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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Community Foundation *Makes More Possible* Raise the Region Gala Welcomes Hundreds for a Night of Celebration & Purpose

Fairfax, VA (October 23, 2025) – **The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia** hosted the 2025 **Raise the Region Gala**, its annual premier event, on October 17 at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner. Hundreds of local philanthropists, changemakers, and supporters gathered to celebrate regional impact and help build a Northern Virginia that works for everyone. The room was filled with individuals and families deeply committed to meeting the current and future needs of our region.

Guests enjoyed meaningful conversations, a silent auction, dinner program, and a live auction led by Northern Virginia local and PBS Antiques Roadshow's Matthew Quinn of Quinn's Auction Galleries. The on-stage program was guided by the event emcee, Jim Handly, Television Journalist and NBC4 News Anchor. Artists and performers from local nonprofits such as Sound Impact, Arlington Artists' Alliance and Virginia Art Factory were highlighted throughout the evening in the centerpieces, art gallery, and program performances. The music was provided by local youth DJ, Notorious S.T.R. (Starla James).

Throughout the event, the Community Foundation demonstrated how it **makes more possible** for the region. Through initiatives in nonprofit grantmaking, scholarships, local data and research, and community leadership, it continues to expand opportunity and improve the well-being of Northern Virginians. As its 50th anniversary approaches, the Community Foundation is ready to take its work to the next level.

Renée Byng Yancey, President and CEO, "shined a light" on the causes that drive meaningful change throughout the region. "The stakes are real, and the outcomes matter—let's commit to continue growing the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia to **Make More Possible—giving for today and endowing for the future and the causes you care most about**".

Capping the evening was the presentation of the Community Leadership Award, the longest-standing award of its kind in the region. The Community Foundation has presented this award for over 40 years to Northern Virginians demonstrating outstanding community service and dedication to improving the quality of life for all. This year, the 2025 Community Leadership Award was presented to **Warren M. Thompson**, Founder and Chairman, of Thompson Hospitality. Under his guidance, the company grew from a \$34 million venture into a billion-dollar enterprise, while his dedication to HBCUs and underserved communities has left a lasting impact across Northern Virginia. His journey is a powerful example of how business success and positive social impact can go hand in hand.

For questions about the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, contact Tara Nadel at tara.nadel@cfnova.org. See the full [2025 Raise the Region Gala photo album](#) and [special video presentations](#).

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Photo Highlights:



Jim Handly, event emcee, speaking at the Raise the Region Gala, hosted by CFNOVA



Hundreds of changemakers, philanthropists, and supporters gathered at the October 17 Raise the Region Gala, hosted by CFNOVA



Guests enjoying the performance from performers of Sound Impact.



Renée Byng Yancey prompted the audience to shine a light on the nonprofit community.



(From left to right: Jim Dyke, honoree Warren M. Thompson, Harry Klaff, Amy Wells Mackay, and Renée Byng Yancey)

Warren M. Thompson being awarded the 2025 Community Leadership Award presented by Gala co-chairs



Warren M. Thompson presenting his award speech for the 2025 Community leadership Award.

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ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR NORTHERN VIRGINIA

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia is building a region that works for everyone by advancing equity through philanthropy and community leadership. Since 1978, we have united thousands of generous Northern Virginians with the causes they care about through donor-advised funds, permanent funds, giving circles, and charitable endowments. We cultivate enduring partnerships with nonprofits, foundations, government, businesses, and community members, maximizing impact to drive meaningful change. Through Insight Region®, our original research initiative, we deliver data-driven insights that reveal the trends and issues shaping Northern Virginia's future.

The Community Foundation proudly serves all Northern Virginians in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties and the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park. Learn more at cfnova.org.

ABOUT THE HONOREE, WARREN M. THOMPSON

Mr. Thompson, President and Chairman of Thompson Hospitality, is the 2025 recipient of the Community Leadership Award from the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia. In addition to being one of the 10 largest food service and facilities management companies in the U.S. Thompson Hospitality owns and operates a portfolio of more than 65 restaurants, across some 14 different brands. Under his leadership, the company has grown from \$34 million in 1992 to a billion-dollar enterprise, operating across 48 states and six countries in contract food service, college campus dining, janitorial & facilities management as well as 65 restaurants & hotels concentrated in the DMV and South Florida regions.

Warren's impact extends far beyond business. Through long-standing support for HBCUs, active civic leadership, and a focus on elevating underserved communities, he exemplifies the spirit of community philanthropy. His work has strengthened lives and institutions throughout Northern Virginia, and we are proud to celebrate his lasting legacy of service.