



the **harvest** foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Harvest Foundation elects new members to Board of Directors

Dr. Leanna Blevins, Dr. Cynthia Ingram, Dr. James K. Muehleck, and E. Larry Ryder to begin board terms effective July 1, 2008.

Martinsville, VA (May 15, 2008) – The Harvest Foundation is pleased to announce four new members to its Board of Directors: Dr. Leanna Blevins, Dr. Cynthia Ingram, Dr. James K. Muehleck, and E. Larry Ryder.

Dr. Leanna Blevins brings with her a great deal experience in the field of education. Currently serving as Associate Director for New College Institute (NCI) in Martinsville, VA, she has been passionate about making higher education more accessible to students in rural communities. Her dissertation on rural students and their access to and persistence in public colleges and universities earned her a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.

Prior to her work at NCI, Dr. Blevins had been employed at several Virginia universities. At the University of Virginia, she was the assistant to the president and worked in the offices of state government relations, university relations, and faculty advancement. She was the director of career development at the UVA-Wise, and also a student consumer advocate at Virginia Tech, where she earned her BA degree.

Dr. Blevins lives in Martinsville with her husband, Gavin Russell, and two children. She also serves on other boards in the community—Citizens Against Family Violence, Piedmont Arts Association, and the Fayette Area Historical Initiative.

Dr. Cynthia Ingram has also had an illustrious career in education. Having earned a Doctorate Degree in Education from North Carolina State University, she most recently served as the Dean of Continuing Education and Workforce Development at Patrick Henry Community College. In January 2008, Dr. Ingram

retired from this position, thus ending a distinguished 26-year career with the Virginia Community College System.

Dr. Ingram has served on multiple boards in Martinsville-Henry County. She has been Vice-Chair of the Martinsville City Public School Board, Chairperson for the West Piedmont Business Development Center, and currently serves on the board for the Fayette Area Historical Initiative. In addition to these positions, Dr. Ingram has offered her services to the advisory committee for the Southern Virginia Artisan Center.

Dr. Ingram is married to Reverend Willie “Doug” Ingram, pastor of Calvary United Church of Jesus Christ. They have three adult children—Keysha, Willie, Jr., and Monte—and also five grandchildren. She and her husband reside in Martinsville.

Dr. James K. Muehleck is a Doctor of Dentistry with over 30 years of experience. Having received his Doctorate of Dental Surgery from the Medical College of Virginia School of Dentistry, he finished his General Practice Residency at Louisiana State University’s Charity Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana. He currently practices from his dentist office in Martinsville.

Dr. Muehleck has served on various boards in our community such as the United Way of Henry County and Martinsville and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Martinsville-Henry County. He currently serves on the local advisory Board of the American National Bank & Trust Company, as well as the Martinsville Kiwanis Club Board of Directors. Dr. Muehleck has also volunteered time as a Piedmont Youth Soccer League coach and a youth baseball coach.

A resident of Henry County, Dr. Muehleck lives with his wife, Susan and their son Matthew.

A Certified Public Accountant, E. Larry Ryder serves as Executive Vice President of Finance & Administration and CFO of Hooker Furniture Corporation. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Virginia Tech. In addition, he served six years in the United States Army Reserves, receiving an honorable discharge after being elevated to the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Ryder has much experience in foundation work as he has been involved with various foundations in Martinsville-Henry County. He is the Director Emeritus for the Patrick Henry Community College Foundation, and currently serves as the President for the Hooker Educational Foundation. He also serves on boards for the Safetynet Foundation and the Virginia Museum of Natural History Foundation.

Ryder has also been a valued member of several other Boards in our community such as King’s Grant Retirement Community’s Regional Board, and the Memorial Hospital of Martinsville & Henry County’s Board of Trustees.

Ryder is married to his wife Elaine, an educator for Henry County Public Schools. They have two adult sons, Joshua and Zachary.

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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