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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Community Foundation for Northern Virginia  
Grants more than \$300,000 to 36 Local Nonprofits  
2014 Community Investment Grant Cycle Supports the Region's Neediest**

**Oakton, VA** (February 18, 2014) – The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia announced the winners of its 2014 Community Investment Grants today. The organizations, all of which provide support in key areas of need throughout Northern Virginia, have received grants of up to \$10,000 that will further their impact on the health and general wellbeing of neighbors, communities, and the entire region. The total sum of grants made is \$308,643.

The Community Foundation convened volunteer committees that consisted of area experts, donors, and Foundation board members to review the 138 applications. Applications were accepted in the following areas of need: Child and Youth Development; Education; Health, Mental Health and Aging; and Poverty Relief. The Community Investment Fund grant cycle is the largest of the Community Foundation's discretionary fund cycles.

Community Foundation Board Member, Ken Huntsman, served as the 2014 Community Investment Fund Grants Committee Chair. "Heading up a group of such passionate volunteers, staff, and other board members to review this year's grants and provide guidance on which grants to fund was the easy part," said Huntsman. "Reviewing the grants was both challenging and uplifting – challenging because there were so many more deserving organizations and projects than we had monies to fund, and uplifting knowing that our community has so many organizations who are helping meet the needs of the less fortunate around us."

Grant winners are as follows:

**Child and Youth Development**

Audubon Naturalist Society, \$2,500\*

*Serving Loudoun County*

Funding will support Nature R.O.C.K.s, an outdoor, afterschool program that is both healthy and academically enriching for 30-35 elementary school children from low-income communities in Leesburg, Virginia.

Casa Chirilagua, \$6,760

*Serving Alexandria*

Funding will support Kids Club "Exposure and Experience" Field Trips for at-risk children in the Latino neighborhood of Chirilagua through this afterschool program utilizing best-practice models to improve math and reading skills, ensure homework completion, and improve grades in school.

CASA CIS, \$10,000\*

*Serving Prince William County*

Funding will help provide a court appointed child advocate to every child who is abused, neglected or abandoned in Prince William County and Manassas to ensure each child is protected and placed in a safe and permanent home.

Community Lodgings, \$10,000

*Serving Alexandria*

Funding will support the academic and behavioral needs of the nearly 200 low-income and homeless youth enrolled in two afterschool and summer education programs that provide individualized tutoring, enrichment, mentoring and parental support.

Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), \$2,500

*Serving Fairfax County*

Funding will provide trained volunteers to advocate for the best interests of 450 abused and neglected children under the Court's protection.

The House, Inc., \$10,000\*

*Serving Prince William/Fairfax*

Funding will support out-of-school programs of The House, Inc. Student Leadership Center that help ensure participants graduate from high school with college access and workforce readiness.

The Reading Connection, \$7,500

*Serving Arlington/Alexandria*

Funding will provide at-risk children with a weekly Read-Aloud program and free books, and offer Reading Family Workshops to their parents to increase their literacy/language development and improve their ability to read to their children.

United Methodist Family Services, \$10,000

*Serving Alexandria/Fairfax*

Funding will help prevent youth in foster care from aging out of the system into homelessness, poverty, unemployment, and crime by matching those children with adult advocates to ensure their future success and stability.

## **Education**

All Ages Read Together, \$10,000\*

*Serving Loudoun County*

Funding will help provide intergenerational reading and school readiness preparation for disadvantaged pre-school aged children.

BEACON for Adult Literacy, \$10,000\*

*Serving Prince William County*

Funding will support ESOL instruction to low-income, lowest-language level adult immigrants in Prince William County through eight learning centers.

Falls Church-McLean Children's Center, \$3,000

*Serving Fairfax County*

Funding will support a culturally-sensitive and effective dual language learning program to help young children from immigrant families build English-language skills to prepare them for kindergarten, build social skills, and avoid an achievement gap in school.

The Literacy Lab, \$10,000

*Serving Alexandria*

Funding will provide low-income, pre-kindergarten children in Alexandria with a year of daily literacy intervention, preparing them for success throughout their academic careers.

Literacy Volunteers of America – Prince William, Inc., \$10,000\*

*Serving Prince William County*

Funding will support vital adult and computer literacy services for 475 ESOL adult learners to help develop or improve English skills in support of improving access to employment opportunities.

Loudoun Literacy Council, \$10,000\*

*Serving Loudoun County*

Funding will improve early literacy for at-risk children in Loudoun County and help end the intergenerational cycle of illiteracy by providing reading and literacy support for families in need.

ReSET, \$10,000

*Serving All of Northern Virginia*

Funding will help spark enthusiasm and motivation for science learning and careers in PreK-6<sup>th</sup> grade students in Northern Virginia through hands-on, inquiry-based activities, presented by volunteer scientists and engineers.

Young Playwrights' Theater, \$5,000

*Serving Arlington County*

Funding will support an In-School Playwriting Program for students at Wakefield High School and Claremont Immersion School, integrating the art of playwriting into the classroom, with a special focus of reaching students who are English Language Learners.

## **Health, Mental Health and Aging**

Access Hope, \$10,000

*Serving All of Northern Virginia*

Funding will provide enhanced access to mental health services for uninsured students at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA).

Arlington Free Clinic, \$10,000

*Serving Arlington County*

Funding will support comprehensive, patient-centered medical services for low-income, uninsured adults in Arlington County who have no other options for regular, quality care.

The Culmore Clinic, \$8,896

*Serving Fairfax County*

Funding will enable the Culmore Clinic to hire a Bilingual Nurse Manager and increase the quality and volume of basic health services it provides to uninsured adults in the Bailey's Crossroads community.

Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, D.C., \$10,000

*Serving All of Northern Virginia*

Funding will help reduce the disparity of the Hepatitis B infection among Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and African Immigrants 65 years and older in Northern Virginia.

Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, \$10,000

*Serving Fairfax/Arlington*

Funding will support the coordination of volunteer, escorted driver services for seniors who are no longer able or comfortable driving to help them maintain their quality of life as they age in place.

Loudoun Citizens for Social Justice/LAWS, \$10,000\*

*Serving Loudoun County*

Funding will provide child sexual abuse victims and their non-offending family members with the vital supportive services needed to prevent their existing trauma from negatively impacting the rest of their lives.

Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers, \$10,000\*

*Serving Loudoun County*

Funding will help provide transportation, financial aid and supportive services for the elderly, disabled and chronically ill in Loudoun County so that they can remain living independently.

New Hope Housing, Inc., \$10,000

*Serving Fairfax/Alexandria*

Funding will provide housing with ongoing support services to assist chronically homeless single adults address their mental health, substance abuse, medical and dental needs.

NOVA ScriptsCentral, \$10,000

*Serving All of Northern Virginia*

Funding will help provide prescription medications to 3,600 low-income, uninsured children and adults throughout Northern Virginia.

Recovery Program Solutions of Virginia, \$6,702

*Serving Arlington/Alexandria*

Funding will support the expansion of Arlington Peers Helping Peers for people with mental health, substance abuse, employment and homelessness issues in Arlington and adjacent areas.

The Women's Center, \$9,500

*Serving All of Northern Virginia*

Funding will improve access to high-quality, outcomes-based mental health care for uninsured and underinsured families in crisis and homeless children.

## **Poverty Relief**

Action in Community Through Service, \$10,000\*

*Serving Prince William County*

Funding will support the Food Pantry and will provide food and toiletries to over 800 low-income families each month in Prince William County.

Arlington Thrive, \$8,000

*Serving Arlington County*

Funding will provide rental assistance to prevent eviction and homelessness to Arlington's most vulnerable residents through the Daily Emergency Financial Assistance Program.

Centreville Immigration Forum, \$6,785

*Serving Fairfax County*

Funding will provide an indoor venue to house employment recruitment events, English classes, job skills training, and computer access for those in need of such support.

Food for Others, \$8,000

*Serving Fairfax/Arlington*

Funding will support the Power Pack Program (P3) and provide weekend food to elementary school-aged children on the free or reduced meals program.

Friends of Guest House, Inc., \$8,000

*Serving All of Northern Virginia*

Funding will increase the number of Northern Virginia women supported by Friends of Guest House to transition successfully from prison back into the community.

The Good Shepherd Alliance, Inc., \$7,500\*

*Serving Loudoun County*

Funding will help provide shelter or transitional housing and case management services to families at risk of becoming homeless in Loudoun.

Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, \$8,000

*Serving Fairfax County*

Funding will help prevent evictions and keep utilities connected while families recover from illness, work layoffs, or other financial setbacks.

Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS), \$10,000\*

*Serving Prince William County*

Funding will support the Emergency Assistance Program of SERVE, which couples assessment, budget planning and case management with financial assistance for rent, utilities and emergency food to assist vulnerable individuals and families maintain stability.

Transitional Housing BARN, \$10,000\*

*Serving Prince William/Loudoun*

Funding will support essential services and case management to BARN homeless families as they transition to permanent housing.

*\*Denotes grants made at the Community Foundation's recommendation from the COATH and Haymarket Donor Advised Funds.*

The Community Foundation accepts donations to support its Community Investment Funds and other discretionary grant cycles. For more information about these programs and initiatives and to make a donation, visit [www.cfnova.org/our-programs](http://www.cfnova.org/our-programs).

### **About the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia:**

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia is a public charity that grows philanthropy to help meet the most critical needs of the community. Comprised of giving circles, donor advised funds, community investment funds and scholarship funds, the Community Foundation engages donors and grantees in building the Northern Virginia community, and engages in research to assess the region's critical needs.

During FY2013, the Community Foundation:

- Awarded \$2.2 million in grants to nonprofits, interfaith groups and schools addressing critical community needs
- Awarded \$240,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors in our region
- Reported approximately \$32 million in philanthropic funds established by individual and corporate donors.

Find more information at [www.cfnova.org](http://www.cfnova.org).

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