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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia Establishes Environment Fund

\$25,000 Grant Awarded to Fairfax County Public Schools Get2Green Initiative

May 10, 2018 (Oakton, VA) – The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia today announced the establishment of The Environment Fund. This fund is made possible by a \$500,000 gift to The Community Foundation from an anonymous donor.

The mission of the Environment Fund is to protect, restore and improve the natural environment of Northern Virginia, thereby enhancing the health and quality of life of its citizens and the economy of the region. Grants from the fund will be used to:

1. encourage collaboration
2. raise public awareness
3. provide education, and
4. promote citizen engagement

all towards the end of improving and protecting our natural environment.

The first grant of The Environment Fund endowment is \$25,000 to the Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) in support of a program called Get2Green. Get2Green is the environmental stewardship program for FCPS. The program's goal is to teach environmental stewardship and to integrate principles of environmental stewardship into the PreK-12 curriculum throughout the entire school system. The grant will support a countywide implementation of new and continued environmental projects in over 30 schools, including expansion of Eco-Schools (a partnership with the National Wildlife Federation). Eco-Schools work toward awards through addressing specific environmental pathways at their schools, including Resource Stewardship, Schoolyard Gardens, and

Community Stewardship. Grant funds will also provide transportation for identified schools to allow students to participate in the Student Environmental Action Showcase at GMU in spring, 2018.

“We are honored to be the first recipient of a grant from this new fund, especially as FCPS has a systemic commitment to energy reduction and conservation. This grant from the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia will enable more schools to participate in the Eco-Schools program, and increase student learning and engagement around the environment,” said Elizabeth Murphy, Executive Director of the Foundation for FCPS.

To learn more about The Environment Fund please visit www.cfnova.org/environment

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 2017 the Community Foundation awarded more than \$4.7 million in grants and scholarships and reported \$47 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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