

Patrick Co. Community Foundation gives \$100,000 to PCEF, \$56,000 to fire, rescue

The Patrick County Community Foundation recently released information on its 2005 grant-funding awards.

"The Community Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to announce the selection of the foundation's 2005 recipients," said Blair Clark, the organization's chairman.

The Community Foundation's 2005 grant awards include \$100,000 to the Patrick County Education Foundation and \$56,000 distributed equally among the county's fire and rescue departments. In addition, the foundation is continuing to provide scholarship assistance to its final two scholarship recipients. Since its founding in 2000, the foundation has awarded five scholarships totaling \$16,000 to graduates of Patrick County High School who are pursuing careers in health care.

Clark praised this year's grant recipients as strong and positive forces in the lives of county citizens. "Our 2005 grantees provide an exceptionally high level of service and critical support to the people of Patrick County," he said. "The Community Foundation's contribution to the Patrick County Education Founda-

tion will enable that organization to push aggressively forward in its 10-year, three-pronged mission to create a brighter economic future for the people of Patrick through education.

"Our grants to the county's fire and rescue departments will help ensure that residents have the benefit of well-trained, well-equipped emergency response teams in times of crisis. Through these grants, the Community Foundation can tremendously expand its reach and influence across the county and forward into the future."

The Patrick County Community Foundation Board of Directors also announced that the organization is ceasing active operation. The foundation was established in 2000 as a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation to support and improve the health and welfare of the citizens of Patrick County. The organization's initial project was to assist in the preservation of the county's hospital at a time of severe fiscal stress.

"The success of that project was of vital importance for the county's citizens," Clark said. "Loss of the hospital and the health ser-

vices it makes possible would have been devastating for the county. Through it, the citizens of Patrick County were able to prevent that from happening."

More recently, the Community Foundation helped secure the funding needed to assure that a dialysis clinic was opened in the county.

"Those of us associated with the Community Foundation are proud of its role in preserving our local hospital and health care system as we know it, in making it possible to locate a dialysis center here, in providing scholarships to county students, and in supporting the many excellent community service organizations in the county," Clark said.

"We believe that now, with these many successes behind us, the need for the foundation has diminished. All donations made to the foundation and earmarked for the hospital by our generous donors have gone to support the hospital. All other restricted funds have been disbursed according to donors' wishes. The unrestricted funds remaining under the foundation's stewardship will be disbursed to pre-selected community support organiza-

tions.

"We believe that the county's citizens will continue to be well served by organizations like the Patrick County Education Foundation, the fire and rescue services and other local community support groups. We urge residents to generously support these excellent organizations with their time and their money."

Clark expressed appreciation to all those dedicated individuals who served on the Patrick County Community Foundation Board of Directors since the organization's founding, which include: Clint Hopkins, Buddy Williams, Fulton Clark, Roger Anglin, Alan Black, Fred Brim, Kathy Clements, June Gunter, Keith Gunter, Judy Lacks, Debbie Marion, Paul Reynolds, Algie Spencer and Beth Witt, in addition to the many fine folks that assisted in the major door-to-door fund raising campaign."

Clark said that the organization will continue on inactive status for the foreseeable future. He made it clear, however, that the foundation will retain its non-profit charter and legal designation so that it can be reactivated should the need arise at some later point.