



[FUTURE OF THE PIEDMONT FOUNDATION](#)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Contact:** Starling McKenzie

**Date:** May 10, 2012  
**Phone:** 434-483-4273

## **2011 Dan River Region Community Report Card Released**

**DANVILLE – (May 10, 2012)** [DRF](#), in partnership with [United Way of Danville-Pittsylvania County](#) (UWDPC) and The Future of the Piedmont Foundation (FOP), have released the 2011 Dan River Region Community Report Card. This annual Report Card is the third issued, with the first released in 2009.

This inclusive tool traces 20 socioeconomic indicators across 5 key categories – education, economic stability, vitality, health and civic capacity.

All three partners envision this collaboration as a way to aid in the improvement of the daily lives of Dan River Region residents.

While a team effort is essential to the success of this goal, each organization's mission contributes in its own way.

The strength of the Future of the Piedmont Foundation is innovation of workable options to enhance economic vitality. United Way uses the Report Card data in the direction of its "Advancing the Common Good" agenda in education, income, and health. DRF serves the region through the creation of innovative strategies to better health and wellness, educational attainment, community engagement and economic transformation.

UWDPC Board Chairman Jeff Liverman stated, "The Report Card is a result of a collaborative effort between organizations that will use it to improve our community. This tool is very important in that it helps target regional issues, around which we can identify solutions and then implement a plan to get results."

"In a time of constrained resources, we have to understand where we are

making progress and where we are not,” said Karl Stauber, President & CEO of DRF. “This report card helps non-profits in the region better compete for precious resources and it helps us all target our efforts.”

The findings of the 2011 Report Card demonstrate both positive and negative trends in the Dan River Region.

### **City of Danville and Pittsylvania County, Virginia**

- Educational data was encouraging with 8<sup>th</sup> grade math proficiencies meeting or exceeding averages in the Commonwealth, but while high school on-time graduation rates in Pittsylvania County are greater than that of the state average, Danville lags behind both.
- From economic stability and vitality perspectives, results were mixed. Per capita income continues to rise from 2006 to 2010, but the percent of children at the poverty line remains elevated above the Virginia average. While wages have increased and held at a steady rate, unemployment stays above the state average.
- The health data improved since last year’s report card. The death rates for heart disease, stroke, and cancer have all decreased, as have teen pregnancy rates. However, infant mortality rates remain high with Danville reporting a rate approximately 2.5 times higher than Virginia and Pittsylvania County coming in at a rate about 1.75 times more than the average within the Commonwealth.

### **Caswell County, North Carolina**

- Eighth grade math proficiency, the percentage of adults attaining a four-year college degree, and on-time high school graduation rates all continue to improve. However, all indicators remain below the state average. Third grade reading proficiency declined for a second consecutive year, staying under the average in North Carolina.
- As a whole, the economic stability and vitality of Caswell County brings to light both positive and negative trends. Bright spots are that per capita and median household incomes and weekly wages have all increased. Unfortunately, poverty levels and free/reduced children lunch, home ownership rates and unemployment rates all reported at a higher level than the state average.
- Death rates related to heart disease, stroke and cancer have all decreased and continue to close in on state averages. However, obese children, teen pregnancy and infant mortality have increased. One positive note is that the teen pregnancy rate has fallen lower than the North Carolina state average.

Assembled by DRF interns, the Report Card offers active links to the source of each statistic. With all indicators, findings were drawn from the most recent data available from independent or government agencies. It is important to note that none of the three sponsors of the Report Card collected any of the data used.

The partnership plans to continue the release of an annual Dan River Region Community Report Card to offer a longitudinal view of indicator tendencies, while analyzing plans of action to improve them.

Comprehensive and comparative versions of the Report Card are available at [www.drfonline.org](http://www.drfonline.org) or [www.liveuniteddpc.org](http://www.liveuniteddpc.org).

*For more information contact DRF Senior Program Officer Starling McKenzie at 434.483.4273 or email at [smckenzie@drfonline.org](mailto:smckenzie@drfonline.org).*

# # #