

| | |
|--------------|----|
| » Obituaries | B2 |
| » State | B4 |
| » World | B5 |

V ALLEY VIRGINIA

Daily News-Record
Saturday, June 21, 2008

B

City Editor: Rob Longley, 574-6281, rlongley@dnronline.com; Night City Editor: Jerry Blair, 574-6279, jblair@dnronline.com

SunTrust Starts Harrisonburg Education Foundation Endowment

Schools Advocacy Group Hopes More Will Donate

By JENNY JONES
Daily News-Record

HARRISONBURG — SunTrust Bank recently started an endowment on behalf of the Harrisonburg Education Foundation. Now, the foundation is hoping other businesses will follow suit.

SunTrust gave the foundation a \$10,000 endowment that will go toward grants for teachers. The bank put \$5,000 in the endowment this year and will put another \$5,000 in it next year, said Martha Shifflett, president of SunTrust Bank of Har-

rissonburg and member of the education foundation's board of directors.

SunTrust "hope[s] to be able to demonstrate the importance of private support" for public education, Shifflett said. "The more support schools are able to get, the better off our students are going to be."

About The Foundation

The Harrisonburg Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization that encourages community financial support of public education and provides scholarships to students and grants

to teachers.

The foundation will use the money generated from the SunTrust endowment to fund Innovative Idea Grants, which it awards to city teachers each year who want to do projects outside of the traditional coursework.

Last year, the foundation received 37 applications for the grants and funded 30 grants, according to Patty May, vice chairwoman of the foundation's board of directors.

Projects funded by the grants last year included "Make a Healthy Heart Happen" at Thomas Harrison

"This was really quite a dramatic step. ... It helps sustain the [grant] program and grow the program."

— PATTY MAY
VICE CHAIRWOMAN,
HEF BOARD

Middle School, "Let's Communicate at School" at Keister Elementary School and "Leap into Reading" at Waterman Elementary School.

Encouraging Others To Donate

Members of the foundation were ecstatic when SunTrust offered the endowment, the first of its kind, May said.

"This was really quite a dramatic step" to receive this endowment, she said. "It helps to sustain the [grant] program and grow the program" that also is funded by the foundation's fundraisers.

In response to SunTrust's offer, the education foundation established a tiered system to encourage other businesses and individuals to make simi-

lar donations.

Businesses that donate \$1,000 will have a one-year grant in their name and those who donate \$2,500 will have a grant in their name for three years, May said.

Those who donate \$10,000 will have an endowment established in their name.

So far, Dynamic Aviation and New Bridge Bank have donated to the effort, May said.

SunTrust's endowment, coupled with these donations "really kicked off [our fundraiser] and gave it energy," she said. "We just want to raise the visibility of this school system."

Contact Jenny Jones at 574-6286 or
jjones@dnronline.com