



the **harvest** foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spencer-Penn School Preservation Organization, Inc. to Enhance Cultural Programming with Harvest Foundation grant

Outreach and Sustainability Project will build on Spencer-Penn Centre's success as a regional performance and event venue.

Martinsville, VA (May 13, 2008) – In an effort to provide Henry County residents and visitors alike with quality cultural programming and event space, Spencer-Penn School Preservation, Inc. and The Harvest Foundation announce a multi-year grant agreement. SPSPPO's Outreach and Sustainability Project will be aimed at attracting and marketing events and programs at Spencer-Penn Centre. The grant will be for \$144,972 over the next three years.

“Spencer-Penn Centre has become a real point of pride for our community,” said Jeffrey Mansour, Senior Program Officer for The Harvest Foundation. “They succeeded in giving new life and purpose to the old school while staying true to its history. Their success has not just created a wonderful new venue for performances, programs, and events; they have also cultivated a highly motivated group of volunteers and community leaders. This newly funded project will help them build on their successes and offer even more amenities and programs to area residents.”

Located in scenic Spencer, VA, the former Spencer-Penn School has been transformed into a flourishing cultural, educational, and entertainment center by Spencer-Penn School Preservation Organization. Members of this close-knit community have worked tirelessly to renovate Spencer-Penn Centre with impressive upgrades. However, they have also been careful to restore aspects of the original structure that many of the school's earliest students fondly remember. The Harvest funding will be used to enhance the auditorium's use for cultural performances and community and family events, and to provide funding for senior citizen programming and organizational development.

President of SPSPO, Mary Jordan, emphasized what Spencer-Penn Centre has meant to the community. "The Spencer-Penn Centre has continued what the old Spencer-Penn School had accomplished for seventy-seven years. It has continued to be the venue for education and entertainment, and also a place where neighbors from all over Henry and Patrick Counties and many other surrounding areas, can meet."

"With positive thinking, volunteers who have unselfishly dedicated their time and many talents," she continued, "and through the contributions of the Harvest Foundation and other grantors, Spencer Penn is continuing its legacy."

The purpose of Spencer-Penn School Preservation Organization, Inc. is to provide a community outlet for citizens in the Spencer community and surrounding communities by preserving the structure, facilities, artifacts, and historical facts of the Spencer-Penn School. For more information, please go to www.thecentreatspencerpenn.com, or call (276) 957-5757.

The Harvest Foundation researches and responsibly invests in programs and initiatives to address local challenges in health, education, and welfare. The Harvest Foundation is dedicated to making Martinsville / Henry County the residence 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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