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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Business Women's Giving Circle Grants \$40,000 to Support STEM Education, Leadership and Entrepreneurship Programs for Girls**

*Community Foundation for Northern Virginia's Giving Circle Supports Local Women's Philanthropy*

December 14, 2015 (Oakton, VA) – **The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia's Business Women's Giving Circle** announced the winners of its second annual grant cycle today. **A total of \$40,000** has been awarded to three organizations providing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), Leadership and Entrepreneurship programs to girls in Northern Virginia, **making total awards granted to date \$80,000**. This giving circle is comprised of women who are business owners, members of local chambers of commerce and community leaders serving on nonprofit boards of directors who are interested in joining with their peers to support programs and organizations in Northern Virginia that promote educational opportunities for women and girls in our region.

"The Business Women's Giving Circle's model of collaborative philanthropy is about building relationships among our diverse members and with our grantees," said Faith Boettger, founding member of the Giving Circle and co-chair of the Grants Committee. "Through networking, grant making and engagement, we are sharing a passion for giving and a compassion for our community to make a difference."

The winning organizations are as follows:

### **SHINE – SHINE for Girls: \$20,000**

To support innovative, curriculum-based programming for middle school girls from disadvantaged backgrounds. Utilizing kinesthetic learning, SHINE combines formal dance training with rigorous math instruction to improve girls' math scores and spark their interest in STEM.

### **Girls Inspired and Ready to Lead (GIRL): \$10,000**

To provide leadership development to middle school girls while providing experiential learning in STEM and Entrepreneurship to prepare them for careers of the 21st Century and equip them with the essential skills of critical and creative thinking, communication, intercommunication, and collaboration.

### **Marymount University – Empowering Leaders in STEAM "ENLIST II": \$10,000**

To support a twelve-week STEM/STEAM after school program for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade girls through Marymount University's partnership with Fort Belvoir Elementary School. Activities will be staffed by 15 MU pre-service teachers and supervised by mentor teachers, and will include a visit to MU.

The members of the Business Women's Giving Circle reviewed twenty-one grant applications to select the winners. "Our grants process is the perfect demonstration of the power of many minds working

together,” said Autumn McCulloch, Attorney at McCandlish & Lillard, founding member of the Giving Circle and co-chair of the Grants Committee. “To sit around a table with sixteen women from all different walks of life and reach decisions about how best to impact our community and reach out a helping hand to true leaders in our region and the women and girls they assist is nothing short of awe-inspiring.”

Members of the Business Women’s Giving Circle are looking forward to engaging with these winning organizations throughout the year as consultants and mentors.

“The Business Women’s Giving Circle’s support of SHINE for Girls will allow us to reach a majority of girls who, generally, do not believe they can succeed in STEM subjects to consider future careers in STEM fields,” said Tara Hally, Regional Director of SHINE for Girls DC. “We are thrilled to have this opportunity to open our program to eight new locations at Title I schools in Northern Virginia in 2016.”

Annual membership in the Business Women’s Giving Circle is \$1,100, and includes a vote in the annual competitive grant cycle. All contributions are pooled for a greater collective impact. To learn more about the group, please visit the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia’s website at [www.cfnova.org/bwgc](http://www.cfnova.org/bwgc), or contact Sari Raskin, Associate Director of Community Investment, at (703) 879-7641 or [sari.raskin@cfnova.org](mailto:sari.raskin@cfnova.org).

**Members of the Business Women’s Giving Circle:**

- Anja Allen – Senior Manager, IT Transformation, Ernst & Young
- Grace Anton – Interior Decorator
- Amy Peck-Abraham
- Faith Boettger – Community Volunteer & Consultant
- Ginger Bonin – Managing Director, KPMG LLP
- Kristina Bouweiri – President, Reston Limousine
- Robin Burke – Owner, B3 Holdings, LLC
- Lynne Celia – Agency Executive Senior Partner, Asset Management Group, Inc.
- Leigh Chowdhary – Communications Consultant
- Emily Daniels – Vice President, Wealth Planning Strategist, Wells Fargo
- Mara Desmedt - Senior Regional Sales Director, PlanSource
- Nancy Eberhardt – CEO, Pathwise Partners LLC
- Eileen Ellsworth – President, Community Foundation for Northern Virginia
- Robin Finnell – Agency Owner, The Doncaster Collectoin
- Luanne Gutermuth – Vice President, Human Resources & Organizational Development, Washington Gas
- Dr. Carole Cameron Inge – Program Lead, Strategic Partnerships for SySTEMic Solutions at Northern Virginia Community College
- Lauri Isbrandtsen – Human Resources Consultant
- Amy Johnson – Director Nonprofit Programs, Coverent
- Tina Johnson – President & CEO, JP Events & Consulting
- Marian Kendrick – Program Director, College Access Fairfax
- Tanya La Force – Chairman, Children’s Science Center
- Cathy Lange – President & CEO, BusinessWorks of America, Inc.
- Wendy Lemieux – Marketing & Communications, Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships

- Kim Mason – Portfolio Management Director, First VP Wealth Management, Morgan Stanley
- Autumn McCulloch – Attorney, McCandlish & Lillard, PC
- Beatriz McNelly – Telecommunications Professional, Entrepreneur and Investor
- Jennifer Myers – President, SageVest Wealth Management
- Sharon Nelson – President, Sensei Enterprises
- Sarah Nutter – Dean, George Mason University’s School of Management
- Becky Parker – Vice President, Investments, RBC Wealth Management
- Susan Pierce – Architect, Commonwealth Home Design
- Lisa Poff – Director of Communications, Glassman wealth Services LLC
- Rose Price – Principal, VLP Financial Advisors
- Carol S. Shapiro, MD, MBA
- Jennifer Siciliano – Vice President, Government Relations, Inova Health Systems
- Emily Ann Snyder
- Patricia Timbrook – President, T3 Design Corporation
- Karen Tovey – Director, Sullivan, Bruyette, Speros & Blayney
- Karen Trowbridge – President & CEO, Trowbridge & Trowbridge, LLC
- Courtney von Bostel - Owner, Spot On Web Solutions, LLC
- Anne Marie Wemmlinger - Vice President, Revenue Management, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company LLC
- Judith “Tessie” Wilson – Chairman, College Access Fairfax
- Stefanie Zeldin Sigal - President, Open Chain USA/In2green

**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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