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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Community Foundation for Northern Virginia Awards Grants
to Respond to Critical Community Needs
2017 Community Investment Grant Cycle Awards over \$282,000 to 29 Local Organizations**

Oakton, VA (April 24, 2016) – The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia announced the winners of its 2017 Community Investment Grants today. The largest and most competitive discretionary grant cycle managed by the Community Foundation and one of the largest pools of funds supporting broad-based giving in the Northern Virginia region, the grants fund organizations which provide support in critical areas of need throughout Northern Virginia. These grants will further the organizations’ abilities to improve the health, education, and general wellbeing of neighbors, communities, and the entire region. The total sum of grants made is \$282,594.

The Community Foundation convened volunteer committees that consisted of area experts, donors, and Foundation board members to review the 162 applications submitted to the organization. Applications were accepted in the following areas of need: Child & Youth Development and Education; Health, Mental Health, and Aging; and Poverty Relief. Other Community Investment grants were announced for Military Personnel & Families, as well as the nonprofit organization FACETS.

“The Community Investment grants are important for the continuance of many critical programs in this region,” said Community Foundation Board Member, Ken Huntsman, 2017 Community Investment Fund Grants Committee Chair. “This year’s grantees are serving the neediest in our community, and we are committed to continue to invest in the mission of these organizations.”

Grantee recipient Cornerstones of Reston highlighted the importance of their grant. “Cornerstones is delighted to be receiving a grant from the Community Investment Fund for its Pathways to Sustainable Employment program. This program fills a gap in workforce development and job training programs that do not serve the needs of job seekers whose low educational attainment and skill level put them at a disadvantage within the marketplace and who face other barriers to finding and maintaining employment. Understanding that obtaining the skills or certifications to be qualified is only a part of what will help someone be successfully employed, Cornerstones provides participants in the Pathways to Sustainable Employment program with wrap-around care management

support to address barriers that may affect the participants' ability to maintain or improve employment including housing, financial literacy, benefits, childcare, transportation, emergency direct assistance, healthcare, counseling, and immigration issues," said Kerrie Wilson, CEO, Cornerstones.

Grant winners are as follows, and photos are available at <https://goo.gl/photos/NVxSrHmnsjRDZhmD7>.

Child & Youth Development and Education Grants (Total: \$98,500/11 grants)

All Ages Read Together (AART), \$8,500

Serving Fairfax County

Funding will support a class where students acquire early literacy, cognitive, social, fine motor, and other skills essential for success.

Arlington Food Assistance Center, \$10,000

Serving Arlington County

Funding will help provide 72 low-income Arlington children access to an educational summer and after-school program that provides structured age-appropriate experiences to support healthy eating, and cooking and gardening skills.

Casa Chirilagua, \$10,000

Serving Alexandria

The grant will support the staffing for both the Kids Club and Summer Kids Club programs.

H.A.C.A.N. Hispanics Against Child Abuse and Neglect, \$10,000

Fairfax County

This grant will strengthen HACAN's organizational capabilities, as well as the capacity to ensure that its programs can be sustained and expanded, including initiating new programs to further its mission.

Liberty's Promise, \$10,000

Serving All of Northern Virginia

Grant funds will support at least 200 low-income, immigrant youth in Northern Virginia, helping them learn about opportunities for success through our after-school programs of civic engagement, Civics and Citizenship and CE-BELL.

***National Inventors Hall of Fame, \$10,000**

Serving Prince William County

The grant will offset participation costs for 45 or more underserved youth in Prince William County to participate in Camp Invention.

***The House, Inc.. \$10,000**

Serving Prince William County

This grant will support 350 disadvantaged youth enrolled in the Center's EmpowerMEnt® initiative, offered through the Center's after-school program.

The Literacy Lab, \$10,000

Serving Alexandria

Funding will support 10 tutors, six at the K-3 level and four at the pre-K level as well as help provide bilingual family engagement materials.

The Reading Connection, Inc., \$10,000

Serving All of Northern Virginia

Grant funds will be used for general operations. In addition to on-going literacy programming for at-risk families, TRC currently is involved in capacity-building efforts and growth-plan implementation to meet the needs of more at-risk kids in Northern Virginia.

****Workhouse Arts Foundation, Inc., \$5,000**

Serving Fairfax County

Funding will support the Workhouse Arts Center's 2017-2018 Need-Based Tuition Assistance Program, enabling up to 120 students ages 5 to 17 from low-income families to participate in weekly arts education classes and camps that take place during spring, summer and winter breaks.

****Young Playwrights' Theater, \$5,000**

Serving Arlington County

This grant will strengthen the In-School Playwriting Program in Arlington schools and help expand it into Alexandria City.

Health, Mental Health, and Aging Grants (Total: \$60,000/6 grants)

Arlington Retirement Housing Corporation, \$10,000

All of Northern Virginia

The grant will support the delivery of critical around-the-clock, personalized assisted-living care and other supportive services to 39 of Culpepper Garden's lowest-income residents.

Loudoun Child Advocacy Center (CAC) / Citizens for Social Justice LAWS, \$10,000

Serving Loudoun County

The funding will support the Loudoun CAC's Victim Advocate position who is responsible for minimizing trauma to the child and family members during their immediate crisis.

Phoenix Houses of the Mid-Atlantic, \$10,000

Serving Arlington County

The grant will help cover the activities and engagement programs that are not generally covered by insurance such as a family therapy program and recreation activities.

***Project Mend-A-House, \$10,000**

Serving Prince William County

Funding will support the expansion of the home repair program and increase PMAH's ability to meet the growing aging-in-place needs of extremely-low to low income senior clients, veterans and people with disabilities. PMAH is matching all funds received by the Community Foundation.

Senior Services of Alexandria, \$10,000

Serving Alexandria

The grant will convert an internship position to full-time staff and increase another 25 hour part-time position to full-time staff and propel SSA to a new level of service to Alexandria's senior community.

ServiceSource, \$10,000

Serving Fairfax County

This funding will supplement the cost of offering clinical services to the 290 individuals served in their Day Support Programs at their Springfield and Chantilly sites. These clinical services include Physical Therapy (PT) and Occupational Therapy (OT).

Poverty Relief Grants (Total funding: \$100,000/10 organizations)

College Access Fairfax, \$10,000

Serving Fairfax County

The grant fund Financial Aid Champions who each serve in several schools and handle the FAFSA applications that may need more attention than just one session per student.

Computer CORE, \$10,000

Serving Arlington County

Funding will help expand CORE's 6-week Career Advancement Program to Arlington County. This project is in partnership with Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) and the classes will be in six of APAH's residential communities.

Cornerstones, Inc., \$10,000

Serving Fairfax County

The grant will be used to staff the Pathways to Sustainable Employment program.

Friends of Guest House, Inc., \$10,000

Serving all of Northern Virginia

The grant will support organizational growth in the areas of residential aftercare and outreach programs.

Friends of Loudoun Mental Health, \$10,000

Serving Loudoun County

Grant funds will be used for housing subsidies for Loudoun County residents disabled by mental illness who meet the criteria for our A Place To Call Home program.

Place To Call Home program, \$10,000

Serving Fairfax County

The grant will assist families and individuals living in Good Shepherd's housing who are at-risk of losing their homes because of large medical expenses.

La Cocina VA, \$10,000

Serving Alexandria/All of Northern Virginia

Funding will support La Cocina VA's general operating expenses and support its Culinary Career Readiness and Job Placement for FY 2017.

***Northern Virginia Family Service, \$10,000**

Serving Prince William County

This grant will support SERVE's Emergency Assistance Program where homeless and at-risk families receive assessment and service delivery related to their immediate needs.

OAR of Fairfax, \$10,000

Serving Fairfax County

Grant funds will provide job training and employment readiness services to unemployed individuals with limited job prospects that have recently released from incarceration.

***Transitional Housing BARN, \$10,000**

Serving Prince William County

Funds will be allocated for general operating support and direct services expenses including case management salaries and financial assistance for families.

**Funding made possible by Haymarket Fund*

***Funding made possible by Hanlon Fund*

Other Community Investment Funds Grants

Military Personnel & Families

Serving Together, Mental Health Association of Montgomery County, \$17,500

Serving all of Northern Virginia

A grant to continue service coordination and navigation assistance for veterans and military personnel and families in Northern Virginia.

FACETS, \$6,594

This annual grant is made possible by the Huntsman Endowment Fund and supports FACETS' operating budget to help parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in Fairfax County.

The Community Foundation accepts donations to support its Community Investment Funds and other discretionary grant cycles. For more information about these programs and initiatives and to make a donation, visit www.cfnova.org/our-programs.

About the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia:

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia grows philanthropy to respond to critical need and seed innovation in the 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.

In 2016 the Community Foundation awarded more than \$4.6 million in grants and scholarships and reported \$37 million in managed philanthropic assets.

For more information please visit us at www.cfnova.org, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityFoundationforNOVA/> and on Twitter [@CFNova](https://twitter.com/CFNova).

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