Three Leading Nonprofit Programs Merge

Three of Southside’s leading programs that support nonprofit organizational capacity building have merged. Focus INC, ConnectSouthside and the Southside Virginia Nonprofit Resource Center (SVNRC) will now be rolled into one operational unit maintained as a program of the Appomattox Regional Library System (ARLS). The three programs were each designed and implemented over the last two years closely with The Cameron Foundation.

The merger is a natural progression of the lifecycle of each program, which already has worked in collaboration with the others during its various stages of development. It is designed to improve effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery to customers, while maintaining the benefits and strengths of the current organizational structures.

Focus INC (Focus on Increasing Nonprofit Capacity) is the professional learning and training component that offers affordable, convenient and relevant classroom training sessions on a variety of topics, such as board development, financial management, grant writing, working with consultants and using Microsoft Access. Classes are held at different locations throughout the Foundation’s service area, during a variety of days and hours.

“The Cameron Clarion,” The Cameron Foundation’s biannual newsletter, is dedicated to promoting and supporting area nonprofit efforts. Please join us in this issue as we explore the continued growth of several nonprofit organizations and initiatives that are dedicated to increasing the quality of life in our shared neighborhoods and communities. As always, we welcome any comments or questions that you may have and look forward to serving the Tri-Cities and Southside area.
The Cameron Foundation selected four local nonprofits this past fall to be awarded a total of $90,000 for their outstanding community service and organizational management. The awards were officially presented to The James House Intervention/Prevention Services, Southside Virginia Emergency Crew, Inc., Virginia’s Gateway Region and Pathways at The Cameron Foundation’s Annual Grant Awards Ceremony on October 23, 2008.

The awards are the result of two annual recognition programs for nonprofit organizations within the Foundation’s service area. This is the second year the Foundation has offered the special programs.

For the 2008 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. By the June 20 nomination deadline, 19 eligible applications had been received. The organizations were then contacted and invited to submit an application by July 9.

Six community members from the region served by The Cameron Foundation and one Foundation board member reviewed the applications and voted to honor The James House Intervention/Prevention Services with an unrestricted $40,000 gift. The James House had unsuccessfully applied for the same award the previous year, when it was awarded to Crater Community Hospice, Inc.

For the 2008 Excellence in Organizational Management Award, nonprofit organizational staff or board members were encouraged to apply 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. It was anticipated that this program would see a smaller pool of candidates due to the rigorous nature of the process, and the number of applications received by the July 9 deadline totaled five.

Six community members from the region served by The Cameron Foundation and one Foundation board member reviewed the applications and voted to honor the Southside Virginia Emergency Crew, Inc. with the first place unrestricted gift of $30,000 for demonstrating excellence in overall organizational management. The applicant had received an honorable mention in the 2007 program.

The review committee also voted to recognize Virginia’s Gateway Region and Pathways each with an honorable mention gift for exemplifying excellence in one or more of the specific areas reviewed during the scoring process. Pathways had received an honorable mention gift in the prior year’s competition. At the recommendation of the review committee, in August The Cameron Foundation board approved increasing each honorable mention gift from the previous year’s $5,000 amount to $10,000 beginning with the 2008 awards.

“Both of the review committees were pleased to see many organizations reapply for these recognition awards in 2008, resulting in two new awards, as well as a second-year honorable mention,” said Handy Lindsey, The Cameron Foundation’s president, adding, “I hope these successes offer encouragement to other applicants to reapply in 2009, and for additional nonprofits in our service area to participate.”
including weekends, and are often free of charge. Instructors are selected based on their professional background and expertise in nonprofit management. Courses are evaluated using participant surveys and registration data, and the feedback is compiled to inform the curriculum design for future semesters of course offerings.

ConnectSouthside is a free, online information-sharing network that includes an email communication group, interactive website and a weekly newsletter. Over 460 organizations in the Foundation’s service area have registered on the website since its launch in October 2007, and the site reached 10,000 unique visits in June 2008. This program was designed by the Connect Network, an Internet-based capacity-building tool that targets change at the local level. The Connect Network establishes local networks that give nonprofits, donors, government agencies, civic-minded individuals and businesses free, daily access to each other, local services and information. This innovative model program has been successfully implemented in Richmond, Rappahannock and Southside Virginia. The Connect Network has been approached to replicate sites nationwide, and as a result, will no longer directly supervise or maintain financial responsibility for the individual replication sites.

SVNRC, a center physically located inside of the ARLS in Hopewell, serves as an information clearinghouse and support center for nonprofit organizations. SVNRC is designated as a Cooperating Collection of the Foundation Center, a leading national authority on philanthropy. As one of a network of 340 national Cooperating Collections, the SVNRC is able to provide access to a wealth of professionally designed and evaluated tools and resources. Notably, the Foundation Directory Online, which provides information for over 92,000 U.S. foundations and corporate donors and 1.3 million recent grants, is available free of charge at the SVNRC. Purchased separately, this version of the Foundation Directory Online would cost a nonprofit organization $1,295 annually. Assuming that each of the 250 individuals who accessed the SVNRC during the past year made use of the directory, that translates into a total savings of $323,750 for nonprofit organizations in Southside Virginia.

The SVNRC is regularly guided by the SVNRC Advisory Council, a 12-member group that includes representatives from The Cameron Foundation, John Randolph Foundation, and the Appomattox Regional Library Board. The Advisory Council will serve in the same capacity for the newly merged group, thereby ensuring continued support and oversight of the services and products that are so critical to increasing the overall capacity of nonprofit organizations in The Cameron Foundation’s service area. For more information about SVNRC, ConnectSouthside or Focus INC classes, visit www.ConnectSouthside.org.

“The Advisory Council will serve in the same capacity for the newly merged group, thereby ensuring continued support and oversight of the services and products that are so critical to increasing the overall capacity of nonprofit organizations in The Cameron Foundation’s service area.”
In the late 60’s, when Virginia and the rest of the country were coming out of the era of segregation, land was donated to Sussex County to build a pool and recreation center for people of all colors and to make those facilities affordable to those on even the lowest of incomes. The pool soon became a reality and has continued to operate since then from Memorial Day through Labor Day, with today what is only a 75-cent admission fee. The rest of the facility was never built, however, and to this day, Sussex County still does not have any kind of recreation center.

The Sussex County Youth and Adult Recreation Association, which owns and operates the pool, would like to change that. The organization’s board of directors has developed a long-range plan to turn the aging pool site into a center that provides health and recreational activities for adults and children of Sussex County and surrounding areas.

“Realization of this dream would fill a critical void in the county’s offerings and help improve the health and quality of life for Sussex residents,” said William L. Ricks, the organization’s newly appointed board president.

In order to build a recreation center of this magnitude, the board quickly realized they would need to apply for grants to cover much of the cost. But, from where? The board was not very familiar with what opportunities may be available to them.

While investigating how to proceed, they received an invitation from The Cameron Foundation to attend one of the Foundation’s Rural Outreach Initiative meetings at the Sussex County’s Cooperative Extension office. The meeting was actually one of an on-going series of meetings designed to provide information about the Foundation and what it can offer to the nonprofit organizations located in some of the more outlying localities that the Foundation serves.

It was here that board representatives learned that they may, indeed, qualify for a Cameron Foundation grant to help toward their mission. Shortly afterward, with guidance from Foundation staff, the organization applied for, and received, a $60,000 grant in October 2008 for capital improvements and general operating support.

“The grant will help us put up new fencing around the pool to increase safety and to upgrade from a water hose to a real bath house where guests can change and rinse off,” said Ricks. “Eventually we want to build some picnic pavilions and develop some athletic fields, among other amenities, and with the initial support The Cameron Foundation has provided us, we feel that we are in a much better position to seek funding from outside sources for these projects.”

With support from The Cameron Foundation, the Sussex County Youth and Adult Recreation Association will also soon be running an awareness and membership campaign, as well as a health fair in the fall, among other outreach programs.
According to Najmah Thomas, senior program officer, who conducted the Rural Outreach Initiative meeting where a relationship between the organization and the Foundation was first ignited, “The meeting resulted in them calling us for more information pertaining specifically to their situation, and the rest is really history.”

She added, “I think that eventually they would have stumbled across the Foundation and learned on their own how we could help them, but inviting them to an informational meeting right in their own backyard I feel really helped speed things along for them.”

“The grant will help us put up new fencing around the pool to increase safety and to upgrade from a water hose to a real bath house where guests can change and rinse off…”

Welcome

Pam Martin Comstock, Board Member

Ms. Comstock is a lifelong citizen of the Tri-Cities area, growing up in Dinwiddie County and living in Colonial Heights for the last 29 years. As treasurer of Gilbert C. Martin Company, she is a second-generation home builder. A graduate of Mary Baldwin College with a degree in fine arts, Ms. Comstock is a current board member of the Swift Creek Mill Theater. She has held numerous positions in various trade and community organizations, including vice president, Colonial Heights Building Trades Foundation; past president, director and hall of fame member, Home Builders Association of Southside Virginia; Colonial Heights Boulevard Revitalization Steering Committee member; John Tyler Community College Foundation board member; and elder, Chester Presbyterian Church.

Farewell

Dr. Jerry W. Isbell, Board Member

Dr. Isbell is a founding board member of The Cameron Foundation. His guidance, dedication and hard work have been instrumental in the Foundation’s early and rapid successes. As he and his wife move to Charleston, SC to be closer to their family, we are very much indebted to the service he has provided to the Foundation and the community at large, and we wish him and the rest of his family much success in their new home.
The Cameron Foundation was the lead sponsor, along with the John Randolph Foundation, of the Virginia Network of Nonprofit Organizations’ (VANNO) daylong Building Bridges Conference on September 9, 2008. The goal of this unique conference, held at the Holiday Inn in Colonial Heights, was to provide a forum that would empower nonprofits in the Tri-Cities, encourage cross-sector collaboration, and reveal to the other sectors what nonprofits can do for them but not without them. It was the hope of event sponsors and coordinators that the bridges built at this event would be structurally sound so as to carry the weight of future solutions and achieve economic efficiency.

Nearly 200 individuals from more than 70 specific nonprofit organizations were represented at the conference, including people from each of the counties and cities that The Cameron Foundation serves. Also present were leaders from 15 local government agencies, three chambers of commerce, 19 businesses and industries and three institutions of higher learning.

Participants kicked off the morning with breakfast and a forum with candidates for U.S. Senate from Virginia sharing their views on nonprofits and regional issues. Though all Virginia candidates for U.S. Senate were sent invitations, participating in the forum were: Mark Warner, Gail Parker and William Redpath. Each emphasized the fact that nonprofits are problem solvers, employers and vehicles for community service as well as civic engagement. They are not mere “charities,” but partners with government and the corporate sector, improving the quality of community life and making the Tri-Cities region an attractive place to do business.

Afterwards, a moderated panel addressed current regional issues, and before lunch attendees broke out into small groups to address the question, “What should or could our community be doing to address the major issues as presented by the panel?” Although time for this portion of the program was brief, there was a rich exchange of ideas and creative thinking, including a long list of specific suggestions.

The luncheon keynote address was presented by Robert Egger, Founder, DC Central Kitchen, Inc., Co-Convener of the Nonprofit Congress and founder of the V3 Campaign. Egger pointed out and explained how to prepare for the fact that with tough economic times ahead, nonprofits can expect less government support yet an increased demand in service delivery.
Additionally, he reminded the group, “In this time of two million nonprofits in our nation, it is important not to depend on the ‘survival of the cleverest.’ The award-winning nonprofits aren’t the only ones who need to survive. We also must support those that are best serving their communities.”

After a question and answer session, breakout sessions centered around “Defining Services and Gaps” followed. The day concluded with a networking break, wrap-up and cocktail reception.

The conference was well received by attendees, as evidenced by the fact that 97% of those who filled out post-conference evaluations ranked the overall experience as either “Very Good” or “Excellent.”

According to Becky McDonough, executive director, Hopewell-Prince George Chamber of Commerce and one of the attendees, “I’ve been to a lot of conferences, and I have to say the energy and results-oriented approach of Vanno was really impressive. . .I got a lot out of it!”

The conference was promoted across the state through a variety of media outlets. Three local papers covered the event: The Progress-Index, The Hopewell News and The Colonial Heights Patriot. In addition, the spirit and tone of the Candidates Forum was captured in a You-Tube video produced by media sponsor Wéyo, which can be viewed via Vanno’s website at www.vanno.org.

The success of the conference has led Vanno to believe that the event could serve as a model for other regions of Virginia, as communities attempt to map their assets, explore new possibilities for collaboration and think strategically about the critical issues they face in common.

For the past several years, The Cameron Foundation has maintained its office at 24 West Old Street in the Old Towne section of Petersburg. This has been an excellent location, but the office is not large enough to accommodate the needs that have resulted from the expansion of services and programs offered by the Foundation. In particular, there is an urgent need for a conference center, with on-site parking, that can be utilized for meetings, seminars and training sessions.

In February, 2008, the board of trustees of the Foundation created a special committee, with Cleveland A. Wright as chairman, to explore alternatives for relocation of the Foundation office. This committee considered a number of different locations and ultimately recommended to the board that the Foundation purchase the historic Weddell-McCabe-Chisolm house, located at 228 South Sycamore Street in the Poplar Lawn section of Petersburg. This recommendation was adopted by the board, and the building and large lot on which it is located were purchased by the Foundation in December 2008.

The board has hired the Petersburg-based firm Enteros Design to provide architectural services relating to this project, and the board is excited about the plans that already have been prepared. According to Gilery W. Entzminger, who is the president of Enteros Design, the new construction will be compatible with the existing building, while clearly expressing a contemporary vision. The proportions and scale of the Greek Revival architecture of the original building will be represented in the addition by new masonry piers, a standing seam metal roof, a pediment and vertical openings. Large areas of glass will create transparency and a sense of accessibility, while filling the space with natural light. Landscaped terraces will define entry to the addition and provide usable outdoor space.

“The Foundation’s decision to renovate and expand a building for its new headquarters is consistent with its nonprofit capacity-building efforts,” said Wright. “The meeting space in the conference center will allow us to provide more effective workshops and training sessions for larger numbers of nonprofit staff, boards and volunteers, and the additional office space will enable us to hire two additional members of the Foundation staff whose positions have been approved but have not been filled because of the lack of space.”

“As an organization dedicated to preserving and restoring Petersburg’s historic realty, the Historic Petersburg Foundation was pleased to learn of The Cameron Foundation’s plans for the building,” says Patrick Varga, who is chairman of the real estate committee of the Historic Petersburg Foundation. “The Weddell-McCabe-Chisolm house is an important piece of real estate in one of our targeted areas of the City. Its restoration will encourage others to invest in restoring a property of their own and will result in a dramatic improvement to the neighborhood.”

Revolutionary architecture that has endured much hardship over the past few years,” says Handy L. Lindsey, Jr., who is the president of the Foundation. “I commend the members of the board on their decision to convert some of the Foundation’s financial assets into returning this property to usable space for the community, for improving the landscape of the historic neighborhood in which it is located, and for restoring an architectural gem that otherwise probably would have continued to sit in disrepair or worse.”

The Foundation’s soon-to-be new office was built as a private home between 1840 and 1845 by James Weddell, a native of Scotland. After his death in 1865, it was sold to Captain William Gordon McCabe, who ran the University School in Petersburg from 1865 to 1895. It was owned by the Petersburg Bicycle Club from 1895 to 1899, and, during the twentieth century and early part of this century, it had a number of owners, including Dr. Julian J. Chisolm, a distinguished surgeon.

“The Weddell-McCabe-Chisolm house is an architectural treasure that has endured much hardship over the past few years,” says Handy L. Lindsey, Jr., who is the president of the Foundation. “I commend the members of the board on their decision to convert some of the Foundation’s financial assets into returning this property to usable space for the community, for improving the landscape of the historic neighborhood in which it is located, and for restoring an architectural gem that otherwise probably would have continued to sit in disrepair or worse.”
Board Training

The Southside Virginia Nonprofit Resource Center, in partnership with The Cameron Foundation and John Randolph Foundation, is offering three board training sessions with nonprofit consultant Chuck Loring this spring. The goal of these free sessions is to provide expertise and resources for local nonprofit organizations in order to assist them in advancing their mission and reaching deeper levels of board effectiveness.

The three sessions will be held April 16-17 at the Tabernacle Community Life Center on 444 Halifax Street in Petersburg. Registration is free on a first-come, first-served basis.

Nonprofit organizations must register their attendees together for one, two or all three sessions. A minimum of two board members and one executive staff member and/or development director must attend. If no staff members register, at least three board members from an organization must attend instead.

Chuck Loring is a senior partner of the Ft. Lauderdale and Indianapolis based firm of Loring Sternberg & Associates, which provides fundraising and governance consulting services to nonprofit boards across the country. He also is a consultant for BoardSource, the nation’s most widely respected resource for information, training and leadership development in the governance of nonprofit organizations.

To register for the sessions, contact nthomas@camfound.org.

Board Training Schedule

Effective Nonprofit Governance
Thursday, 9 a.m. – noon
(including lunch)

Board Recruitment Structure & Organization
Thursday, 1 – 4 p.m.

The Board’s Role in Nonprofit Fundraising
Friday, 9 a.m. – noon
(including lunch)

Staff Changes

Welcome

Rebecca H. Eisenman, 2008/2009 Intern

Rebecca Eisenman is completing her final year of the Masters of Social Work program at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her concentration is in administration, planning and policy practice, with an additional certificate in nonprofit management. Her undergraduate degrees include psychology and history. Rebecca is currently on the MSWSA's executive council as workshop chair and has experience in community organizing, case management within a community service board and working in a nursing home with seniors.

Suzie S. Weng, 2008/2009 Intern

Suzie Weng is currently a Virginia Commonwealth University Masters of Social Work (MSW) student with a concentration in administration, planning and policy practice, with an additional certificate in nonprofit management. Her undergraduate degrees include psychology and history. Rebecca is currently on the MSWSA's executive council as workshop chair and has experience in community organizing, case management within a community service board and working in a nursing home with seniors.

Suzie Weng is currently a Virginia Commonwealth University Masters of Social Work (MSW) student with a concentration in administration, planning and policy practice. She is also pursuing a certificate in nonprofit management. Suzie received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Bowdoin College with a major in history and Asian studies. She volunteers as the regional chair for the Bowdoin Alumni Schools and Interviewing Committee.
“Nonprofit managers, like any good cook, are accustomed to making the soup go just a little bit further. But the present economic conditions, and early signs of those to come, will challenge the very fiber of every nonprofit organization. Declining revenues, and in some cases disappearing revenues, are colliding with an expected exponential increase in the demand for services to form a perfect storm for nearly every nonprofit organization. So, how are nonprofit leaders to react?”

Get the answer to this question and many others during a workshop presented by Randy P. Howard, president of 501 Advisors, Inc. With over 30 years of business and nonprofit financial experience, Mr. Howard draws on his broad experience to offer realistic advice and multiple strategies for leading and managing your nonprofit organization during challenging economic times. He will share his know-how based on real experience, most specifically, his current position as CFO of a nonprofit human service agency facing a 10% revenue shortfall.

The material that will be covered relates to all aspects of an organization’s operations, from long-term mission and day-to-day activities to guiding board members, executives and staff toward an action plan ready for implementation. Organizations are encouraged to attend as a team, including finance, development and program staff, management and the governing board.

This workshop is being offered by The Cameron Foundation free of charge to all nonprofit managers. Both the January and February workshops have filled to capacity with enthusiastic responses from many participants about the value of the session. “Every non-profit executive needs to hear this info. No one is exempt from getting hit by the storm – and being proactive is a must,” said one participant. Another attendee emphasized, “Great material. Good concepts and good usable takeaways.”
Welcome

Dianna L. Lester, Administrative Associate (part-time)

Dianna Lester comes to the Foundation from Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc., where she worked with the Down Payment Assistance Program. Prior to her foray into the world of nonprofits, Dianna was a substitute teacher in the Dinwiddie County Public Schools system.

Promoted

Najmah Thomas, Senior Program Officer/Coordinator of Technical Services

As of October 1, 2008, Najmah Thomas has been promoted from program officer to senior program officer/coordinator of technical services. In her new role, her primary responsibilities include grant program management, technical assistance coordination, as well as administration of the Foundation’s Excellence in Organizational Management Award and its Rural Outreach Initiative.

Farewell

Brandy L. Cramer, 2007/2008 Intern

Brandy Cramer graduated in the spring of 2008 from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Masters of Social Work in administration, planning and policy practice as well as a certificate in nonprofit management. She continued to work with several Cameron Foundation programs through September. Brandy now works at Grantmakers for Children, Youth & Families as a program associate.

The next Perfect Storm workshop will be offered on March 19 from 9 – 11:30 a.m. at The Cameron Foundation’s headquarters, 24 West Old Street in Petersburg. Space is limited, and reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Najmah Thomas at nthomas@camfound.org or 804-732-8900 to reserve your seat today.

Get The Answers…

The “one big idea” about the reality of today’s economic circumstances that will impact the viability of every nonprofit organization

The principles that successful nonprofit leaders use to frame their response to troubling times

The practical action steps that support a sustainable financial plan for their organization to meet both short-term needs and long-term objectives
Exa...ing Area Health Needs

At the request of The Cameron Foundation, area health safety net representatives met in December 2007 to provide guidance on the gaps in health services and the priority health needs of the Foundation’s service area. The meeting was facilitated by the Central Virginia Health Planning Agency (CVHPA). Shortly thereafter, the CVHPA was awarded a grant by the Foundation to update the region’s first health and human services needs assessment, completed in 2005, and to facilitate the development of health-related priorities, utilizing the safety net providers as an advisory group.

According to Valerie Liggins, Cameron Foundation program officer, a needs assessment may serve a variety of purposes. “It objectively portrays a community’s current health status and priorities and it can be used as a baseline to track progress or improvements,” she explained. Liggins added that an assessment may help to provide support for grant proposals and other resource development. Most importantly, it can assist in community-based planning and in improving health services.

The 2008 needs assessment process involved reviewing and analyzing quantitative data as well as conducting 24 key informant interviews, completed in April and May 2008, to gain a better understanding of the health-related needs in the service area. In addition to demographic data, a wealth of socio-economic, education-related, health-related and other indicators have been collected and analyzed by city/county and at census tract or ZIP Code level. Each section of data includes a summary that highlights that section’s information. Findings are summarized in the report, including information by locality. Recommendations for priority needs and possible next steps are also included at the end of the report.

Among other important information found in the needs assessment report, the following five priority areas for health status improvement were revealed:

**Teenage Pregnancy/Pregnancy Prevention/Prenatal Care**

The recommendations of the needs assessment include the development of a teen resource center, training and support to teen parents reentering the school system, provision of evidence-based pregnancy prevention programs to young people in the schools and community, expansion of school-based services to older teens and expansion of programs for young mothers and children.

**Access to Health and Dental Services**

One of the findings centers on the importance of having a healthcare resource directory that would inform the public about the availability and location of such resources in the Tri-Cities area. Another key recommendation is to develop and enhance case management at hospital discharge to include follow-up calls to patients, their families and community providers.
**Prevention Services/Health Education**

The recommendations include support of community-based wellness initiatives built on evidence-based practice and the development or enhancement of community-based, comprehensive and sustainable prevention programs, which provide services in the areas of: nutrition education, health screenings and prevention education, dental health and education, smoking cessation and substance abuse prevention as well as exercise programs and clubs.

**Behavioral Health Services**

A Behavioral Health Services Steering Committee, consisting of individuals from the key agencies in the region, has formed and begun meeting. Candid discussions are taking place about what is needed in the region regarding mental health services. The anticipated result from this committee will be available within the next year.

**Transportation**

Transportation is a theme cited continuously in this region. The recommendation of the Health Needs Assessment points to the need to convene a transportation work group to assess what is currently available in the region, to examine unmet needs and to plan appropriate initiatives to improve the area’s transportation system.

*...a needs assessment may serve a variety of purposes. “It objectively portrays a community’s current health status and priorities and can be used as a baseline to track progress or improvements...”*

The complete 211-page report can be downloaded from the Foundation’s website, www.camfound.org, in the “Publications” section, which can be found from the homepage under “Need to Know.” A limited number of print copies also may be requested from the Foundation by contacting Valerie Liggins at vliggins@camfound.org.
Calendar of Events
March-April 2009

Focus INC

Tuesday, March 3, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. ➤ Embracing Operational Effectiveness; LOCATION: Petersburg Library; PRESENTER: Deborah Coleman

Thursday, March 12, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. ➤ Generational Exploration: The Benefits to Your Organization; LOCATION: Hopewell Library; PRESENTER: Kristy Hall

Wednesday, March 18, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. ➤ Evaluation: Plans, Tools & Uses; LOCATION: Wakefield Foundation; PRESENTER: Trina Willard

Tuesday, March 24, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. ➤ LOI and Grant Writing; LOCATION: Hopewell Library; PRESENTER: Heath Lee

Friday, April 3, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. ➤ Capital Campaigns: Sweet Ingredients for Success; LOCATION: Swift Creek Mill Theatre; PRESENTER: Lisa Freeman

Thursday, April 9, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. ➤ Strategic Planning in Challenging Times; LOCATION: The Cameron Foundation; PRESENTER: Gail Merridew

Monday, April 20, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. ➤ Tapping into the “Fun” in Fundraising; LOCATION: Wakefield Foundation; PRESENTER: Denise Dahl

Tuesday, April 28, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. ➤ IRS Form 990’s: Form Changes, Preparation & Evaluation; LOCATION: Hopewell Public Library; PRESENTER: Gail Merridew, Randy Howard & Melody Stone

Session and registration information is available online at www.connectsouthside.org.

New Web Address

The Cameron Foundation has a new web address! Our new domain name is www.camfound.org. Please update your browser bookmarks with this new address and continue visiting our website for the same great information, updates, news and more.

Visit www.camfound.org
October 2008 marked The Cameron Foundation’s four-year anniversary of grant making to the community, with total gifts exceeding $25 million to date. The milestone was celebrated at the Foundation’s annual grant award ceremony, held again in 2008 at Union Station in Petersburg on October 23. Representatives from all grantee organizations were invited to attend, including the newest grantees for the October cycle, whose awards were officially announced at the event. The board approved $3,085,331 in new grants for 30 nonprofits throughout the Foundation’s service area in its October board meeting. The Foundation’s grant making total for 2008 was $8,762,423.

“The number of awards made by the Foundation in October 2008 is exceeded only by the Foundation’s very first grant cycle, when awards were made to 39 organizations,” Board Chair Ann C. Taylor pointed out. “The standing-room-only celebration is a testament to the good work the Foundation is doing and to the hard work my fellow board members and the Foundation staff are performing on behalf of the community,” she added.

The Cameron Foundation is honored to announce that it has received the Foundation Philanthropist of the Year award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Central Virginia Chapter. The Foundation is truly honored to receive this recognition because it provides affirmation that our grantees appreciate the approach we take to grant making.

In a letter to the award nominating committee, one of our grantees noted: “More than merely offering financial support, The Cameron Foundation is a dedicated partner, investing expertise, helping to open doors, and bringing people and organizations together to better serve the community.” We are genuinely encouraged by such sentiments expressed on our behalf, and we are humbled to receive this acknowledgment from our peers after only four years of grant making.

The Cameron Foundation’s new consultant directory is available online at www.camfound.org under “Nonprofit Resources.” Hard copies will be available through the Foundation’s office for those unable to access the directory online.

To add or change information to the directory, organizational development consultants are asked to contact Najmah Thomas at nthomas@camfound.org. Updates to existing consultants’ contact information will be made as needed. Additions of new consultants to the directory will only be made twice per year.

Foundations Celebrates Fourth Anniversary of Giving

The Cameron Foundation’s new consultant directory is available online at www.camfound.org under “Nonprofit Resources.” Hard copies will be available through the Foundation’s office for those unable to access the directory online.

To add or change information to the directory, organizational development consultants are asked to contact Najmah Thomas at nthomas@camfound.org. Updates to existing consultants’ contact information will be made as needed. Additions of new consultants to the directory will only be made twice per year.
Calendar of Events

Grant Letter of Intent (LoI) Deadlines:
- September 1, January 2 and 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

Existing grantees or organizations currently under review for grant consideration do not need to attend information workshops. Workshops are held for organizations unfamiliar with The Cameron Foundation, its mission and grant submission procedures. Unless otherwise noted, all workshops are offered at the Foundation’s headquarters at 24 West Old Street in Old Towne Petersburg and will be conducted by the Foundation’s program officers, Valerie Liggins, Risha Stebbins and Najmah Thomas. Workshops begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. and run for approximately two hours. Organizations are encouraged to have a representative attend one of these sessions to find out more about the Foundation’s priorities and the application process.

To inquire about the 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 a workshop or to request a copy of the Foundation’s guidelines and application materials, you may email or call Dianna Lester, our 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).

Thursday, March 26, 2009, Wednesday, April 1, 2009 or Thursday, April 2, 2009

Rural Outreach Information Sessions

Sussex
- Tuesday, March 24, 2009
- 10am – 12noon
- Wakefield Foundation, 100 Wilson Avenue, Wakefield, VA 23888

Prince George
- Tuesday, March 31, 2009
- 10am – 12noon
- Human Services Building Conference Room (2nd Floor)
- 6450 Administration Drive, Prince George, VA 23875

Dinwiddie
- Tuesday, April 7, 2009
- Location and time to be announced.

For further information or to reserve a space at one of these workshops, please email Najmah Thomas at nthomas@camfound.org or call her at 804-732-8900. Please note, in the event that registration does not reach a minimum of 5 individuals for a session, that workshop will be postponed.