



the **harvest** foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 26, 2007

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INTERACTIVE PIEDMONT ARTS PROGRAMS AIM TO IGNITE INTEREST AND IMPROVE ACCESS TO ART WITH FUNDING FROM THE HARVEST FOUNDATION

Leaders in the Arts Community Envision Art in Public Spaces, In School Performances and Visual Art Exhibits Inspiring to People in Martinsville and Surrounding Communities.

Martinsville, VA – The Harvest Foundation and Piedmont Arts announce a major, multi-year initiative to further expand dynamic art opportunities for the citizens of Martinsville and Henry County. Plans include increased community and school based projects for youth, a strong focus on culturally diverse arts, and public artworks, such as site based sculptures and outdoor murals. The grant also provides for nationally significant exhibitions.

“By infusing art into the area and showcasing what the community has to offer, this new initiative will offer an enhanced quality of life and can serve as catalyst of change,” said Peter Calvert, Executive Director of Piedmont Arts. “Building communities through the arts can meld economic strength and social change. I want to thank The Harvest Foundation for recognizing our long term commitment to the cultural community and allowing us to reach out in new directions.”

Approximately half of the \$263,000 award will be used to expose local youth to an assortment of art projects, including school theatre performances and professional traveling productions that encourage youth participation. Public performances and exhibits will be located in area greenspaces and other community crossroads – encouraging social gatherings and enhancing accessible activities. Additionally, outreach programs will be designed to inspire diverse groups about the arts.

“The impact of arts is an integral component of a healthy, thriving and culturally diverse community. The arts become the “stuff” by which cities become great places...a place that people cherish, value, and invest in. The grant we have provided to Piedmont Arts demonstrates the Harvest Foundation’s commitment to cultivating this area as a “community of choice”, and signifies our belief that the arts are a key piece to achieving that vision,” said Rich Killingsworth, Executive Director of The Harvest Foundation.

Piedmont Arts believes that art enhances the quality of life. Therefore, our mission is to provide experiences in the visual and performing arts to enrich and enlighten the lives of the people of Martinsville, Henry County and neighboring areas. Piedmont Arts strives to cultivate an appreciation for the arts both in our physical facility and in the community through exhibits, live performances, and educational programs for children and adults. Additionally, Piedmont Arts invites participation in the arts with display, marketing and performance opportunities available for artists and craftsmen. Through all of our activities, we strive to bring the arts close to home.

The Harvest Foundation supports health, education, and welfare initiatives that serve our vision of cultivating Martinsville and Henry County, Virginia as a “community of choice.” The Harvest Foundation was established in 2002 from the sale of Memorial Hospital. For more information visit www.theharvestfoundation.org

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