



## The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina

The Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1978 to create a permanent pool of charitable capital that will always be available for the 18 counties of Western North Carolina. It works with individuals, families and businesses to create and manage charitable funds and then make grants to nonprofits or public agencies in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania and Yancey Counties.

The Foundation is now a collection of more than 750 individual funds, each with a specific charitable purpose as determined by the donor who created it. These funds total \$170 million in assets earmarked for pressing needs and promising opportunities in Western North Carolina. Over the years, The Community Foundation has distributed more than \$90 million in grants.

Launching the Mountain Landscapes Initiative came after more than two years of Foundation research into needs in the mountain communities. Most of the concerns identified in that research were tied in one way or another to land use planning issues. This "Tool Box" pilot effort in the seven westernmost NC counties is intended to chart the way for an expansion of the Initiative in all 18 counties the Foundation serves.

In a January 18, 2008 story about the Mountain Landscapes Initiative, *The Franklin Press* quotes Foundation President Pat Smith: "Our citizens and our policy makers need help in accommodating growth that enhances economic vitality and provides a secure future for our citizens, while also protecting our environment and the natural beauty that is our hallmark and so essential to our prosperity and quality of life."

As a measure of the importance The Community Foundation attaches to this project, the \$100,000 seed money it provided is the largest single discretionary grant in its history.

See more of what others are saying about this unique project on our project website ([www.mountainlandscapesnc.org](http://www.mountainlandscapesnc.org)). For more information about The Community Foundation, go to: [www.cfwnc.org](http://www.cfwnc.org).

