



the **harvest** foundation

Contact: Angela R. Logan,
Program Officer
The Harvest Foundation of
the Piedmont
276.632.3329
[alogan@theharvestfoundati
on.org](mailto:alogan@theharvestfoundation.org)

Contact: Alicia B. Solomon, Director-
Financial Stability Initiatives
United Way of Henry County &
Martinsville-HOPE Initiative
276.732.3642
HOPEInitiative@comcast.net

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United Way will continue to Help Others Progress Economically with Harvest Foundation Funding

HOPE Initiative to expand efforts that will help educate residents on the path to financial independence

Martinsville, VA (December 17, 2008) – The United Way of Henry County and Martinsville will continue its Helping Others Progress Economically (HOPE) Initiative with a grant from The Harvest Foundation. The funding, \$120,000 over the next year, will be used to provide an increase in the financial literacy of youth and adults in Martinsville-Henry County. Some of the programs that will be offered include workshops and trainings for displaced workers, early financial education classes with partnerships with the local school districts, and Earned Income Tax Credit assistance.

“We are excited and energized at the opportunity that lies ahead,” stated Alicia Solomon, Director of Financial Stability Initiatives at the United Way. “During these unprecedented economic times, this grant allows us to expand our financial education and EITC programming-critical services to our community.”

Building on the success of projects such as financial education to displaced workers, the HOPE Initiative will also concentrate on providing free tax preparation services to working families in the community, something that has taken off in the last year.

“With the recent Federal Stimulus package, more and more families filed taxes in our community,” says Angela Logan, Program Officer of the Foundation. “The services provided by the HOPE Initiative allowed these families to access these funds, helping them get one step closer to financial stability.”

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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