



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

Contact:  
Tara Nadel  
703-879-7637  
[tara.nadel@cfnova.org](mailto:tara.nadel@cfnova.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Future Fund Supports Mental Health with \$40,000 in Grants**

### ***Young Professional Giving Circle at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia Awards Two Local Nonprofit Organizations in its 2015 Granting Cycle***

December 17, 2014 (Oakton, VA) – The Future Fund announced the winners of its 2015 grant cycle today, awarding \$20,000 each to two Northern Virginia nonprofits offering mental health services to those in need. This is the fourth grant cycle of the Future Fund, the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia’s giving circle for young professionals, and brings total grants to \$192,000.

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.

“I am proud to be part of an organization of professionals who not only challenge stigmas around giving in younger generations, but this year elected to inspire others to challenge an even greater stigma in the area of mental health,” says Sylvia Parsons, Human Resources Business Partner at Northrop Grumman and Future Fund Grants Committee Co-Chair. “I am constantly impressed at how thoughtful, discerning and committed our members are to funding strong organizations and programs that drive sustainable change in our community.”

The two grant-winning organizations support individuals age 13 and above and/or families with limited access to mental health care. The winning organizations include:

**Access Hope, Inc.**, located in Fairfax, VA

The Future Fund will support the expansion of no-fee on-campus mental health counseling to uninsured and under-insured college students at Northern Virginia Community College by adding a pre-licensed therapist and group therapy sessions. “We are thrilled to be the recipient of this grant,” says Len Wolf, President, Access Hope, Inc. “Access Hope and these students wish to thank The Future Fund for its commitment to providing access to these services, which are critical to the health and well being of these students, their families and our community.”

**Youth for Tomorrow**, located in Bristow, VA

This grant will support Youth for Tomorrow's Girls on a Journey program, which provides residential treatment services to minor victims of sex trafficking in Northern Virginia. "With extremely limited public funding available, it is through the generous support of organizations such as the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia that Youth for Tomorrow has been able to help more than 60 victims of human trafficking," says David E. Loop, Senior Advisor to the CEO, Youth for Tomorrow.

The Future Fund Grants Committee reviewed 23 applications this fall after the Community Foundation opened the application process last August to programs supporting mental health. Members of the committee conducted site visits to eight semi-finalists, and narrowed down to four finalists on which the entire Future Fund membership was invited to vote.

"This year's grant cycle was one of the more difficult ones in recent memory," says Matt Paddock, Audit Manager at Grant Thornton LLP and Future Fund Grants Committee Co-Chair. "There were so many high quality organizations which responded to our grant application request."

The winning organizations will be formally recognized at the Annual Future Fund Awards Gala on May 8, 2015, at Artisphere in Arlington, VA.

**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 granted more than \$190,000 to local nonprofits, provided local organizations with more than 300 volunteer hours, collaborated with more than 10 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 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](http://www.cfnova.org).

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