



the **harvest** foundation

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The Harvest Foundation Wins Prestigious Award for Excellence in Communications

Martinsville, VA (March 11, 2008) – The Harvest Foundation has received the Bronze award for the 2008 Wilmer Shields Rich Award for Excellence in Communications. This awards program is sponsored by the Council on Foundations, the governing association for foundations, and is comprised of 2,100 member philanthropic organizations. The awards program recognizes effective communications efforts in philanthropy that increase public awareness of foundations, and the Harvest Foundation received the award for its annual report that was released this past summer.

“This is a very prestigious award and brings enormous credibility to our efforts at the Harvest Foundation. It also validates that we are developing model programs in partnership with our grantees that serve the needs of this community”, commented Rich Killingsworth.

This year, 213 entries were submitted to the awards program. The awards program judges commented that the annual report submitted by the Harvest Foundation demonstrated the Foundation’s commitment to public accountability and effective communications and serves as a “model of excellence” for other grantmakers. They also highlighted that the illustration on the front and inside cover of the annual report is a very powerful image and provides a good visual for messaging themes of “partnership and hope”.

“This is the message we wanted to convey through the annual report. We wanted to demonstrate that our community has many wonderful assets, not only our many attractive destinations, but also the diversity of our people. Looking ahead, it is these assets – people and place – that I believe will catalyze and strengthen hope that we are becoming a “Community of Choice”. Meaning that people choose to live, work, learn, recreate, and visit here because we offer the choices for them to thrive and grow in those activities. This is something we should take great pride in, and while we are in difficult times now, our future is bright”, said Rich Killingsworth.

The gold award will be presented to the Meyer Foundation in Washington, DC and the silver award will be presented to the Arcus Foundation in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The award will be presented at a formal ceremony at the Council of Foundation’s Leadership Summit in National Harbor, Maryland, on Monday, May 5, 2008.

The Harvest Foundation supports health, education, and welfare initiatives that serve our vision of fostering a “community of choice” for Martinsville and Henry County, Virginia. The Harvest Foundation was established in 2002 from the sale of Memorial Hospital. For more information please go to: <http://www.theharvestfoundation.org>

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