



A Giving Circle for Young Professionals  
at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Future Fund Grants \$30,000 – Provides Summer Programs to At-Risk Students**

### ***Young Professional Giving Circle at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia Awards Two Local Nonprofit Organizations in its 2016 Granting Cycle***

December 8, 2015 (Oakton, VA) – The Future Fund announced the winners of its 2016 grant cycle today, awarding \$15,000 each to two Northern Virginia nonprofits offering academic summer programs to low-income students entering grades K-6. This is the fifth grant cycle of the Future Fund, the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia’s giving circle for young professionals, and brings total grants to \$223,000.

The Future Fund supports critical needs in Northern Virginia by engaging young professionals in their 20’s, 30’s and 40’s in philanthropy. A giving circle at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, its members learn about the critical needs of the region, donate at affordable levels to the causes they care about most, and meet their professional peers – other community advocates who see the benefit of pooling monetary contributions to increase the impact of their support to local charitable organizations.

“Belonging to this organization of young professionals focused on giving back to our community is such a fulfilling way to spend my time and energy,” says Sylvia Parsons, Human Resources Business Partner at Northrop Grumman and Future Fund Grants Committee Co-Chair. “Each year, our members select very compelling critical needs to support with our grants, and this year’s winning organizations play a critical role in the lives of underserved students in Northern Virginia.”

The two grant-winning organizations offer summer programs to low-income, elementary school students which include academic components designed to prevent loss of school-year academic gains as well as additional enrichment opportunities for students during the summer of 2016. The winning organizations include:

**AHC, Inc.**, located in Arlington, VA

The Future Fund grant will support a six-week summer camp experience for up to 124 low-income students in grades K-5 living in AHC’s affordable housing communities in Arlington, VA. “Many studies have shown that students – particularly low-income children and those learning English – lose critical learning skills over the summer,” says Jennifer Endo, AHC’s Director of Residence Services. “The generous grant from the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia’s Future Fund will help AHC Inc.’s

Summer Camp provide diverse learning opportunities for low-income children that will decrease students' learning loss during the summer, as well as provide enriching and new experiences to foster a love of learning, build self-confidence, and help them succeed academically throughout the school year."

**Shelter House, Inc.**, located in Fairfax, VA

This grant will support Shelter House in initiating academic and recreational summer programming for 70 school-aged students residing in its three homeless shelters in Fairfax County. "Shelter House is very fortunate to partner with the Future Fund to provide structured summer activities for children who are homeless," says Joe Meyer, Executive Director and CEO of Shelter House, Inc. "This pilot program will engage the children in life skills that will help stop the cycle of poverty, abuse and neglect. Together, we can change the lives of many children caught in the cycle of homelessness. Thank you to the Future Fund for caring about the children of our future."

The Future Fund Grants Committee reviewed 18 applications this fall after the Community Foundation opened the application process last August to organizations offering learning programs to low-income students over the summer. Members of the committee conducted site visits to six semi-finalists, and narrowed down to four finalists on which the entire Future Fund membership was invited to vote.

"Co-chairing the Grants Committee this year was an absolute pleasure," says Matt Paddock, Audit Manager at Grant Thornton LLP and Future Fund Grants Committee Co-Chair. "We had a number of very engaged committee members who provided valuable insight and thoughts during the entirety of the grantmaking process. We couldn't have done it without the hard work and effort of the entire committee."

Annual Future Fund sponsorships start at \$1,000 and include visibility throughout the year as well as Future Fund membership benefits for employees. All sponsorship revenues are pooled in the annual grant cycle to support local community needs. For more information, contact Kelly Blanks, Vice President of Donor Relations at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, at [kelly.blanks@cfnova.org](mailto:kelly.blanks@cfnova.org) or (703) 879-7636.

**The Future Fund** was established in 2011 as the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia's giving circle for young professionals. It helps its members connect both personally and professionally, learn about the critical needs of the region, and donate at affordable levels to the causes they care about most while increasing the impact of their support through collective giving. In its first four years, the Future Fund has raised more than \$200,000, provided local organizations with more than 400 volunteer hours, collaborated with more than 15 community-led organizations to raise awareness of local needs, and developed its own endowment for future giving. [www.cfnova.org/futurefund](http://www.cfnova.org/futurefund)

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

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia helps grow philanthropy to meet the most critical needs of the community. Comprised of giving circles, donor advised funds, community investment funds

and scholarship funds, we help connect donors to community, meet community needs with community resources, and strengthen Northern Virginia.

During FY2015, the Community Foundation:

- Awarded \$4.2 million in grants to nonprofits, interfaith groups and schools addressing critical community needs
- Awarded \$215,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors in our region
- Reported approximately \$36 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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