

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Black Mountain-Swannanoa Valley Endowment Fund Announces \$40,000 in Grants

(December 2015) – The Black Mountain-Swannanoa Valley Endowment Fund and The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina (CFWNC) partnered to award \$40,000 in People in Need grants to local nonprofit organizations providing critical services for economically disadvantaged people. The grants include:

\$20,000 to the **Black Mountain Counseling Center** to support a full-time licensed mental health therapist to meet the demand for services for adults, couples and families currently on a wait-list.

\$20,000 to the **Verner Center for Early Learning** to provide affordable, high-quality early care and education and a wide range of supportive family services to low-income families with children from 6 weeks to 5 years old.

These grants were awarded as part of The Community Foundation’s People in Need focus area grant cycle and were funded in part by the Black Mountain-Swannanoa Valley Endowment Fund, the Janirve Legacy Fund and CFWNC fundholders.

“Supporting nonprofits that help individuals and families in times of need is the most important part of our work,” said Advisory Board Chair Roger Hibbard. “Through our partnership with CFWNC and the support of generous donors who care about the Swannanoa Valley, we are able to support access to health care, hunger relief, educational programs, child services and more.”

The Black Mountain-Swannanoa Valley Endowment Fund is an affiliate of CFWNC established in 1999 by a group of local residents. The Fund grows through tax-deductible contributions. To make a gift, donate online at www.cfwnc.org or by mail to the Black Mountain-Swannanoa Valley Endowment Fund, c/o CFWNC, 4 Vanderbilt Park Drive, Suite 300, Asheville, NC 28803. Contributions of any size are welcome and will enable the Fund to support more programs with local dollars.

The Black Mountain-Swannanoa Valley Endowment Fund also supports projects to strengthen charitable organizations serving the Swannanoa Valley by making grants through an independent grant cycle relating to health and wellness, education, cultural and natural resources and people in need. The Fund provides grants of \$2,500 to \$10,000 to nonprofit organizations and public agencies for charitable purposes. Six grants totaling \$46,610 were awarded in April to nonprofits by the Black Mountain-Swannanoa Valley Endowment Fund and

the Buckner Family Endowment Fund. The next opportunity to apply for funding from the Fund is March 1, 2016.

The local, volunteer Advisory Board works to raise awareness of the Black Mountain-Swannanoa Valley Endowment Fund and to build assets for the future. The board members are: Sandra Abromitis, Mike Begley (Treasurer), Gladys Brooks, John Buckner, Julia A. Capps, John Corkran, Chip Craig (Vice Chair), Lynn Deese, Barbara Griffin (Secretary), Carol Groben, Roger Hibbard (Chair), Gretchen Naff, Scott Roy, Joseph Standaert and Lori Turley.

The Community Foundation is a nonprofit serving eighteen counties in Western North Carolina. The Foundation is a permanent regional resource that facilitates more than \$15 million in charitable giving annually. CFWNC inspires philanthropy and mobilizes resources to enrich lives and communities in Western North Carolina. CFWNC supports the growth of its affiliate funds to extend the benefits of philanthropy across the region. To learn more about The Community Foundation and the Black Mountain-Swannanoa Valley Endowment Fund, call 828-254-4960 or visit www.cfwnc.org or www.BlackMountain-SwannanoaValleyEndowmentFund.org.

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