



## the harvest foundation

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **The Community Foundation of the Dan River Region Will Create A Regional Workforce Collaborative with Grant from The Harvest Foundation**

*Grant is first regional effort to identify area priorities and objectives and form a unified vision around workforce*

**Martinsville, VA** (December 17, 2008) – The Community Foundation of the Dan River Region has received a Harvest Foundation grant totaling \$325,000 over three years to develop a comprehensive regional approach to addressing workforce training and improvement in the greater Dan River Region. This grant, which will be in partnership with the National Fund for Workforce Solutions, the Danville Regional Foundation, the Community Foundation of the Dan River Region, and the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission will initiate and implement creative and innovative approaches to the many workforce challenges in our community.

“Anytime you have the opportunity to cooperate and share resources regionally, you are benefiting the entire region,” said Rhonda Hodges, Dean of Continuing Education and Workforce Development at Patrick Henry Community College. She added, “This partnership will provide the first real opportunity for regional entities to share ideas, and allow us to think “outside the box” in how we approach workforce training in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond.”

“This grant allows the business, government, educational, and funding entities of our region to come together and partner with the National Fund’s tools and resources to transform how we approach workforce training throughout the region,” added Laurie Moran, President of the Danville Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce. “By linking our resources and skills regionally, there will be a great benefit for the essential economic development of our region.”

“We are excited about what lies ahead for this new regional partnership,” said Angela Logan, Program Officer for The Harvest Foundation. “This is a unique opportunity for our region to come together and address challenges we are all facing in a way that will someday transform our collective economy.”

*The Harvest Foundation researches and responsibly invests in programs and initiatives to address local challenges in health, education, and community vitality. The Harvest Foundation is dedicated to making Martinsville / Henry County the community of choice by enhancing opportunities and quality of life for all its citizens. The Harvest Foundation was established in 2002 from the sale of the Memorial Hospital of Martinsville & Henry County. For more information, please go to <http://www.theharvestfoundation.org>*

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