

The Cameron Clarion is dedicated to promoting the resources available to area nonprofit organizations and initiatives through The Cameron Foundation, and to reporting on the successes of these organizations. We welcome any comments or editorial contributions, and we thank you for your support as we continue to serve the Tri-Cities and Southside region.

The Housing and Community Development Summit:

Initiating a Shared Vision for the Future of Petersburg



“A terrific first step in bringing together organizations that serve the community.”

“This should be the start of further discussion and accomplishment.”

“Coordination is key!”

Those were just a few of the reactions to this year’s premier Housing and Community Development Summit, a daylong event sponsored by The Cameron Foundation and the City of Petersburg. The Summit was created to spark dialogue among nonprofits, local government officials, investing businesses and other local stakeholders to address the housing needs in the city.

The need for housing revitalization is an urgent issue in Petersburg. The city has the largest share of vacant housing in the region, and its ownership rates are among the lowest in the area. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, many residents in the city are paying up to 50 percent of their income on rent.

Numerous organizations and businesses are working to improve this situation – however, until the Summit, these groups had no forum for sharing and unifying their efforts.

The Summit was held June 15, 2011, at the Community Life Center of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Petersburg. Over 100 participants attended, including representatives from community development organizations, other nonprofits, Virginia State University, the business community and public officials. Handy Lindsey, Jr., President and CEO of The Cameron Foundation, opened the meeting, acknowledging the diversity of the stakeholders present and the accomplishments that are already occurring in Petersburg. He noted that work being performed without shared resources was resulting in a duplication of efforts, in some instances. The next speaker, then-City Manager David Canada, agreed, stressing the need to see a coordinated approach to development in Petersburg.

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804.732.8900
www.camfound.org

Summit (cont.)

Keynote Speaker: Greenville, MS Mayor Heather McTeer Hudson

During Heather McTeer Hudson's tenure as mayor, the city of Greenville, Mississippi has procured \$15 million in grants and federal assistance, has initiated downtown revitalization, and has completed major infrastructure projects. This city is comparable to Petersburg in size, population statistics and median income. As keynote speaker of the Housing Summit, Ms. Hudson spoke from very relatable experience. Her speech included actionable direction for unifying multiple partners, making everyone an equal partner, bringing resources to the community, and overcoming conflict.

Mayor Hudson's address was followed by a presentation by Brian Moore, Mayor of the City of Petersburg, who discussed the vision for the city, its challenges and its opportunities. The age of housing and apartment complexes, absentee landlords, low income homeowners and the potential for partnerships were among his key topics.

The city's Chief Planner Jonathan Brown then presented a report on Petersburg's Strategically Targeted Areas for Revitalization, or STAR. This review stressed the importance of the Community Development Block Grant program.

The Cameron Foundation's Program Officer Brandy Cramer then took the podium to unveil the results of a community housing survey. These survey results allowed organizations providing support services and stakeholders at the Summit to see the availability of types of services offered in Petersburg and the target populations served.

Virginia LISC Executive Director Candice Streett and Senior Program Officer Veronica Jemmott stressed a comprehensive approach to community development while utilizing tools such as incentives, resources and the removal of barriers. By the conclusion of the morning session, three key messages emerged:

1. There needs to be a unified approach among stakeholders for revitalizing the City of Petersburg.
2. The City of Petersburg will be the leader in the effort. Align your work with their vision and expect the City officials to be accountable.
3. All stakeholders need to be willing to cooperate and collaborate on endeavors to stretch and leverage The Cameron Foundation's and the City of Petersburg's funding.

Breakout Sessions: Opportunities for Collaboration

After the presentations, attendees were divided into three groups based on the work they perform within the housing sector: (1) Housing Repair, Construction and Revitalization; (2) Housing Support Services, and; (3) Community Development (Fundors).

Equipped with a facilitator, each group tackled the following questions:

- How does the work you do connect to what you heard today?
- What is needed that would facilitate forward movement on this issue?
- Who are the partners that are needed? Where do they exist? Where are the gaps?
- How might this conversation move forward?

To continue the momentum gathered in these discussions, participants were encouraged to sign up for the Summit's follow-up activities. These have included a Community Developer's Luncheon for funders to discuss their investment efforts in Petersburg for the next two to three years and a bus tour of Petersburg showing prominent initiatives such as the Halifax Triangle, new SeniorCenter and River Lofts in Old Towne. A follow-up workshop titled Resources Enabling Affordable Community Housing Virginia (REACH), hosted by VHDA, was held on December 8th to further discuss strategies for appropriate housing development projects.

The Housing and Community Development Summit proved so successful that plans for a 2012 Summit are already in the works. A report of the 2011 event can be found on the Foundation's web site (www.camfound.org) under "Publications."



The Cameron Foundation Welcomes **J. Tolleison Morriss, VI** to its Board of Directors



Spend a few moments with J. Tolleison Morriss, VI and you'll know that he is a person driven by a desire to serve. According to Morriss, it's a characteristic that has been handed down in his family from generation to generation. "For as long as I can remember, my mother, my father and my grandparents have been involved in the church and the community, volunteering time and providing financial support," states Morriss. "I believe they instilled in me that desire to help improve the region."

J. Tolleison Morriss, VI is The Cameron Foundation's newest board member, having joined in February 2011 to fill a position left vacant by the retirement of Dr. Ghurpal S. Bhuller. He also is the youngest member of the board, offering a new viewpoint as well as an insider's understanding of the region and its challenges.

"We were so fortunate to have benefited from Dr. Bhuller's most valuable service to our board over the years since we first began in 2003," commented Board Chair Ann Taylor. She added, "This board rotation was a tremendous opportunity to bring in a fresh perspective, and we are thankful to Mr. Morriss for agreeing to serve. He is a great asset to this community."

"I was raised in this area and currently live in Chesterfield County," says Morriss. "My family has been here in the Tri-Cities since the 1850s, so this region has played a major role in our lives and our history." He lives in the Enon area with his wife and two children.

Morriss is the current president and general manager of J.T. Morriss & Son, Inc., a funeral home that has been a cornerstone of the community since the 1860s. Founded during the Civil War by Morriss's great-great-great grandfather, the business is one of Central Virginia's premier funeral homes, with chapels in Chester, Hopewell, Petersburg and Wakefield.

Morriss's involvement with the Foundation's board is just one of his many community service efforts locally. He also is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Chester and has served or currently serves on the boards of the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, John Tyler Community College Foundation, Chester YMCA, Southside Virginia Emergency Crew, The Petersburg Foundation, Blandford Historical Foundation, Historic Hopewell Foundation, Battersea Foundation as well as numerous associations within his industry.

A Q&A with Board Member J. Tolleison Morriss, VI

Q: What would you like to see The Cameron Foundation accomplish?

A: They've already accomplished so much – they are a resource for information and funding for much needed organizations in this region. Their impact has been tremendous. My hope is that we can help the Foundation situate itself to carry on in perpetuity. I have no reason to doubt why they wouldn't.

Q: Why did you want to become involved with the organization?

A: I think to me The Cameron Foundation is one group that has the largest impact on the most amount of people. It is a regional foundation that consists of people who truly care about the area.

Q: Why is it important for you to improve and preserve the quality of life in the Tri-Cities?

A: I think the area is definitely stressed and is currently being challenged. But having people or groups of people showing an interest and investing in the area is probably one of the best ways to improve it.

Q: What do you do in your spare time? What are your special interests and hobbies?

A: Most of my spare time is spent with my family out in the community, attending or coaching baseball, football and softball practices and games, or timing at swim meets.

Q: You went to college at Penn State. What made you decide to return to Petersburg after that?

A: I was glad to return, because it was very cold there! Seriously, I never really considered going anywhere else. I felt like even when I went there, I wanted to come back to this area and work in the family business.

Q: What's your favorite movie, and why?

A: My favorite film is Rudy. It is the story of someone who is undersized and not a very good athlete who has to work very hard, both on field and in the classroom. He made his lifelong dream come true. It's all about the idea of how hard work pays off.

Q: What is your favorite spot in the Tri-Cities area?

A: It's hard to name just one spot, but I guess I'd have to say downtown Petersburg. The restaurants, the events offered through the Art League and Friday for the Arts – these are part of what makes our region so special.

Three Outstanding Local Nonprofits Receive \$80,000 Through the Cameron Recognition Awards



The Cameron Foundation has chosen three local nonprofits to be recognized for their outstanding community service and organizational management. Awards were officially presented to Stony Creek Volunteer Rescue Squad, Virginia's Gateway Region and The James House Intervention/ Prevention Services at the Foundation's Annual Grant Awards Ceremony on October 27, 2011.

These selections were the result of two annual competitions: the Cleveland A. Wright Award for Outstanding Community Service, and the Excellence in Organizational Management Award. This is the fifth year the Foundation has distributed these awards.

For the 2011 Cleveland A. Wright Award for Outstanding Community Service, members of the community were encouraged to nominate an organization that they felt had demonstrated a commitment to caring and generosity of spirit, as well as openness and accessibility. This award was named in honor of The Cameron Foundation's first president (and current board member) for his exemplary and untiring commitment to the Foundation's mission. Stony Creek Volunteer Rescue Squad was named the recipient of this year's award and received an unrestricted gift of \$40,000.

During the award presentation, selection committee chair and Cameron board member Don Haraway discussed the service of the rescue squad, noting, "Led by a small board of directors and a corps of eight volunteers, the group serves this rural area with not only emergency services but also community outreach through events such as health fairs, walk-a-thons and school events... Within western Sussex County, Stony Creek Rescue Squad was even hailed as a 'landmark organization.'"

For the Excellence in Organizational Management Award, nonprofit organizational staff or board members applied on behalf of their organization. The application process was similar to an internal audit or self-assessment, and organizations were encouraged to use it as an opportunity to measure themselves against national best practices in organizational management.

Along with committee chair and Foundation director Pam Comstock, five additional community members reviewed and scored the applications and voted to honor Virginia's Gateway Region with the first-place unrestricted gift of \$30,000 for demonstrating excellence in overall organizational management. This recipient had previously secured honorable mentions in 2008, 2009 and 2010 under this award program. Mirroring Virginia's Gateway Region's central role in advancing economic development across this region, Comstock encouraged the management award recipient to "continue to play a central role in leading this way for the region's nonprofit organizations."

The Excellence in Organizational Management Award review committee also voted to recognize The James House with an honorable mention gift of \$10,000 for exemplifying excellence in one or more of the specific areas reviewed during the scoring process.

A Profile: 2011 Review Committees for the Cleveland A. Wright Award for Outstanding Community Service and the Excellence in Organizational Management Award

The review committees of the Cleveland A. Wright Award for Outstanding Community Service and the Excellence in Organizational Management Award are each chaired by a member of The Cameron Foundation's board. In addition, they are made up of volunteers who live or work within the community. These volunteers are identified by the Foundation staff and board members, and are invited to serve with approval by the Foundation's board.

Excellence in Organizational Management Award

In addition to committee chair and Foundation director Pamela Martin Comstock, this review committee is comprised of the following community members.

MR. VICTOR BRANCH

Mr. Branch is senior vice president of marketing at Bank of America-Virginia with responsibility for global corporate social responsibility. He has worked at the bank for the past 26 years. He currently oversees the bank's philanthropic activities by managing the Bank of America Foundation for the Virginia market. He has a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from the College of William and Mary and is a 1991 graduate of the Virginia Banker's Association School of Management at the University of Virginia.

DR. VIRGINIA R. CHERRY

Dr. Cherry is the library director for Richard Bland College. She completed her bachelor's degree in philosophy at the College of William and Mary, her master's degree at Emory University and her doctorate at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Cherry is a member of the American Library Association, the Association of College and Research Libraries, and the Virginia Library Association. Some of her publications include *Research in Public Administration* and *The Dictionary of Virginia Biography*.

DR. RAY L. DRINKWATER

Dr. Drinkwater is the dean of student services for John Tyler Community College, where he has served for 34 years. Dr. Drinkwater has served as interim dean of the Division of Arts and Sciences and the Division of Professional and Technical Studies. He completed his bachelor's degree in history at Virginia Commonwealth University, his master's degree in counseling at the University of Virginia, and his doctorate at Virginia Commonwealth University.

MS. CAROL D. WOODWARD

Ms. Woodward has spent 22 years as a civil law trial attorney in the greater Richmond area. Her practice focuses primarily on family law, administrative law procedures, and advising nonprofits. She obtained a bachelor of science in education from Missouri State University, a master of science degree in education from the University of Southern California, and a juris doctorate from the University of Oklahoma, College of Law. In addition to her private law practice, Ms. Woodward serves as a volunteer consumer arbitrator for the Better Business Bureau of Central Virginia. Ms. Woodward served eight years as a member of the Prince George County Planning Commission, including one year as Chair. She currently serves on the Prince George County Board of Zoning Appeals and is an active member of the Rotary Club of Prince George County, having served as Secretary and President.

MS. HEATHER TURBYNE-POLLARD

Ms. Turbyne-Pollard has been employed at United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg for eight years, serving in various roles in the organization's Community Building department. In her current role as assistant vice president of community investment, she is responsible for managing a six million dollar investment portfolio consisting of programs that effectively serve older adults and their caregivers, children, youth and their families, and individuals in crisis in our community. She works extensively with community volunteers, local government officials, foundations, local coalitions and other nonprofits that share United Way's goal in creating solutions that positively address the education, income and health of Greater Richmond and Petersburg residents. Ms. Pollard graduated cum laude from Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology. She is a member of the National Honor Society in Psychology and is currently working on obtaining a certificate in nonprofit management from Virginia Commonwealth University's Office of Community Programs, Especially for Nonprofit Organizations.

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Awards (cont.)

Cleveland A. Wright Award for Outstanding Community Service

In addition to committee chair and Foundation director Donald L. Haraway, this review committee is comprised of the following community members.

DR. CHERYL M. ADEYEMI

Dr. Adeyemi is associate professor of mathematics at Virginia State University (VSU). She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Ohio State University and her Ph.D. from Illinois State University. She has actively played a role in successfully launching the Algebra Project's dual enrollment program at VSU in partnership with Petersburg City Public Schools. From 2008-2009, she was President of the Greater Richmond Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and she is President-elect for the Benjamin Banneker Association, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping African-American children reach parity of opportunities to study and achieve in mathematics.

MR. ROBERT S. CARLON

Mr. Carlon is a retired vice president for SunTrust Bank, having served for 35 years in a variety of positions relating to the Tri-Cities area. He has a bachelor's degree in finance from Virginia Tech. The early part of his banking career involved branch management positions, with the latter half devoted to commercial banking, focusing on the financial needs of hospitals, universities and municipalities. Throughout his banking career, Mr. Carlon served in leadership positions with several area economic development groups. He now operates a farm in Prince George County. He serves as Vestryman and Junior Warden of Merchants Hope Episcopal Church and Vice President of Merchants Hope Church Foundation, Inc.

MS. CHEQUILA H. FIELDS

Ms. Fields is director of Sussex Department of Social Services. Ms. Fields has been with Sussex County Department of Social Services for over 25 years, the last 11 as director. She also serves on The Cameron Foundation's Health Advisory Council, the Virginia League of Social Services Executives Committee, the Comprehensive Services Committee, Sussex County Emergency Management and Sussex County Community That Cares boards, Greenville-Sussex Prisoner Reentry Council and the Crater Smart Beginnings Leadership Council.



DR. WILLIAM D. IRVIN

Dr. Irvin has more than 25 years of experience in community and rural development program design and delivery with government, corporate, and nonprofit partners. His most recent executive experience was a ten-year tenure with Kuehl Shepherd Kozlowski & Associates, Inc., where he held responsibility for strategic planning and implementation, teambuilding, and human resource development. He currently serves as President of William D. Irvin, Inc., an appraisal and organizational consulting firm.

MS. ANGELA M. ORRELL, R.N., B.S.N.

Ms. Orrell has lived in Dinwiddie County for nearly 30 years and is widely recognized as an artist and documentary photographer. Her exhibition about a Dinwiddie County farming community ("From the Seed to the Hand") traveled with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to museums across the state through 2010 and earned her commendation from Dinwiddie County. Ms. Orrell also is the Virginia Department of Health district nurse for the Crater Health District. Her volunteer affiliations in Petersburg are with health and human services, as well as cultural enrichment organizations.

PASTOR J. DAVID TOLBERT

A Petersburg resident for over 20 years, Pastor J. David Tolbert has served as a pastor of Emmanuel Apostolic Temple in the city since 2002, following many years as assistant pastor. He is a licensed minister with the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World; serves as chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee with the Virginia State Council Apostolic, Inc.; and, he is President of Nehemiah-The Petersburg Project, a local congregation-based community organizing group.

Update:

Healthcare Advisory Council

Since its inception in September 2010, The Cameron Foundation's Healthcare Advisory Council has played an active role in the grantmaking process by providing input on Letters of Intent (LOI) that the Foundation receives for funding in the healthcare program area. The council's contributions also have been invaluable in the due diligence of the grant review process. This past September marked one year of the council's participation in the Foundation's LOI process.

As a result of dialogue within its meetings, the council chose to expand its membership to include members from Dinwiddie, Sussex and Prince George counties as well as members of the faith and civic communities. The Foundation is strategically working to expand access to health resources within the rural communities that it serves, particularly in Dinwiddie and Sussex counties.

Focus groups recently have been held in Dinwiddie and Sussex counties to provide an in-depth look at the health needs of those communities. Karen Cameron, independent health care consultant, and Valerie Liggins, program officer with the Foundation, facilitated this project. These focus groups consisted of members from the business community, education community, Health and Human Services providers and the faith and civic communities. Participants were asked their viewpoint and given an opportunity to voice their concerns for the community.

A protocol was developed and followed for each group that met. A document will be produced with the collective findings of the discussions and will be placed on the Foundation's website upon completion. Participants in the focus groups will be given an opportunity to meet and discuss the report and focus on next steps. The Dinwiddie Focus Group facilitated follow up sessions took place November 3. The same procedure will take place with Sussex County focus group participants.

In addition, the Healthcare Advisory Council has also looked at the issue of behavioral health needs in the service area. This is an ongoing conversation that will continue to be explored, with individual council members taking an active role in addressing the needs of this population.

Current council membership includes:

SHAYLA ANDERSON, Community Health and Prevention Supervisor, Crater Health District

DR. J. ELISHA BURKE, Director of Health Ministry, Baptist General Convention of Virginia

KAREN CAMERON, Independent Health Care Consultant

JILL COLEMAN, Vice President for Programs, The Cameron Foundation

DR. MARTIN DOPERAK, Community Member

CHEQUILA FIELDS, Executive Director, Sussex County Department of Social Services

JOSEPH HUBBARD, Executive Director, District 19 Community Services Board

ANN HOLSINGER, Director of Assessment and Student Services, Dinwiddie County Public Schools

TERESA ISOM, RN Health Services Coordinator, Prince George County Public Schools

JOAN IVEY, Executive Director, Stony Creek Community Health Center

ANN KEY, Coordinator, Sussex County Resource and Technology Center

VALERIE LIGGINS, Program Officer, The Cameron Foundation

HANDY LINDSEY, JR., President, The Cameron Foundation

BRENDA MITCHELL, Chief Executive Officer, Crater Community Hospice

SHEENA MACKENZIE, Development Director, Central Virginia Health Services



GiveSouthsideVA.org Reports a Year of Major Success



In December 2009, the Board of The Cameron Foundation approved a three-year grant of \$30,000 to The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia. The goal of this project was to streamline the grant application process of multiple area foundations and corporate funders and to build the capacity of local nonprofits.

Thanks to this grant, The Community Foundation, in partnership with GuideStar and a collaborative of local funders (including The Cameron Foundation), was able to launch the GiveRichmond.org/GiveSouthsideVA.org website. This powerful online tool allows nonprofits to provide comprehensive, annually updated portraits about their organizations that cover eight content areas, including mission and impact, programs, management, governance and financial information.

In the interest of helping to grow participation in the Tri-Cities area, The Cameron Foundation actively works with local groups through training workshops, hands-on assistance and answering questions about the portrait creation and publication process. Through these online profiles, nonprofits can:

- Increase or introduce their online presence in a searchable local database targeted toward donors and the community at large.
- Use online options to add video to their profile and tap into social networks.
- Accept credit card donations at no cost.
- Report on program outcomes.
- Orient/train new board members, staff and volunteers.
- Assess their own organization, collectively determining their strengths and challenges.

GiveSouthsideVA.org also increases the exposure of nonprofits in The Cameron Foundation's service area to a larger funding network, which can help to diversify their funding sources and enhance public interest. The site now provides in-depth information on more than 350 nonprofits located in Richmond and Central Virginia, and approximately one half of these organizations have received donations through the site.

Since it was launched, the site has received close to 26,000 hits. More than 2,600 of these hits occurred during the recent Amazing Raise event.

GIVESOUTHSIDEVA.ORG

The Amazing Raise 2011: A Celebration of the Site's First Year

In celebration of the first anniversary of the GiveRichmond.org/GiveSouthsideVA.org website, The Community Foundation Serving Richmond & Central Virginia hosted The Amazing Raise 2011 on October 5-6 to benefit organizations featured on the site. This 36-hour online giving event was designed to expand and increase giving to Richmond and Central Virginia nonprofits. The event generated a total of \$491,245 from 6,453 donations. The Community Foundation also contributed \$140,225 to participating organizations through a variety of incentive prizes. Combined, the event produced \$631,470 in funding for 271 nonprofits in 36 hours.

Over 100 past and current Cameron Foundation grantees participated in the event, including 27 organizations that are indigenous to The Cameron Foundation's service area. Of those, 18 received donations totaling over \$16,000.

To learn more about the site and how to participate, visit GiveSouthsideVA.org, or contact Brandy Cramer at The Cameron Foundation (bcramer@camfound.org or 804-732-8900).

The Cameron Foundation's Meeting Rooms: **Adaptable Accommodations for Area Nonprofit and Professional Organizations**

The Cameron Foundation is fortunate to be located in a beautiful historic building, centrally situated at 228 South Sycamore Street in Petersburg's Poplar Lawn district. As part of its service to the community, the meeting rooms in this building are available to nonprofits at no cost.

The Foundation has two meeting rooms: the McCabe Room, which can host up to 120 people, and the Chisholm Room, which has a maximum capacity of 30 persons. Audiovisual equipment and wireless Internet service are available in both rooms. From the time of the Foundation's grand opening in January through October, the Foundation has hosted more than 1,500 persons for meetings, representing over 100 different groups.

For-profit organizations are also welcome to meet here, and can do so by making a donation of at least \$300 to one of the many nonprofits in the Foundation's service area. The region includes the cities of Petersburg, Colonial Heights, and Hopewell, as well as the counties of Dinwiddie, Prince George, Sussex, and the portion of Chesterfield County lying south of U.S. Route 10.

Reservations must be made by email (reservations@camfound.org) or by telephone (804-732-8900) at least two weeks in advance of the meeting date. To find out more, or to arrange for a walk-through of the space, contact Michelle Hornby at The Cameron Foundation (mhornby@camfound.org).



Streamlined Assistance through the Basic Human Needs Emergency Grant Program

The Cameron Foundation encourages all health and human services nonprofits that have been awarded Foundation grants to learn more about our Basic Human Needs Emergency Grant Program. This program has been developed to meet the needs of individuals in crisis situations, with awards of up to \$10,000 delivered through participating nonprofits.

The grant covers support for organizations providing food, shelter, clothing, health and safety services. Current and former grantees can receive an emergency grant once per calendar year. Typically, the Foundation makes a decision within four weeks of receiving an application, and if granted, funds are disbursed within eight weeks of the initial request. Reports covering details of the grant's use are due within 30 days of the completion of the grant period.

To learn more about the Emergency Grant, contact Brandy Cramer at bcramer@camfound.org, or 804-732-8900. Eligible organizations may apply online at camfound.org. (Go to "grants," "How to Apply," then click on "Basic Human Needs Emergency Program.")

Staff Additions and Promotions: **Welcome**

BRANDY L. CRAMER – Program Officer

A former intern with The Cameron Foundation, Brandy returned to the Foundation after working as a program associate for Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Families (GCYF), a membership association of grantmaking institutions. She has a master's in social work degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, with a concentration in social work administration, planning and public policy. Brandy manages a number of programs within the Foundation, including the Basic Human Needs Emergency Grant, the Rural Outreach Initiative and the GiveSouthsideVA.org program.

CARLA V. JONES – Administrative Associate

Carla performs a variety of office procedures to assist the Foundation in its efforts to support programs. Previously employed by the Supreme Court of Virginia, Carla also worked as a deputy clerk for the Petersburg Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court and Dinwiddie Combined Court and as a legal assistant to attorneys in Petersburg.

ATHAN L. LINDSAY – Director of Capacity Building

Athan has recently joined our staff as director of capacity building. With more than a decade of experience working in the philanthropic sector, Lindsay's role at the Foundation is to provide leadership in support of performance and outcome improvement for nonprofit organizations in the Foundation's service area. He also facilitates the Technical Assistance Grant Program and other capacity building efforts.

SEVERIN ODIC – Communications Intern

During the fall 2011 semester, Severin is working with the Foundation's coordinator of communications to implement communications projects and activities. He is in his senior year at Virginia Commonwealth University, completing a bachelor's degree in political science with a concentration in international relations.

KRYSTAL M. ONAITIS – Program Officer Intern

Krystal Onaitis is finishing her second year in the master's of public administration program at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is well versed in policy analysis and program evaluation. Krystal also has interned as a legislative assistant for Congressman Robert C. Scott, primarily working in case management, and has served an internship as a campaign coordinator for Mayor Dwight C. Jones of Richmond.



BRANDY L. CRAMER



CARLA V. JONES



ATHAN L. LINDSAY



SEVERIN ODIC



KRYSTAL M. ONAITIS

Farewell

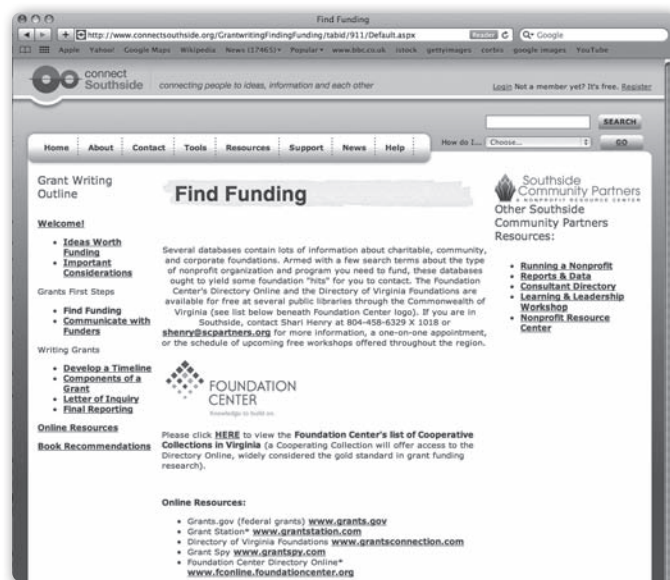
NAJMAH THOMAS – Director of Capacity Building

The Cameron Foundation bids a fond farewell to Najmah Thomas, who excelled during her tenure with the organization. Najmah originally joined Cameron as a program officer in 2007. She was promoted to senior program officer, then to coordinator of technical assistance, and finally, she advanced into the role of the Foundation's first director of capacity building. During her time with the Foundation, she managed grant programs, coordinated technical assistance and helped with the administration of the Foundation's Excellence in Organizational Management Award as well as the Rural Outreach Initiative. Najmah is now teaching at the university level.

Southside Community Partners Initiates Free Online Grant Writing Tutorial

The Nonprofit Resource Center and ConnectSouthside staff of Southside Community Partners (SCP) have developed a new online grant writing tutorial. This easy-to-use tool offers practical, step-by-step guidelines, tips and resources to help organizations secure funds in support of their mission.

Free access to the grant writing tutorial is available on the ConnectSouthside website at connectsouthside.org/resource. Users are taken through each aspect of the grant proposal writing process, including ideas worth funding, assessing staff capacity, using funding databases, approaching foundations, developing timelines and gaining familiarity with the key components of grants. The tutorial includes direct links to samples and helpful book titles, all of which are available at the SCP Nonprofit Resource Center.



To learn more, visit connectsouthside.org, call Shari Henry at 804-458-6329, extension 1018, or email Shari at shenry@scpartners.org.



Handy Lindsey, Jr. Takes Three-Month Sabbatical

At the April 2011 meeting of The Cameron Foundation's Board of Directors, approval was given for President and CEO Handy Lindsey to undertake a three-month sabbatical from November 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012. During his physical absence from the Foundation, responsibility for day-to-day management and oversight of the Foundation's operations are assigned to a co-leadership team comprised of Vice President for Programs Jill Coleman and Contract Chief Financial Officer Randy Howard.

Calendar of Events

Grant Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadlines:

September 1, January 2, May 1 of each calendar year

Grant Proposal Deadlines (Requested by the Foundation After an LOI Has Been Reviewed): October 15, February 15 and June 15

If approved, proposals submitted in October are awarded in February; proposals submitted in February are awarded in June; and proposals submitted in June are awarded in October.

Information Workshops

The Foundation hosts information workshops for organizations to learn about The Cameron Foundation, its mission and grant submission procedures. Onsite workshops are offered at the Foundation's headquarters at 228 S. Sycamore St. in Petersburg and are conducted by the Foundation's program officers, Brandy Cramer, Valerie Liggins and Risha Stebbins. The sessions begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. and run for approximately two hours. Organizations are encouraged to have a representative attend one of these workshops to find out more about the Foundation's priorities and the application process. Existing grantees or organizations currently under review for grant consideration do not need to attend information workshops.

To inquire about the onsite workshops, interested organizations should call the Foundation's offices. Because space is limited, participation will be on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve a space at an onsite workshop or to request a copy of the Foundation's guidelines and application materials, you may email or call Dianna Lester, administrative associate, at dlester@camfound.org or 804-732-8900. (Email is preferred.) Please provide the following information when you make your reservation: organization, your name and position in the organization, phone number, date of workshop you would like to attend and email (if available).

The onsite session dates that are currently scheduled include:

March 29, 2012	July 26, 2012
April 5, 2012	November 15, 2012
July 19, 2012	November 29, 2012

More onsite sessions will be scheduled as needed, so please sign up with Dianna Lester to receive notification of new information workshop dates as they are added.

Rural Outreach Information Sessions

The Foundation periodically schedules offsite information sessions to accommodate nonprofit organizations that may be located in the outlying areas of the Foundation's service region. For further information or to reserve a space at one of the Rural Outreach Information Sessions, please email Brandy Cramer at bcramer@camfound.org or call her at 804-732-8900. Please note, in the event that registration for a Rural Outreach Session does not reach a minimum of five individuals, that workshop will be postponed.



228 South Sycamore Street
Petersburg, Virginia 23803



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