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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject: Foundation for Roanoke Valley Awards \$32,537 to Local Nonprofit Organizations

Roanoke, VA— Foundation for Roanoke Valley has awarded \$32,537 to non-profit organizations through the Larry Woodrow Vest Fund. The Fund supports a wide range of community needs with particular consideration given to charitable organizations providing services to Floyd County residents.

Blue Ridge Independent Living Center, Inc. was awarded **\$8,000** to provide home modifications and purchase assistive devices for individuals with disabilities who live in Floyd County. These modifications will enable these individuals to be independent within their own home.

Floyd County Community Center for the Arts, Inc. was awarded **\$500** to support the In-School Arts Experiences Program at Floyd County Schools. This program will offer five unique sessions per academic year at each of the four Floyd County Elementary Schools.

Floyd County Community Educational Association was awarded **\$5,000** to expand The Early Childhood Music Program into the Childhood Special Education Classes and the Virginia Initiative Preschool Classes of Floyd County. Weekly interactive music classes will benefit these children with special needs by encouraging physical, neurological, emotional, and social development through the use of song and rhythmic movement with instruments.

Floyd Country Historical Preservations Trust was awarded **\$8,000** to continue restoration and preservation of three historic Floyd County properties. Previous grants from the Vest Fund have helped stabilize and restore the Oxford Academy, the Ridgemont, and the Phlegar Home.

The **Floyd County Historical Society** was awarded **\$5,000** to purchase showcases and signage for its first historical museum. The purchases of the showcases will provide ample visibility to view the exhibits and protect the artifacts from damage.

The Old Church Gallery was awarded **\$2,287** to purchase two digital field camcorders and recording media for an Oral History Project. This is a collaborative effort between Radford University, Floyd County Public Schools, Floyd County Historical Society Image Archives, and the Old Church Gallery to educate students on the history of their community through interviews with veterans of World War II.

Western Virginia Land Trust was awarded **\$3,750** to help support the “Bluegrass and Green Beans: Conserving Land with Music and Food” project. The goal of this project is to conserve at least 200 acres of rural and farm land in Floyd County in 2010 by increasing awareness of conservation easements among landowners.

The Larry Woodrow Vest Fund is administered by Foundation for Roanoke Valley. The Foundation, established in 1988, is the community foundation for this region and much of southwest Virginia. The Foundation’s endowment funds range in size from a minimum of \$10,000 to millions of dollars. ###