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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Community Foundation for Northern Virginia Hosts 2024 Shape of the Region with 19 Regional Partners, Focusing on Social Trust and Civic Healing**



12 February 2024 (Fairfax, VA): This past Friday, the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia hosted its 2024 Shape of the Region Conference in collaboration with 19 regional partners, which highlighted a key problem facing our region, and the whole country today: Americans’ belief that most people can be trusted declined 47 percent from 1984 through 2022, according to the General Social Survey. Only a quarter of Americans say that most people can be trusted as of 2022.

As keynote speaker David Brooks says, “America is fractured and living a quiet crisis of disconnection. We have lost our trust in each other and our institutions. Divided, we face uncertainty, social turmoil, and political gridlock. Yet, within every community lies an answer.” In Northern Virginia, our Insight Region® Senior Director Denise Bellows discussed the trends in national and local data, showing that all indicators of the Virginia Trust Index are down over the past several years. Fewer than half of Northern Virginians consider their neighbors “trustworthy.” You can read her presentation on [our website](#).

The panel, presented in partnership with [WEAVE: The Social Fabric Project](#) at the Aspen Institute, featured a diverse array of cross-sector experiences, and talked one key solution: **As we build community, and serve community, individual people become happier, feel better about their neighbors, and are more willing to give back.**

We invite you to join the conversation. You can learn more about [WEAVE here](#). To continue engaging on this issue, the Community Foundation invites community members to join the 2024 Elevate NOVA Book Circle, which will discuss David Brooks’ book *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen*. Join a book circle or register an existing one [here](#).

The event’s sponsors included:

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**The Community Foundation's Regional Partners Included:**

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**About the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia**

Founded in 1978, the Community Foundation has been the premier charitable partner trusted by thousands of generous Northern Virginians for decades. Our mission is to advance equity through philanthropy and community leadership. Comprised of donor advised funds, permanent funds, giving circles, and other charitable endowments, the Community Foundation's vision is to build a community that works for everyone. Our Community Foundation serves the entire region, including Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties and the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park. For more information, please visit us at [www.cfnova.org](http://www.cfnova.org), or follow up on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).