OUR MISSION

The Harvest Foundation researches and responsibly invests in programs and initiatives to address local challenges in health, education and welfare.

“This powerful image reflects the wonderful people that make this a ‘Community of Choice.’ The places represented in the illustration highlight our many cultural, social and academic institutions and our abundant settings for sports and recreation. Together, the people and places speak to the value that Martinsville/Henry County fosters opportunities for a healthier lifestyle, educational achievement, economic prosperity and a vibrant community.”

—RICHARD KILLINGSWORTH  Executive Director
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**The City of Martinsville and Henry County**

are nestled in the majestic foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the southern Piedmont region of Virginia. This region claims spectacular views of wooded hills, plush green valleys, the Smith River, Philpott Lake, and is home of the Martinsville Speedway.

Despite the beauty of the area, since the late 1980s, with the flight of manufacturing overseas, the 70,000 people who live in Martinsville/Henry County have been faced with significant challenges including job loss, population migration and limitations of basic needs. In 2002, the Memorial Hospital was sold and from its assets the Harvest Foundation was established to catalyze community revitalization and restore hope for a brighter and healthier future.

Today, the Foundation is working in partnership with local organizations to improve the overall quality of life in this region by funding initiatives in health, education and welfare. By the end of 2006, the Foundation’s assets exceeded $190 million and more than $54 million had been granted since its inception. The belief is that these efforts will continue to enhance this place as a “Community of Choice” beloved by all who visit and live here.
Dear Friends,

This area—Martinsville/Henry County—is truly a beautiful place, rich in tradition and entrepreneurial spirit. And while we are very fortunate to live in this special setting, sometimes it takes the inspirational voice of a visitor to reveal the greatness and full potential of this community.

The following pages include inspired visions of exciting possibilities for this area and how people are bringing them to life. These stories express the enthusiasm of how these people were able to collaborate and partner with other community members and organizations in implementing grants from the Harvest Foundation to benefit Martinsville/Henry County residents in the areas of health, education and welfare.

Along with these stories, descriptions of 23 awarded grants, totaling more than $31 million, are included. These grants range in size from $10,000 for a school safety and violence prevention program, to over $1 million for curriculum improvement and excellence in our primary and secondary schools, to $20 million for the planning and development of the Soccer Complex and Uptown Arena. Updates for three of our largest initiatives—the Coalition for Health and Wellness, the New College Institute and the Soccer Complex and Uptown Arena—are also included.

All of the past year’s accomplishments could not have been possible without the partnerships forged with the community, our grantees and other partners that extend well beyond our county and state borders. Special recognition goes to Allyson Rothrock for an outstanding job as the interim executive director (Feb 2006–Feb 2007) and providing leadership and service to a quality staff and Board of Directors. Acknowledgement should also be given to the dedicated service of Clay Campbell who served his term on the Harvest Foundation board well.

With dedicated people involved at multiple levels, the Harvest Foundation is fulfilling its purpose in supporting and strengthening Martinsville/Henry County into a special place. As we grow in our philanthropic efforts, we look forward to more innovative and timely initiatives that will ensure even greater prosperity for and revitalization of this wonderful community into a place that is cherished by everyone—resident and visitor—as a “Community of Choice.”

Sincerely,

Marshall W. Stowe
envision
your community healthier today
We are taking an active role in the health of Martinsville/Henry County. Our efforts are beginning to improve the vitality of our community and strengthen hope for a healthier tomorrow.

W.D. PRINCE III, M.D., PHYSICIAN
CARILION HEALTH SYSTEM

HEALTH INITIATIVES

The Harvest Foundation seeks to improve overall health outcomes by making the community a safer place to live, preventing health problems before they arise and improving access to care for vulnerable populations.

THE HEALTHY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE (HCI) offers opportunities for residents to access active living, healthy eating and other health improvement programs.

THE FREE DENTAL CLINIC (FDC) supports local dentists and their interns in providing care for low income residents.

The following page includes testimonials from grantees as well as quotes about how the HCI and FDC health initiatives have affected our community.
“I liked the walk to Jamestown because you get to be active a lot. I always wear my pedometer everywhere now.”
– Summar Cooke, Student Participant

“The staff is very friendly, which makes a big difference. We’ve needed this service in our community for so many years. They gave me back my smile.”
– Cathy Agee, Clinic Patient
HEALTHY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Our goal is to make the community a healthier place to live by creating access to opportunities for families to live healthier lifestyles.

The Walk to Jamestown program provided tools to help fit walking into the daily routine. The program began on March 5th when students, teachers and community leaders walked the trail around Jack Dalton Park. The program lasted 10 weeks, concluding on May 14th, the day of the 400th Jamestown Celebration. Close to 3,000 participants accumulated a total of walking 386,239 miles and burning 38,623,851 calories. Many residents, young and old, found walking to be an easy way to exercise and are making changes to make it a part of their everyday life.

We also support nutrition and after-school physical activity programs in the schools. Once per month, nutritionists visit the schools to teach students about the food pyramid and healthy snack choices, sharing with them a large amount of unique fruits and vegetables they might not have been able to try.

The after-school physical activity programs range from individual programs to group activities. One of the breakthroughs we’ve had great success with is the Dance Dance Revolution interactive video game. Children use the Walk to Jamestown conversion charts to calculate the number of steps they “dance” and are learning how easy it is to reach their goals everyday and still have fun. We work with the YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club, local churches and Focus on Youth to develop the exercise programs; we’re reaching about 1,000 kids.

We are also reaching the community through our aerobics program. The classes are held in a community center and families are able to feel comfortable about exercising in a place that’s not a typical gym and get excited about being active together. Grandparents now come with grandchildren. It’s one of the best things I think we’ve been able to accomplish.

– DIANE RAMEY

MARTINSVILLE COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC

The word is out about us and there’s a huge demand for the Community Dental Clinic. The people we see reflect the community as a whole; 93% of our clients are from the Martinsville/Henry County area.

With the Harvest Foundation’s support, we were able to get the program up and running and are now able to provide dental services to those who are less fortunate. Like the goal of a private practice to treat as many patients as possible, our goal is to treat as much of the dental disease in the community as possible.

One of the keys to our success is that we are the first choice of dental interns. We need the best interns in order to run our clinic. With the grant from the Harvest Foundation, we can provide a state-of-the-art facility and housing in order to attract the best dental students to serve at the clinic.

Coming to this area provides a unique experience for dental interns. As we continue to get the attention of students early in their education, we can begin to get them more interested in the area. We already have one student planning to come back to the Martinsville/Henry County area after he graduates to practice.

We are currently considered the best rotation site of VCU dental students. Our interns are interested in seeing real people. They appreciate the volume of patients they’re able to see while they learn how to pick up their speed and efficiency.

With the grant from the Harvest Foundation, we can provide a state-of-the-art facility and housing in order to attract the best dental students to serve at the clinic.

One thing the interns repeatedly say is how appreciative our clients are. Some clients have even broken down in tears because they’re so thankful to be relieved of the pain they had been experiencing. We usually get 200 people on our list for each rotation and we hope to grow in the next year to serve more in the community.

– DR. MARK CRABTREE
envision your community learning today
“Preparing our youth for academic achievement is becoming an integral part of our community’s character; through education, we achieve health, prosperity and excellence.”

GRACIE AGNEW, PRINCIPAL
MAGNA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

The Harvest Foundation seeks to catalyze exceptional educational options through a number of academic, citizenship and vocational development programs.

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE (ECI) focuses on preparing children for success upon entering school.

THE NEW COLLEGE INSTITUTE (NCI) focuses on establishing a baccalaureate degree granting institution in Martinsville.

The following page includes testimonials from grantees as well as quotes about how the ECI and NCI education initiatives have affected our community.
“This program gives children an early start to school and a desire to learn by getting them prepared with basic ABCs, 123s, colors, sharing and teamwork.”

– Sharon Martin, Childcare Provider

“The New College Institute internship program enables students like me to give an example of the positive strengths and changes we, as future community residents, have to offer when given the opportunity.”

– Courtney Pulliam, NCI Student and Nursing Intern
Currently, only 11% of our residents have a college degree and we want to offer programs to help that number grow. As the New College Institute helps develop the educated and skilled workforce, we can also benefit the local economy.

Many of the students at the New College Institute are first-generation college students. Because community, family and financial support are very important for prospective students, we have an extensive community outreach program where we go into the local businesses, churches, schools and other civic organizations to work with them on educating new prospective students about college.

We help inform people why it is important to have a college degree, how people can receive financial aid and help them with the process of enrollment in accessing and entering the proper forms. We want them to come away understanding how important college can be for anyone, regardless of age, and that it is important for succeeding in today's workforce.

With growing interests in business and economic development, we look forward to when our graduates will begin to attract and develop more knowledge-based industry and business in the Martinsville/Henry County area. With more opportunities for people to work a greater variety of jobs, our hope is that the College will help revitalize the surrounding uptown area.

We are also working on ways to attract the Martinsville/Henry County students who went to other colleges to come back home. The grant from the Harvest Foundation has helped us invest in practical ways to keep our educated workforce in our community.

This summer we started a new program that involves placing and paying for 21 current college students who have graduated from the Martinsville/Henry County area high schools to work in internships around the community. The skilled students benefit the businesses in the community and discover that there are exciting job opportunities in this area.

– LEANNA BLEVINS

The grant from the Harvest Foundation has helped us invest in practical ways to keep our educated workforce in our community.

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EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE

It often takes just one spark of interest to build confidence. The Harvest Foundation supports and understands how and why we need to help improve education in the community.

We had a grassroots beginning with Success by Six. It was one of our early childhood initiatives through the United Way and was designed to help parents prepare their children for kindergarten. Once we got Success by Six going, we needed more funding to help sustain and expand the program. The Harvest Foundation supported and understood our vision and funded a 3-year grant.

The funding helps with parenting workshops as well as overall training for the home care providers who work with groups of children. We have expanded our outreach to parents through parent education classes and we work with our home care providers in doing other outreach programs within the community.

We also work with other organizations in the community, including the Department of Social Services. We make sure people in the positions of providing care receive early childhood education training so they can know how to produce quality-learning environments for the kids.

We went back to the Foundation this past year with a new initiative called Family Place Library. It's a national model that takes the library and forms it into a hub of learning and networking for families within the community.

Most people don’t often think of babies, toddlers and preschoolers spending time at the library. But the latest research shows that children learn through play. We want the library to be a central location in the community where parents can bring their children to play or read with them. We plan to implement the Family Place Library in one branch in 2007 and then expand to all of the following branches in Martinsville/Henry County in the following years.

It’s really about relationships and being a collaborator in the community. Through Success by Six and now the Family Place Library, we are becoming even more of a community partner.

– SHERYL AGEES

The grant from the Harvest Foundation has helped us invest in practical ways to keep our educated workforce in our community.
WELFARE INITIATIVES

envision
your community thriving today
“By creating choices for health, education and economic development, we can help revitalize Martinsville/Henry County into an even greater community.”

MARTHA MEDLEY, ATTORNEY
DANIEL, MEDLEY & KIRBY, P.C.

WELFARE INITIATIVES

The Harvest Foundation seeks to improve basic needs and quality of life by providing assistance to citizens in crisis situations, offering services to the disadvantaged, creating age-appropriate opportunities for younger people, increasing community wealth and making the community a desirable place.

MARTINSVILLE UPTOWN (MU) seeks to revitalize the Uptown district of Martinsville.

DAN RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION (DRBA) AND MARTINSVILLE & HENRY COUNTY RIVERS AND TRAILS (MHC-RT) coalition seek to protect, promote and enhance the natural and historical resources of Martinsville/Henry County through environmental education, recreational activities, tourism and land conservation and revitalization.

The following page includes testimonials from grantees as well as quotes about how the MU, DRBA and MHC-RT welfare initiatives have affected our community.
“The Farmers’ Market has done a great job attracting more people from all walks of life, which wasn’t the case a year ago. Because of the new customers, I have been able to increase my garden area and produce more goods.”

– Frank Benz, Sunny Acres Farm

“My husband and I were delighted to see how nice the new walking and biking trail is. We visited some fishermen and met a father and daughter who were riding the trail for the first time. We all expressed how glad we were that the trail had been created.”

– Virginia King, Resident Trail User
People feel it’s so needed. They can see that the Farmers’ Market is becoming an economic development and placemaking tool.

We began revamping the Farmers’ Market by starting “Tasty Saturdays” once per month and bringing in a local chef with healthy and “special” recipes. We brought in live music, particularly bluegrass and folk-based. And the Museum of Natural History started coming by every Saturday with a theme for the day, educational events and craft activities.

We now open the market at 8:00 AM on Saturdays to bring in more people and interaction. When it opened at 6:00 AM, there were smaller crowds and things tended to sell out earlier, causing the market to lose people. It’s now become a more “meet and greet” area.

During the week we tend to have a great mix of people. People are coming down to meet friends and go shopping. We have seniors alongside mothers and kids. Parents are instilling the importance of the market with their children by going as a family. We even have family members stopping in on their way to work.

The variety of foods and events are appealing to more people. People are now able to find foods they had to go out of town to get, and the events bring more excitement to the Uptown. The Market is now a hub for shopping and entertainment.

With the support from the Harvest Foundation, we were able to rebuild interest in and appreciation of the market. The Farmers’ Market is an integral asset to the revitalization of the Uptown. It has quickly become a place that people cherish and want to see flourish.

—Susan McCulloch

Our goals are to protect, promote and educate about the areas natural resources.

The collaboration between the city, county and local private entities to build the rivers and trails system has been remarkable.

The new demonstration trail showcases the great community collaboration it takes to bring about this kind of environmental change. The parties involved included the Harvest Foundation’s grant which allowed us to hire a planning director in Martinsville; the county agreeing to donate some of the land and provide people to build the trail; a private owner giving some of his land; receiving a grant from the Dominion Foundation for materials; and a gravel company donating materials.

The trail is our first great advertisement for the new trail system. This all began when the Harvest Foundation asked historical preservation and natural resources groups, including the Southern Environmental Law Center, to organize a local group to assess the area. We met with community leaders and citizens from all walks of life. Again and again, people took us to their special spots.

Part of our mission from the beginning was to see if we could create and promote a trail system around the Smith and Mayo Rivers. Martinsville and Henry County have many untapped resources for quality of life and economic development.

Locally, we’re known as the Martinsville and Henry County Rivers and Trails Group. We are an affiliate of the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) and we’ve brought in people from the DRBA to help. We determined our goals would be to protect, promote and educate about the areas natural resources. Our first three efforts include developing trails and water access points, and improving water quality development and monitoring for the Smith and Mayo rivers.

Creating more river access points is beginning to generate more support. People can now easily get into the river and really experience everything it has to offer, including boating, fishing and fly fishing, and we hope it will generate more word-of-mouth in the community.”

—Kay Slaughter

— Kay Slaughter
The Harvest Foundation was established in 2002 with assets exceeding $163 million. At the end of 2006, assets grew to $190,234,769.

Total expenses for the Harvest Foundation in 2006 were $30,848,245 with the Foundation designating $30,266,465 in Program Services. A total of 23 grants were approved, and grant funding awarded and announced was $31,224,472. The difference in the reported Grants/Program Services and actual awarded grants for 2006 is due to discounting the long-term grant payments to present-day dollars to account for the time value of money.
The Commonwealth of Virginia appropriated $600,000 to support the establishment of NCI.
2006 foundation grants

HEALTH

Piedmont Access to Health Services, Inc. (PATHS)
$79,244

Provider Support
To provide support for a mid-level provider in the Martinsville site

EDUCATION

K-12 Education Initiative
$1,617,000

Curriculum / Professional Development
Two year continuation of an Initiative to provide professional development to include new methods, knowledge and tools to improve educational outcomes for all students in the areas of Math & Literacy. The following institutions were funded: Carlisle School ($100,000), Henry County Schools ($1,040,000); Martinsville City Schools ($300,000); K-12 Initiative support ($177,000)

New College Institute
$4,500,000*

The Foundation’s $50 million challenge for the State of Virginia
Commitment to match state funding up to $4.5 million for the first biennium of the established 4-year degree College in Martinsville, Virginia

Patrick Henry Community College
Martinsville Henry County After 3 Initiative
$506,895

Supporting the establishment of a locally driven after-school system

Educational Talent Search Program (ETS)
$142,436

Supporting the ETS program in adding new activities and broadening existing activities for middle and high school students in Martinsville and Henry County

Rector & Visitors of the University of Virginia
$252,900

Guide Program
Supporting the training and placement of three “Guides” into area high schools to provide college preparation counseling and related activities

United Way of Henry County and Martinsville, Inc.
$133,352

Family Place Library
Helping to pilot a program at the Martinsville Branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library to provide a center for early childhood information, parent education, emergent literacy, socialization and family support

WELFARE

Altrusa International Inc. of Martinsville and Henry County
$13,500

Police Equipment
Matching funds to purchase one thermal imaging camera for Martinsville City Police Department and Henry County Sheriff’s Department

Chamber’s Partnership for Economic Growth (CPEG)
$42,500

I-73 Study
Matching funds to perform an economic impact analysis study on the impact of U.S. Interstate-73 in the Martinsville-Henry County region; contingent on the Federal Highway issuing a positive Record of Decision moving I-73 forward

Dan River Basin Association (DRBA)
$87,495

Gravely Nature Preserve
Assisting in the development of the Gravely Nature Preserve in Southern Henry County

Grace Network of Martinsville and Henry County, Inc.
$30,790

Computer Database Program
To assist in purchasing an interactive computer database program and personnel costs for a half-time coordinator to input information and oversee the system for the agency

*In 2006, the Commonwealth of Virginia appropriated $2.5 million for NCI. As a result, the 2007 grant was amended to reflect this amount.
Recently, the Harvest Foundation supported a $20 million commitment, in partnership with the Southern Virginia Recreation Facilities Authority (SVRFA) and the City of Martinsville and Henry County, to construct two state-of-the-art sports complexes: one located in the county dedicated to soccer and the other dedicated to a multi-use arena in the city.

Planning for the soccer complex is now in the final design stages with ground breaking expected to begin in early 2008 with completion in early 2009. The site for the multi-use arena is expected to be cleared and ready for construction by late 2008. Both facilities will be owned and managed by the Southern Virginia Recreational Facilities Authority and will provide a number of outdoor/indoor venues for organized athletics, recreation and entertainment.

We look forward to seeing this collaborative partnership and effort enhance the number of amenities in this community, and believe it will help build upon the vision of creating a community of choice by catalyzing health, education and economic opportunities for the city and county.
Dear Friends,

These are exciting times for Martinsville/Henry County. There is a renewed sense of hope, and many people are beginning to envision that we are becoming a “Community of Choice” that serves its people well.

As the new Executive Director of the Harvest Foundation, I am in a wonderful position that offers me a chance to participate with others in shaping the bold and exciting future of our community. My hope is for the Harvest Foundation to be a powerful catalyst in that process of revitalization.

Much of what we need to do together is reflected in the metaphor discussed in Bill Shore’s book, *The Cathedral Within*. He uses the symbol of “cathedral building” to look at the way people allocate their resources to improve their community. Cathedrals are magnificent architectural wonders; however, as the enduring splendor of a cathedral is not erected overnight, the revitalization of this community will take patience and endurance to fulfill. As we begin establishing the cornerstones for our future, like the cathedral builders who worked in harmony across decades of time, we need to open our minds and hearts and allow the people we serve to share that vision and build in partnership with us.

To fulfill this bold vision, we must reflect on a special gift we all have—the gift of giving back. We must value the act of creating a legacy for others to cherish. It is our opportunity at the Harvest Foundation to inspire others to partner with us. We want to encourage simple acts of giving back, serving others and valuing this place. These acts are the necessary ingredients for revitalizing Martinsville/Henry County.

For our community to become great, it has to be transformed by acts of individuals envisioning something different and having the courage to see it done. This in turn will encourage people to believe that there are important choices to be made in life: to stay silent or speak; to remain seated or to stand; to watch or to act. These choices have the power to influence new ideas, to catalyze change and to create a place that is valued.

To wisely use this gift of giving back, we must seek to embody the value that says “To whom much is given, much is expected.” The Harvest Foundation has been entrusted with a great gift to serve this community. Therefore, we must expect much of ourselves and have the courage to lead boldly as servants to the community. I look forward to working together with you towards the vision of building a great place that creates a legacy. It is from this hope that I believe that this place will truly become a “Community of Choice.”

Sincerely,

Richard Killingsworth

Richard Killingsworth
RICHARD KILLINGSWORTH Executive Director

ALLYSON ROTHROCK Assistant Executive Director

JEFFREY MANSOUR Senior Program Officer

JOHN ESTES Program Officer

CHRISTINA REED Controller

ELOISE WADE Administrative Assistant