

Tending the seeds



Mike Tripp/The News Leader

Michael Tate of Augusta Street United Methodist kicks up dust as he mows the grass at Fairview Cemetery on Monday afternoon. The Fairview Cemetery Committee received an assistance grant.

Grants Awarded

- **Augusta Regional Free Clinic** received \$9,600 in support of the clinic's education and prevention dental health care outreach to area elementary schools.
- **American Red Cross of the Blue Ridge** was awarded a \$2,100 grant to provide materials for the Family Caregiving Program, which will provide the knowledge and skills needed to care for a chronically ill or disabled family member.
- **Artisans Center of Virginia** received a \$1,500 grant to support the Outreach Program for art and craft instruction in area public schools.
- **Blue Ridge Legal Services** was awarded a \$1,850 grant that will provide the equipment necessary for community legal education outreach for low-income groups and human service organizations.
- **Boys & Girls Club of Augusta** received \$5,185 to support Project Learn, designed to engage young people in learning, encourage them to succeed in school and help them become lifelong learners.

Foundation targets funds to help region

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The name has changed, but the mission of Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge is the same.

And in giving out more than \$78,000 in grants to 28 non-profit groups this spring, the regional foundation is keeping the spirit of community works alive.

A group researching the history of Fairview Cemetery was one of this year's recipients. The committee received \$5,000 to fund its efforts.

The narrow cemetery on the hill across Lambert Street from the main Staunton Post Office is owned by Mt. Zion Baptist and Augusta Street United Methodist churches and dates back several centuries. The newly formed Fairview Cemetery Committee has asked Frazier Associates to work on a long-term plan for the cemetery, and Mary Baldwin College history professor Amy Tillerman is researching the cemetery.

"We're very grateful to the Community Foundation for the grant," said Louisa Dixon, co-chairperson of the committee. The money will be used for signs and lighting.

The first grant the committee applied for was from the Community Foundation.

Formerly known as SAW Community Foundation, the group's board needed to change the name because it's not just designed for work in Staunton, Augusta County and Waynesboro as it was when the acronym was penned. Highland and Nelson county residents are served with funds given to groups in those counties as well.

Grants Awarded

- **Casa de la Amistad** was awarded a \$4,000 grant to support the after school and summer tutorial programs for grades K-5 children who use English as a second language, providing supplies, so local children will get the educational start they need to succeed.
- **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** for Children was awarded a \$2,500 grant to support the training of volunteers who advocate on behalf of abused and neglected children.
- **Community Child Care Center** received a \$2,000 grant to provide scholarship aid for low-income families.
- **Community Mediation Center's** \$2,500 grant will support the truancy mediation program in Staunton and Augusta County.
- **Computer Redistribution Team** was awarded a grant of \$1,400 to fund anti-virus software licenses for the computers

Please see FOUNDATION, back page this section

Please see GRANTS, back page this section

Foundation

Continued from the front page

The foundation's mission is to enrich the quality of life by responding to needs and inspiring philanthropy in our community. And it's not just about handing out money, according to Joi Brown, executive director of the

foundation.

New groups like Fairview are also offered opportunities to strengthen their procedures. In addition to signing a contract that states the group's board will use the funds for the purpose spelled out in the grant request, another report is filed at year's end.

Grants

Continued from the front page

that it provides to low-income people — continuing to close the "digital divide" in our community.

■ **Crimora Community Center** received a \$2,500 grant to support renovation of the center's two public restrooms, at-source hot water heaters and ceiling repair and painting.

■ **Daily Living Center** was awarded \$2,000 to purchase chairs for the center.

■ **Fairview Cemetery** received a \$5,000 grant to help preserve, renovate and beautify Staunton's historic Fairview Cemetery.

■ **Hospice of the Shenandoah** was awarded a \$2,000 grant to support a camp for local children who have suffered the death of a close family member or friend.

■ **New Directions Center** received a \$1,560 grant to provide clients with parking and home starter kits.

■ **Scola Cantorum** was awarded \$1,500 to support the joint concert planned with the Waynesboro High School concert choir.

■ **ShenanArts** received a \$1,000 grant to support youth summer theater camps for pre-school through teen.

■ **Shenandoah Valley Art Center** was awarded \$1,000 to purchase tables and chairs for classrooms.

■ **Staunton-Augusta Art Center** received \$2,000 to support the Art For All Ages program for seniors and the Summer Studio Camp for youth aged 4-15.

■ **Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro (SAW) Habitat for Humanity** was awarded a grant of \$4,600 to purchase the materials to build the foundation of a house in Waynesboro, facilitating life-changing home ownership for a family that would otherwise not have been able to afford a home.

■ **Valley AIDS Network** received a \$4,000 grant to

provide emergency housing and utility support for clients.

■ **Valley Association for Independent Living** was awarded a \$1,850 grant for outreach to people with disabilities in underserved areas through expanded field work in the community.

■ **Valley Conservation Council** received a \$2,200 grant to support a groundwater education program for approximately 300 sixth-grade students, in partnership with Augusta County schools and North Fork nature programs.

■ **Valley Symphonic Concerts** was awarded a \$1,100 grant to support its in-school music program, which brings concerts and age-appropriate workshops into the public schools.

■ **Vector Industries** received a \$6,498 grant to support Project SPEECH (System Providing Enhanced Employee Communication Hub) for communication among the sensory impaired and the non-sensory impaired employees.

■ **Volunteer Money Management Program** was awarded a \$2,500 grant to assist at-risk low-income elderly and/or disabled persons with budgeting and financial matters.

■ **Waynesboro Community Orchestra** was awarded a \$2,000 grant to support the orchestra in preparation for and performance of its community concerts, allowing the amateur musicians to learn additional skills, as well as provide musical concerts for the community at large.

■ **Wildlife Center of Virginia** received a \$2,500 grant to develop an education video for children.

For additional information, contact the Community Foundation at 932-7878 or community.foundation@ntelos.net.