



For Immediate Release
Contact: David Broad 804-443-1221
www.RivahFest.com

RivahFest 2010 Community Grants Announced

Tappahannock, VA (January 15, 2010) – The RivahFest Steering Committee is pleased to announce the first 2010 grant in a continuing series to support local community organizations. This year, the RivahFest Grant Committee solicited applications from local organizations and selected six needy areas that will receive grants in the period leading up to the Festival. The first organization selected is Christmas Mothers headed up by Heather Taylor who received a \$1,000 grant. Further recipients of RivahFest Grants will be announced during Spring 2010. For more information about RivahFest and the grant program, visit www.rivahfest.com/grants

Christmas Mother Program provides Christmas gifts and clothing to needy children throughout the surrounding RivahFest Essex County community. Christmas Mother Program was initiated by Heather Taylor this winter: “My 8 year-old daughter saw the article in the newspaper looking for individuals that were interested in working with Social Services in taking this project on. I actually told her that there was no way I could do this, but she told me that the article was “about me, and without me, these kids won’t have Christmas.” Who can say no to that?.” Reflecting on this first year experience starting the project, Heather commented “It has been the most overwhelming, time-consuming, awe-inspiring, heart-wrenching, rewarding, amazing experience! As grueling as this schedule has been while trying to balance a full-time work schedule, children’s extracurricular activities, and yes, even a few hurdles during the process itself, it truly has been humbling, and what a wonderful feeling it is to know that there will be 400 children with gifts under their tree on Christmas morning, thanks to this project!”

Libbie Franklin, sponsor of this project said “Rivahfest is such great family and community events and that is why the grant committee selected the Christmas Mother Program so they could bring a little Christmas spirit to the needy children of the committee. The Christmas mother is a new event for Essex County this year and we are extremely excited to be

able to help bring Christmas to 400 Essex County children.”

Mark your calendars for RivahFest 2010 set for Saturday, June 19. RivahFest is co-chaired by Katherine Newman (EVB) and Libbie Franklin (Essex Bank). The RivahFest steering committee for 2010 draws volunteers in many areas: Thomas Bradshaw (Entertainment), David Broad (Promotion & Website), Terry Brooks (Arts & Crafts), John Clickener (Treasurer), Jeff James (Planning & Liaison), Sharon James (Past Chair), Glenn Morse (Sponsorship) and Joey Reinhardt (Publications & Liaison). We welcome volunteers to help in the planning and running of the Festival – this is the one day of the year to take pride and showcase your community!

RivahFest is actively seeking partner organizations in the community to participate in the Festival – the Steering Committee provides locations, promotion, logistics and support that enables organizations to take advantage of the unique opportunity to promote themselves and raise funds with an expected 14,000 visitors – in 2010 RivahFest partnered with the Essex County Little League, the Tappahannock Free Clinic, and the Boy Scouts.

For more information on all aspects of the Tappahannock-Essex RivahFest contact Katherine Newman at 804-769-7032 or visit www.rivahfest.com

Terry Brooks (right) of WRAR, and Libbie Franklin (left) of Essex Bank, representing the RivahFest Steering Committee present a \$1,000 grant check to Christmas Mother Program's Heather Taylor in support of the Christmas needy children support project.