



the **harvest** foundation

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **TheatreWorks Community Players Creates Uptown Venue with Harvest Funding** *Black Box Theater slated for uptown will be new venue for innovative stage performances; reaching broader audiences and attracting increased tourism*

**Martinsville, VA** (November 2, 2009) – TheatreWorks has received a \$200,000 Harvest Foundation grant to fund the development of an uptown theatrical venue and program expansion over the next three (3) years.

“We are elated at the news and are grateful to the Harvest Foundation for its faith in TheatreWorks Community Players,” said Andy Parker, President of the TheatreWorks Board. “Our board has worked very hard in the past year to put the organization in a position to build on the successful productions we’ve had over the last five years. Now that we are able to realize the goal of a permanent venue in uptown Martinsville, we truly believe we can be an anchor for its reemergence.”

Established in 2004, TheatreWorks is an organization of community members with a love of theater and a realization of the potential cultural and economic boost the performing arts can give to Martinsville-Henry County. Building on past theatrical successes, the organization will use the Harvest grant to establish a flexible community performance venue known as a black box theater in an existing uptown Martinsville building.

“TheatreWorks is widely known for their commitment to offering quality community theater productions that win laughs and applause from their audiences” said Jeffrey Mansour, Senior Program Office of the Harvest Foundation. “Their black box theater project will provide a unique and creative venue for area residents to enjoy and participate in theatrical productions while casting a solid vote of confidence in the revitalization of uptown.”

*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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