

Announcing: Southside Community Partners

As previously announced, the Southside Virginia Nonprofit Resource Center, Focus INC and ConnectSouthside have combined forces under one nonprofit resource program umbrella, which now has a new name. . **Southside Community Partners**. This new identity aligns the group with a unified mission: Building a strong Southside community through developing and strengthening the nonprofit sector.

The program brings together new expert resources, partnerships and staff to better meet identified community needs. A new focus for Southside Community Partners is to facilitate collaborative engagement — to bring together groups and individuals with emerging community project ideas to share and leverage their resources. Southside Community Partners will work with emerging organizations and well-established institutions to build their operations and programs to better enable sustainable, positive change in the Southside region. Currently more than 600 nonprofit and community-based organizations are part of the Southside Community Partners network.

New workshops led by expert instructors have been incorporated into the Southside Community Partners' Learning & Leadership training program to deliver high-impact approaches for increasing organizational effectiveness. Topics include fundraising, board fundamentals, volunteer coordination, marketing for nonprofits and others.

Through ConnectSouthside.org, the web-based social and knowledge network, Southside Community Partners provides free, one-stop, online access to all of the organization's resources, as well as the means for connecting the local nonprofit community to each other for collaboration and information exchange.

Nonprofit organization resources are now even more accessible with the help of highly skilled staff and advisors. The library has added a new reference librarian-nonprofit collection specialist, who is available to provide individual assistance in successful use of Resource Center tools and materials. Chuck Koutnik, resource center consulting coordinator, continues to provide expert individual and group instruction on successful processes for researching funders, as well as coaching on implementation of nonprofit management and governance resources. Rebecca Eisenman, coordinator



Southside Community Partners Nonprofit Resource Center, located in the main Hopewell branch of the Appomattox Regional Library System, is the only one of its kind in the region. The Center is a Foundation Center cooperating collection providing free on-site access to the Foundation Center Directory Online, as well as the Grants Connection Directory of Virginia Foundations Online. Expanded online and print resources now include:

- BoardSource® special section for building and supporting effective nonprofit boards
- Guidestar Grant Explorer and Guidestar nonprofit compensation research
- Independent Sector reports and data

for ConnectSouthside and Learning & Leadership, and Vera Pakizer, research assistant, both offer extensive communication and program advice and assistance. Funding support for the Appomattox Regional Library System Southside Community Partners is provided by The Cameron Foundation and the John Randolph Foundation. Southside Community Partners is powered by ConnectSouthside.org, a partner affiliate of the ConnectNetwork. Southside Community Partners serves the cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell and Petersburg and the counties of Dinwiddie, Prince George, Sussex, Surry and southern Chesterfield.