



the **harvest** foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southern Virginia Recreation Facilities Authority awarded Harvest Foundation funding for Smith River Sports Complex

Sports Complex quickly shows potential as an economic driver

Martinsville, VA (January 15, 2010) – The Southern Virginia Recreation Facilities Authority has received funding in the amount of \$206,167 from the Harvest Foundation. The funding will be used for operational support of the Smith River Sports Complex over the next five (5) months starting February 1, 2010.

"The Authority is very grateful for the funding support from the Harvest Foundation. We believe the Smith River Sports Complex is a tremendous asset to be enjoyed by local residents as well as visitors", said the Authority's executive director, Dennis Toney.

The Smith River Sports Complex opened in late summer of 2009 and has already hosted two (2) major soccer tournaments—one for the NCAA's USA South Athletic Conference Men's and Women's tournaments, and another for the "Piedmont Shootout" that included youth soccer teams from around the region. These two events resulted in increased hotel stays and dining at local restaurants; providing a boost to our economy. Additionally, numerous patrons engage in team sports and utilize the complex's walking trails, playground, and picnic shelters. As word spreads of the many recreational options the complex has to offer, its impact on our community will continue to grow.

"The Sports Complex has clearly shown its potential for attracting recreational tourists to our community," said Harvest senior program officer, Jeffrey Mansour. "It is an important part of our efforts to help recreate and diversify our local 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 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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