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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **GALA LOCATION AND DATE ANNOUNCED**

Fundraiser Provides Financial Support for Teachers and Students

**BERRYVILLE, Va., July 24, 2009** – The Clarke County Education Foundation’s 12<sup>th</sup> annual Gala and auction will be held on Saturday, September 26, in the Ferrari Ballroom at the Brandt Student Center, Shenandoah University. For 11 consecutive years, the foundation has hosted one of the most enjoyable philanthropic events in the region. Proceeds benefit students and teachers in the Clarke County Public Schools through teacher grants for equipment and supplies to enhance student success. Teachers were delighted to receive over \$61,000 through the foundation’s Teacher Grant program this year.

“As federal, state, and local funding for our schools has become more limited, private assistance is especially crucial to augment the educational needs of our youth,” said foundation president John Hudson. “These youngsters are our future. It’s incumbent upon each of us to keep it bright,” he added.

Receiving recognition at the event, businesses and individuals are donating a host of goods and services for the auction. Privately guided group tours of museums, celebrity autographed photos and memorabilia, original artwork, charter fishing trips, and stays at vacation homes from Europe to Florida are just a few of the items that will be up for auction. The foundation is still accepting auction items and corporate sponsorships.

#### **About the Clarke County Education Foundation, Inc.**

The Clarke County Education Foundation (CCEF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing private support to the Clarke County (Virginia) Public Schools. As an independent public charity, the foundation is dedicated to promoting, expanding, and augmenting the educational opportunities for students and staff in the county school system by generating private support and involvement to enhance these publicly maintained services.

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Gala tickets include cocktail reception, sit down dinner, wine, music, and access to the live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$125 per person and available online at [www.ccefinc.org](http://www.ccefinc.org) or by calling the foundation office at (540) 955-0430.