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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Loudoun Impact Fund Awards \$50,000 to Local Nonprofits
Giving Circle at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia supports critical needs in Loudoun County

November 6, 2014 (Oakton, VA) – The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia has awarded a total of **\$50,000 to five nonprofit organizations** through its **Loudoun Impact Fund** with grants from \$4,000 to \$25,000 each to support programs serving children and youth in Loudoun through age 18. This is the second grant cycle of the Loudoun Impact Fund, dedicated to supporting organizations in Loudoun County, and brings **total grants through the fund to \$100,000**.

The Loudoun Impact Fund is a giving circle run by the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia that is exclusive to Loudoun County citizens, corporations and service organizations. It was established to invest strategically in Loudoun County to promote education, the arts and the environment, and to support the needs of Loudoun families, children and youth. Members of the Loudoun Impact Fund pool their membership fees and together determine which causes to support. They reviewed grant applications submitted through the competitive cycle this year and made grant recommendations from the Loudoun Impact Fund.

“The members of the Loudoun Impact Fund are so pleased to have raised \$100,000 over the past two years to benefit Loudoun based nonprofits,” said John Wolff of Capital Fiduciary Advisors, LLC, board member at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, and a member of the Loudoun Impact Fund. “Our financial support continues to be targeted towards Loudoun’s children – how we can assist making their lives better through after-school and other developmental programs. I look forward to expanding the impact of the Loudoun Impact Fund amongst our growing community.”

A total of \$50,000 has been awarded to five nonprofit organizations. The largest grant of **\$25,000** has been awarded to **YMCA Loudoun County** for their *My Place* after school program, which offers state-licensed after-school care with daily homework assistance, computer time, enrichment activities, physical fitness and healthful eating. The grant will support a sliding scale for families who might not otherwise be able to afford the program.

Another \$25,000 was awarded to four nonprofit organizations with programs that address the wellbeing of children and youth in Loudoun through age 18. These organizations include:

Audubon Naturalist Society - \$5,000

To support *Nature R.O.C.K.S.*, a nature-themed outdoor after-school program for at-risk children from underserved communities in the Leesburg, VA area. The program engages children who

have not had significant exposure to nature through outdoor educational activities that: 1) connect children to the natural world; and 2) help them develop a lifelong positive environmental ethic.

The Arc of Loudoun at Paxton Campus - \$4,000

To provide first run movies in a movie theatre in *Sensory Sensitive* format (half volume, half lights). This allows children with disabilities/sensory issues to enjoy movies they otherwise would not be able to attend in the public.

Loudoun Literacy Council - \$6,000

To expand a *Family Literacy Project* that will provide early literacy enrichment and kindergarten readiness skills to at-risk, low income children as well as adult literacy services to improve the English literacy skills of their parents. The project will be a collaborative effort with AART in providing services to these families.

Loudoun Youth- \$10,000

To support Loudoun Youth's *five major youth development programs*, engaging the youth of Loudoun County in positive experiences that cultivate well-being, confidence, self-esteem, teamwork, and connection to their community. These programs are offered primarily to middle and high school students, regardless of ethnicity, gender or means for the benefit of the youth and the health of the community.

Giving circles like the Loudoun Impact Funds provide an opportunity for engaged philanthropy – membership fees are pooled together and members collectively decide where the funds should be distributed. Support for the Loudoun Impact Fund comes from Integrus Holdings, Madison Wealth Management, Capital Fiduciary Advisors, LLC, the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation and the COATH Fund – a donor advised fund at the Community Foundation.

Members make an annual, tax deductible contribution to the Loudoun Impact Fund at the level of \$1,000 for individuals and \$5,000 for corporations. To learn more or become a member, visit www.cfnova.org/loudoun or contact Lesley MacDonald at Lesley.macdonald@cfnova.org.

About the Loudoun Impact Fund:

Established to promote education, the arts and the environment and to support the needs of Loudoun families, children and youth, the Loudoun Impact Fund was launched in September of 2012. It is a giving circle of engaged Loudoun County donors. Specifically, the Fund invests its resources to scale up important initiatives that can drive big changes in the county; support the needs of Loudoun families, children and youth; and promote education, the arts and the environment.

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 FY2014, the Community Foundation:

- Awarded \$3.7 million in grants to nonprofits, interfaith groups and schools addressing critical community needs
- Awarded \$225,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors in our region
- Reported approximately \$35 million in philanthropic funds established by individual and corporate donors.

Find more information at www.cfnova.org.

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