

Community Foundation of the Dan River Region
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The Community Foundation of the Dan River Region (CFDRR) celebrates 25 years of service in 2021. Reflecting on The Foundation's growth since 1996 is truly inspirational and cause for great celebration. Thanks to the trust placed in The Foundation by community-minded donors, CFDRR's assets have grown to \$44.7 million. A strategic objective is to reach \$50 million in assets by 2023.

By being flexible and adaptable to a changing environment, The Community Foundation accomplished its mission despite 2020's myriad challenges. The Foundation's mission is to improve and enrich the lives of people in our community by encouraging the generosity of donors; by receiving, managing, and distributing important resources; and by meeting a variety of charitable purposes in our community.

CFDRR continues gathering momentum in support of its mission. Established partly because of the premise that an easy vehicle is needed for people to give back to the area through their estate, The Foundation's assets now include more than \$13.5 million in bequests. Under CFDRR's umbrella is the 1996 Legacy Society, created for a special group of people who have confirmed a bequest to The Foundation. The following are two recent examples of Legacy Society bequests:

- A bequest to the W. Earl and Elise M.G. Allen Fund, established in 1998, will continue this field of interest fund's purpose of benefiting the people of Chatham and Pittsylvania County.
- Dr. Elizabeth "Boo" Compton's bequest established the Frank, Mary and Ray Compton Scholarship in memory of her parents and brother. Dr. Compton's bequest provides post-secondary scholarships to area students, with a preference for Pittsylvania County students who have demonstrated a devotion to academics or are otherwise talented, and have financial need.

We celebrate all 4,000 donors who have contributed to the success and effectiveness of The Foundation over the past 25 years. We could not exist without you. Thanks to your generosity and desire to leave a positive legacy to enhance the quality of life in our region, The Foundation awarded 48 grants to nonprofit

organizations totaling \$681,461, in January 2021, through its annual, competitive grant cycle. In July 2020, CFDRR awarded scholarships totaling \$240,784 to 100 students from Danville, Pittsylvania County, and Caswell County. We celebrate the \$26.4 million in grants and scholarships awarded by CFDRR over the past 25 years. As The Foundation's assets continue to grow, grants and scholarships returned to the region will increase as well.

The Foundation also celebrates its 149 endowed funds, with 10 new funds added during fiscal year 2020. The intent of donors who establish each fund is top consideration as CFDRR's Distribution Committee determines the organizations and students to receive grants or scholarships. Donors who establish a fund select a fund type from unrestricted, field of interest, designated, donor advised, scholarship, or agency fund. To establish an endowed fund requires \$10,000 and a scholarship, \$25,000. For additional time to reach the minimum needed, an acorn fund gives the donor a three-year period to attain the minimum fund balance. The Foundation currently administers five acorn funds.

Donors demonstrate their passion and creativity daily at The Foundation in the ways they choose to give and fulfill their charitable goals. Donors can contribute in any amount to any existing fund. The Foundation encourages collective giving by likeminded individuals for a specific purpose. The staff diligently acknowledges every gift, and notifies families about memorial or honorary gifts. The following are examples:

- A highly active scholarship fund is the GWHS Class of '57 Scholarship started by classmates at their 50th class reunion. Life-long friends give many donations in memory of classmates.
- CFDRR continues to sell engraved bricks for the Veterans' Memorial at Dan Daniel Park. There are 6,390 engraved bricks in the Veteran's Memorial walkway. For \$125 per brick, this is a wonderful way to show respect for a veteran's service to our country.
- Donors give many memorial gifts for beloved pets. CFDRR has four funds dedicated specifically to animal welfare in our region.

The Community Foundation responded to the emergent needs caused by the Coronavirus pandemic by establishing a Coronavirus Relief Fund in March 2020, which raised \$253,755 in 102 days, and rapidly released grants to 13 organizations

in key sectors of need. Covid-19 has shown us that continued flexibility in our grant making is vital, due to the pandemic's adverse effect on many competitive grant recipients' ability to complete funded projects. The following are a few outcome examples from Coronavirus Relief Fund grants:

- Danville Community College Educational Foundation, Inc. purchased the needed items to assemble food boxes and to provide grocery gift cards for over 100 students with food insecurity needs.
- With the help of Department of Social Services, the Health Department, the Community Services Board, the Housing Authority and the Caswell County Partnership for Children, Smart Beginnings Danville Pittsylvania distributed 460 "Let's Play!" boxes to parents with children ages birth to five. Smart Beginnings also gave "Recognition Stipends" for the 18 childcare providers who remained open to serve essential workers during the pandemic.
- The City of Danville Department of Social Services' Neighbors Helping Neighbors program assisted 58 adults and 76 children with keeping vital services such as utilities and water. It also assisted families in Section 8 housing to keep their Section 8 vouchers, preventing homelessness.

The Coronavirus pandemic highlights the importance of investing in emergency preparedness to assist long-term with local disasters and emergencies. In response, CFDRR Board Members established an Emergency Preparedness Fund in June 2020, to better position The Foundation to support community organizations and public entities with frayed safety nets or the damage of multiple crises during disasters. Rather than a short-lived fundraising initiative, this is a six-year commitment to raise \$300,000 for emergency preparedness and response. Contributions to this fund by the public are welcome and encouraged.

Finally, we celebrate The National Standards for Community Foundation's reaccreditation of The Community Foundation of the Dan River Region in 2020. The Foundation has held this distinction since 2007.