

## Black Mountain – Swannanoa Valley Foundation



### **Black Mountain – Swannanoa Valley Foundation Announces \$25,000 Grant for Swannanoa Valley Transitional Housing**

(January 2011) – The Black Mountain – Swannanoa Valley Foundation, formerly known as the Black Mountain Community Endowment Fund, is pleased to announce a \$25,000 grant to Swannanoa Valley Transitional Housing. The funds will enable the nonprofit to hire its first executive director, which will offer ex-inmates a mentor and access to support services including education, job seeking, financial guidance and transition issues that face clients as they move back into society.

In 2008, Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women, then the Black Mountain Correctional Center, had an inmate population of 80. Today the population is close to 200, with an expected increase to nearly 500 within the next two years. On average, 70 percent of inmates released without a Re-entry Life Plan return to prison within three years. Based on past enrollment, 30 percent of the Women in the Correctional Center will take life plan classes. Approximately 120 women per year are projected to make a successful re-entry.

Although recently granted nonprofit status, Swannanoa Valley Transitional Housing has been in existence for fifteen years and is supported by twelve churches and more than 300 volunteers. The nonprofit recently received an \$80,000 challenge grant that matches contributions, essentially doubling the impact of this grant.

The Black Mountain – Swannanoa Valley Foundation is an affiliate of The Community Foundation and was established in 1998 by a group of local residents as a permanent endowment and resource for charitable efforts that benefit the entire Swannanoa Valley. The local, volunteer board of directors works to raise awareness of the Black Mountain – Swannanoa Valley Foundation and to build assets for the future. These board members are: Sandra Abromitis, Dave Alexander, Gladys Brooks, Joan Brown, Katherine "Scottie" Cannon, Julia A. Capps, W. Travis Childs III, Scott Counce, Julia Courtney, Lynn Deese, Emily Ferguson (Co-Chair), Connie Gardi, Robert N. Headley, Jerone Herring, William G. Hollins, Jim Lenhart (Co-Chair), Judith Mayer, Gretchen Naff, Charles E. Reiley and Letta Jean Taylor.

Area nonprofit organizations and public institutions may apply to Black Mountain – Swannanoa Valley Foundation through The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. The next opportunity for nonprofits to apply is the upcoming Opportunity Grant cycle with a February 1 deadline. Funding decisions will be announced in May.

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