FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Future Fund Announces First in Giving Back Seminars
Focused on Community Involvement, Featuring Recognized Local Leaders

January 3, 2017 (Oakton, VA) – The Future Fund, a giving circle for young professionals at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, announced the first in an ongoing educational series, The Giving Back Seminars, featuring local leaders discussing and sharing experiences on volunteerism, young professional engagement and community involvement. The inaugural seminar, “Carry Your Passion into Your Career,” will take place on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at Georgetown University Law Center, from 6 pm to 8 pm. The event is free and includes networking, and a panel discussion featuring three notable leaders from the Washington, DC metropolitan region, Rich LaFleur, Charles Thomas, Jr., and Julie Simmons. Registration is available at www.cfnova.org/register/ff-passion-career.

These leaders have been recognized at the local and national levels for their community involvement and contributions. Rich LaFleur, partner-in-charge of Industries and Markets and former managing partner for the Mid-Atlantic region at Grant Thornton, brings community experience volunteering for NoVA Chamber of Commerce, and is a Trustee to Fairfax County Public Schools. Charles Thomas, Jr. is a Program Manager at Altamira Technologies, a Life Skills Instructor and current Chairman of OAR Fairfax. He is also a winner of the 2015 Northern Virginia Leadership Award for Individual Involvement. Julie Simmons, Founder and Managing Director at Human Capital Strategic Consulting, serves as a Member of the Board of Directors of NoVA Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Board of Community Foundation for Northern Virginia.

Northern Virginia Magazine highlighted Thomas and Simmons for their contributions to community in April 2016, recognizing that philanthropy is more than monetary donation – time, commitment and recommendations can go a long way, especially for young professionals. LaFleur, Thomas and Simmons will be focusing on this side of philanthropy and its significance in professional development at the “Carry Your Passion into Your Career” Seminar. They’ll discuss ways to volunteer, board commitment, career benefits and how to choose an organization.

The seminar takes place on Thursday, February 9, 2017 from 6 to 8 pm, with the gracious support of Georgetown University Law Center, held at 600 New Jersey Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20001. There is no fee for the seminar.

The Future Fund is sponsored by Grant Thornton. 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 Allison Cook, Philanthropy Officer, at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, at allison.cook@cfnova.org or (703) 879-7642.
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 six years, the Future Fund has raised more than $230,000, provided local organizations with more than 400 volunteer hours, collaborated with more than 20 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 respond to need and seed innovation in our region. Comprised of donor advised funds, permanent funds, giving circles, and other charitable endowments, the Community Foundation connects donors to community and helps meet community needs with community resources. During 2016, the Community Foundation awarded more than $4.6 million in grants and scholarships and reported $36 million in managed philanthropic assets.

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

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