scholarships – **Kirk Chalmers, Jr.** to attend Livingstone College and **Nikita Logan** to attend Old Dominion University, and two students were awarded \$1,200 scholarships – **Kelli Farthing** to attend the University of Virginia and **Demarcus Shanklin** to attend Hampden-Sydney College.

Three scholarships of \$1,050 were given from the **Riddle-Francis Scholarship**, which was created in 2005 by a retired teacher to benefit Pittsylvania County students, with a preference for Tunstall and Dan River students. Scholarships were awarded to Tunstall seniors **Ridge Gibson** (Danville Community College) and **Kevin Hill** (University of Virginia), and to Dan River senior **Gwendolyn Turner** (Lafayette College).

The **Percy and Velna Searce Scholarship** was created in 2001 to benefit area students. Bartlett Yancey High School senior, **Michelle Garland** received a \$1,575 scholarship to continue her studies at the University of North Carolina - Greensboro.

The **Spiros Skenderis Memorial Scholarship**, which was created by the Danville Bar Association in memory of Judge Spiros Skenderis. Judge Skenderis served as a compassionate judge of the Danville Juvenile and Domestic Relations District for 19 years. Two \$750 scholarships were given to **Melanie Fowler** who is graduating from Galileo Magnet High School and plans to attend Liberty University and **Mary Kopen** who is a George Washington High School senior and plans to attend the University of Richmond.

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The **Eileen and Joseph Stendig Scholarship** was created in 2005 to benefit area students. George Washington High School senior **Veena Aswath** (University of Virginia) and Galileo Magnet High School senior **Holley Hyler** (Old Dominion University) both received \$1,375 scholarships.

Two scholarships were awarded from the **Louise P. Surles Scholarship**. The Surles Scholarship supports area students who attend the University of Virginia. Tunstall High School senior, **Kevin Hill**, was awarded \$1,625 and Gretna High School senior, **Raquel Martin**, received \$1,300.

The **Andy Warren Memorial Scholarship** was created in memory of GW High School assistant football coach and is given to deserving GW athletes. Two scholarships of \$1,000 were awarded to **Mary Anderson** (Davidson College) and **Patrick Shelton** (University of Virginia). **Zachary Harrelson** received \$2,000 to continue his education at Hampden-Sydney College.

The Community Foundation of the Dan River Region, formerly known as DPC Community Foundation, is a public charity with total assets of \$17 million. The Foundation serves a region from Martinsville-Henry County to South Boston/Halifax County, including the neighboring North Carolina counties.

The Community Foundation of the Dan River Region is a fully tax-exempt organization. Individuals or businesses may establish their own endowment or scholarship fund or may contribute any amount to existing funds. For more information, contact Debra L. Dodson at 541 Loyal Street, P.O. Box 1039, Danville, VA 24543, (434) 793-0884 or visit their web site [www.cfdr.org](http://www.cfdr.org).