



## Press Release

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### **Danville Regional Foundation Launches Middle Border Forward Initiative, Calls for Applicants for Middle Border Forward Fellows**

Danville, VA (January 18, 2013) — The Danville Regional Foundation (DRF) today announced the launch of the Middle Border Forward initiative, a community based “planning and doing” experience that will engage citizens in efforts to grow the quality of life in the Dan River Region over the next several decades. As a key part of this initiative, DRF is seeking community members who are interested in becoming Middle Border Forward Fellows. Application and requirements are available at [drfonline.org](http://drfonline.org) and are due by February 15, 2013.

Modeled after a similar program in Greenville, SC (Greenville Forward), Middle Border Forward is designed to:

- 1) Create a regional vision of where the Dan River region (Danville, Pittsylvania Count and Caswell County) is headed and the key outcomes citizens must achieve together;
- 2) Increase regional cooperation and shared endeavors, ultimately making regional cooperation the norm; and
- 3) Develop the next two generations of diverse leaders who will work together to increase prosperity for all.

“Middle Border Forward will act as a leadership mechanism and new action platform that pushes the agenda of positive change in the region,” said Charley Majors, the Foundation’s board chair. “The goal is to establish a new vision for the region that helps all of us to focus on what we want to be, combining the best of our past with innovative ideas for the future.”

Middle Border Forward Fellows are key to making the Middle Border Forward initiative work. Over an 18-month period, they will participate in a number of leadership development activities as they learn by doing. Specifically, Fellows will:

- Create an action plan that will guide the further endeavors of Middle Border Forward.
- Engage with other communities to learn about effective growth strategies enacted in areas similar to the Dan River region.
- Design and carry out small-scale projects aimed at encouraging active participation and positive change in the community.
- Receive training and information on issues such as enabling effective change, understanding regional economies, and recognizing the institutions necessary to support meaningful community-wide progress.
- Network and work with other existing and emerging leaders in the region committed to community transformation.

“DRF believes that being selected as an MBF Fellow is a recognition of an individual’s leadership abilities and commitment to their community,” said Karl Stauber, Foundation president. “Fellows will receive meaningful information and opportunities for action-oriented projects that will allow them to play a leading role in both the governance and activities of Middle Border Forward. Ultimately, they’ll have the chance to actively shape the future of the region and to connect with new networks of community leaders.”

DRF has contracted with [MDC](#), a non-profit based in Durham, NC with a long history of working in the Dan River region, to help guide Middle Border Forward and the Fellows program.

DRF is a catalyst for innovation and an agent for transformation. Understanding that significant community change takes time, DRF invests for the long term in efforts that promise sustained positive impact for the Dan River Region. DRF is committed to activities, programs, and organizations that address the health, education, and well-being of residents of Danville, Pittsylvania County, and Caswell County.

To learn more about DRF, Middle Border Forward, and the Middle Border Forward Fellows program — or to download the Middle Border Forward Fellows application — visit the DRF website at [www.drfoonline.org](http://www.drfoonline.org) or contact Wendi Everson (434) 483-4272 or [wgeverson@drfoonline.org](mailto:wgeverson@drfoonline.org).

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