



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **LOCAL WINEMAKER GIVES \$100,000 ENDOWMENT TO SUPPORT LOUDOUN HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE**

The Piedmont Community Foundation (PCF) and the Loudoun Education Foundation (LEF) are pleased to announce that they have received a donation of over \$100,000 to support the science program of Loudoun County's public high schools. The donor is Lewis Parker, the owner and winemaker at Willowcroft Farm Vineyards, Loudoun's first commercial winery.

The gift establishes the Willowcroft Science Endowment Fund to permanently endow the Loudoun Education Foundation with an annual income stream restricted for use in support of the Loudoun County Public School's Regional Science & Engineering Fair for which Mr. Parker has a special passion developed through years of meaningful involvement. The Piedmont Community Foundation will invest and manage the endowment, making charitable distributions to the Loudoun Education Foundation which will administer grants for the sciences.

"I really believe that science is the future for our county and our country" said Mr. Parker. "We need to motivate and support the kids who have an interest in science and the teachers who help them. I hope to be able to add to the fund in the future and that others will also contribute directly, or through this endowment." Mr. Parker also serves on the Loudoun County Science and Technology Cabinet which is the community's key forum to encourage the development of Loudoun County and the region as a global center of science and technology. The Cabinet undertakes or supports special projects that contribute significantly to this goal. Karen Krei, Executive Director of the Piedmont Community Foundation said, "This is exactly the type of community support gift that our Foundation was designed to facilitate." "The Loudoun Education Foundation is excited and honored to be involved with The Willowcroft Science Endowment Fund," said LEF Executive Director Dawn Meyer."

The annual science fair is produced under the direction of Ms. Odette D. Scovel, Science Supervisor for Loudoun County Public Schools. "Support for the project comes from Mr. Parker because he feels it is extremely important to keep open an outstanding creative path for high school students excelling in the sciences and to also reward their mentors," said Ms. Scovel "The competition is stiff, has several levels and is judged with qualified and serious deliberations. The new endowment will support both student scholarships and awards for the educators who inspire and guide the science work submitted in the competition." Scovel continues, "'Mr. Parker's support of the science fair over the past 17 years has been wonderful for our students and teachers. His generosity is amazing, and we are thrilled to be the recipients of this new gift for the science fair."

Questions regarding the Science Fair can be directed to Odette Scovel, 571-252-1360. Questions regarding Loudoun Education Foundation can be directed to the Loudoun Education Foundation, Executive Director, Dawn Meyer, 571-252-1102, who will be actively encouraging support of The Willowcroft Science Endowment Fund. Ms. Meyer and her team approached the PCF to handle this endowment for their Foundation.

For inquiries regarding the Piedmont Community Foundation, please contact PCF Executive Director, Karen Krei at 540-687-5223 or email at [kkrei@verizon.net](mailto:kkrei@verizon.net).

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