

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ROANOKE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES GRANT RECIPIENTS

Fifth year ends with 82 members and \$164,000 raised

ROANOKE, Va. November 17, 2009 – The Roanoke Women's Foundation, a component fund of Foundation for Roanoke Valley, announced the names of the two recipients of the fifth Roanoke Women's Foundation grants at a luncheon held today. The two grant awards totaled \$164,000.

The recipients were based on Roanoke Women's Foundation membership voting. Fifty grant applications were received during the 2009 grant cycle. The 2009 grant recipients are:

Virginia Dental Health Foundation/Roanoke Mission of Mercy (MOM) Project to increase access to dental services for underserved, uninsured and low-income adults. The Roanoke MOM project is conducted one weekend annually and acts to fill the gaps in dental services left by the few safety net providers in the region that offer dental services to these adults. The \$100,000 grant from The Roanoke Women's Foundation will be used to offset the costs of supplies, including dental, medical, pharmaceutical and office, and other operational expenses for the next four years. It is anticipated that the 2010 Roanoke MOM project scheduled to take place March 26 and 27 will offer 5500 free dental procedures to 1100 individuals in two days. Using portable dental equipment and volunteer providers, the project strives to increase access to oral care through the provision of oral exams, cleanings, fillings, root canals, extractions and other comprehensive services at no cost to the patient. In the previous two MOM events in Roanoke, over \$1 million in free dental

services was provided to over 2000 adults (18 years of age and older) from 35 localities in the Roanoke Valley and surrounding areas. Aggregated data for the Roanoke City and Alleghany Health District, including the cities of Roanoke, Salem and the counties of Alleghany, Craig, Botetourt and Roanoke, revealed that a greater proportion of adults had teeth removed because of tooth decay or gum disease in the Alleghany Health district as compared statewide. Fewer adults in the

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Alleghany Health District (59.9%) had some type of dental insurance coverage in contrast to adults statewide (65.8%). In 2008, the last year the MOM project was offered in the Roanoke area, 915 volunteers participated with a value of services of \$545,912 (including \$510,938 for dental services, \$23,630 for medical screenings and \$11,344 for prescriptions). This equates to a value of services per patient of \$551, an increase from \$450 per patient in 2007. As the MOM project relies solely on cash and in-kind donations, The Roanoke Women's Foundation grant will assist in providing a strong financial base for long-term sustainability of the project.

Child Health Investment Partnership (CHIP) to provide more intensive nurse case management specific to the growing medical concerns seen in children enrolled and referred to CHIP services. The Roanoke Women's Foundation grant in the amount of \$64,000 will help underwrite the costs of CHIP's comprehensive case management and support services to include nursing time for risk assessment, medical record requests, case discussions with medical providers, transportation to medical appointments, parent educational materials as well as other direct service related expenses. CHIP of Roanoke Valley was founded in 1988 and is the only program in the Roanoke Valley that offers intensive health care coordination services to meet the multiple, often complex needs of low income children and families to improve future health and developmental needs. CHIP is grounded in a preventive medical model focused on providing timely preventive care to high-risk children to avoid the need for extensive medical interventions later. With each year of CHIP's existence, the number of children requiring intensive, nurse based care management has increased. Working with primary care providers, CHIP nurses complete the circle of comprehensive care for these children age birth to kindergarten. Each year, CHIP serves approximately 1000 low income children throughout the Roanoke Valley.

The Roanoke Women's Foundation was established in August, 2004 by Ginny Jarrett and Kandy Elliott based on a model established in Seattle, Washington fourteen years ago. Since that time, numerous similar women's foundations have been formed. While they may vary in some of the details, these women's foundations give women from all ages and income levels an opportunity to become leaders in philanthropy within their communities.

The Roanoke Women's Foundation is open to any woman who makes the commitment to support the RWF for at least three years at a level of \$2100 per year. Members have no

other obligation than to fulfill the annual contribution and to participate in the voting process determining the recipients of the pooled fund grants.

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