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## **EDUCATION FOUNDATION GALA NETS \$22,000 FOR SCHOOLS** Fundraiser Continues Success in Tight Economy

**BERRYVILLE, Va., October 27, 2009** – Despite challenging economic conditions, the Clarke County Education Foundation’s 12<sup>th</sup> annual Gala netted \$22,000 for the Clarke County Public Schools. For 12 years, the Gala has been the major fundraising event of the year for the Foundation. Held on September 26, this year was no exception. Local individuals and businesses donated nearly 100 auction items, which contributed over \$13,000 to the total proceeds. Another \$5,500 was raised through direct donations in support of the event, and \$3,500 through the generosity of sponsors from the business community. Nearly 100 supporters attended the event at Shenandoah University.

“We were thrilled to see such an expression of commitment to our youth in these difficult economic times,” said foundation president John Hudson. “This is a testament to the continued pledge of support our local community has made to the education of our public school students. We can all be proud of the parts we play in insuring they become productive and successful contributors to our society,” he added.

Proceeds from the event go toward enhancement of classroom programs and materials for teachers and students in the Clarke County public school system. Each year dozens of teachers apply and receive grants from the Foundation for much needed instructional aids, which tight budgets would otherwise not have allowed. Past Galas have funded enhancements in everything from classroom technology and lab equipment to band instruments and choral gowns. Hudson ventured to speculate, “Practically every one of the more than 2,000 students in our public school system have been touched through the half-million dollars Foundation Galas have raised and contributed to the schools through the years.”

### **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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