

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Black Mountain-Swannanoa Valley Endowment Fund Announces \$74,000 in Grants

(May 2016) – Eleven grants totaling \$74,000 were recently awarded to nonprofits by the Black Mountain-Swannanoa Valley Endowment Fund, the Buckner Family Endowment Fund, the Helen S. and Jerry M. Newbold, Jr. Endowment Fund and the Forbes Fund for Black Mountain-Swannanoa Valley. With these grants, the Fund has made 80 grants totaling \$695,895 since 1999. The grants include:

\$3,000 to the **Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth & Families** for an Educational Incentive Retreat to provide rewards that encourage foster care youth to focus on education.

\$5,000 to **Bounty & Soul** for the Rooted in Health-Spanish Resources program to expand health and wellness education to food-insecure Latino and Hispanic residents in the Swannanoa Valley.

\$10,000 to **Charles D. Owen Middle School** to purchase instruments, equipment and music for the newly established middle school strings orchestra program.

\$2,500 to **Junior Achievement Central Carolina-WNC** to provide Swannanoa youth, grades K-12, an opportunity to engage with community leaders and experience “real world” scenarios involving financial literacy, workforce readiness and entrepreneurship.

\$5,000 to the **Marjorie McCune Memorial Center** to provide medical supplies for low-income patients, the uninsured and veterans.

\$7,250 to the **North Carolina Outward Bound School** to support the Wilderness Unity Course, a comprehensive experiential education program at Owen High School designed to enhance students’ non-cognitive skills, increase cultural competence and transform school culture.

\$4,000 to the **Rotary Club of Black Mountain Foundation** for a Back Pack program that provides healthy food over the weekend and holidays to children who are eligible for the free and reduced lunch program.

\$10,000 to the **Swannanoa Valley Child Care Council/Children and Friends Enrichment Center** to build an additional classroom to accommodate the waiting list of children who need early learning opportunities to prepare for kindergarten.

\$10,000 to the **Swannanoa Valley Museum** to renovate the interior of the historic Black Mountain Fire House where it is housed.

\$8,250 to the **Town of Black Mountain - Recreation & Parks Department** to install a ceiling and finish floors and walls in the Carver Community Kitchen.

\$9,000 to the **Verner Center for Early Learning** to support a technology upgrade to help Verner continue to provide high-quality early education to low-income families.

In the report for the first Wilderness Unity Course at Owen High School grant, Carrie Myers of North Carolina Outward Bound School wrote, “An unexpected opportunity arose [while implementing the grant] when there was a large cultural conflict that occurred at the beginning of the school year and a large segment of the Latino student body felt marginalized. Principal Turner turned to the students who went on the Outward Bound course to help offer a solution to this issue. With the support of the school faculty, the Outward Bound students formed the Student Empowerment Commission and developed a series of Student Speaks assemblies. These assemblies allowed students to feel that their voice was heard and helped to resolve this major issue that was disrupting the school day.”

Principal Turner noted, “The students that participated in Outward Bound drew from their common experience and their understanding of what it means to live in the ‘stretch zone.’ They displayed the courage and the confidence they gained in the woods. They learned how to support each other up and over Cedar Rock, put up tarps and prepare their own food and treat their own water. It had worked just as Outward Bound had designed. These young people left the safety of the harbor, ventured into uncharted waters and sailed away under their own power. They have now returned feeling empowered to make a difference in their community.”

Building on successes like these, Black Mountain-Swannanoa Valley Advisory Board Chair Roger Hibbard noted, “From supplying food to bridge weekends and summer months for Swannanoa Valley children experiencing food insecurity to purchasing medical supplies for the uninsured, the elderly and veterans and providing musical instruments for the Owen Middle School orchestra, the Black Mountain-Swannanoa Valley Endowment Fund is hard at work addressing the diverse needs of Swannanoa Valley residents.”

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

The Black Mountain-Swannanoa Valley Endowment Fund offers grants of \$2,500 to \$10,000 for innovative projects and programs in the Swannanoa Valley, including programmatic needs, equipment and technology and capital needs. Detailed information and applications are available at www.cfwnc.org/Nonprofits/GrantPrograms.

The Community Foundation is a nonprofit serving eighteen counties in Western North Carolina. The Foundation is a permanent regional resource with assets of \$247 million 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, call 828-254-4960 or visit www.cfwnc.org.

For additional information about the Black Mountain-Swannanoa Valley Endowment Fund, visit www.BlackMountain-SwannanoaValleyEndowmentFund.org.