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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Community Foundation for Northern Virginia Leads Regional Dialogue on Youth Well-Being

Fairfax, VA (March 26, 2025) – The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia (CFNOVA) convened **hundreds of leaders, community members, and changemakers** for its annual [Shape of the Region conference](#), an essential gathering focused on the pressing challenges and opportunities shaping the region’s future. This year’s event focused on youth well-being, addressing issues like bullying, school safety, substance abuse, and mental health access.

As the host and convener, the Community Foundation collaborated with seventeen regional partners representing all sectors. The hybrid conference on March 25 held at Valo Park in McLean and streamed via Zoom. It featured expert panels and youth insights, amplifying student voices in shaping solutions.

A key highlight of the conference was the launch of the 2025 Insight Region® report on Northern Virginia’s youth, revealing a 30% increase in electronic bullying from 2013 to 2023 and a 45% rise in deaths by suicide among youth since 2010, highlighting the urgent need for cross-sector collaboration to create safer, healthier environments for young people.

CFNOVA will allocate \$120,000 in nonprofit grants in 2025 focused on addressing health and safety needs for children and youth. Additionally, the Foundation will collaborate with regional education foundations to engage students in these critical issues, ensuring that the data and conversations lead to actionable steps toward regional progress.

"The Shape of the Region Conference is a powerful way we unite the community to address Northern Virginia’s challenges," said Renée Byng Yancey, President and CEO of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia. "With Insight Region’s research and the support of our partners, sponsors, and attendees, we can drive lasting change for our region’s youth." The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia extends its deepest gratitude to generous sponsors, including Bank of America, American Psychiatric Association Foundation, Frank & Betty Wright Foundation, Inova, and the Potomac Health Foundation.

For more information on CFNOVA and its initiatives, please visit www.cfnova.org.

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ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR NORTHERN VIRGINIA

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia is building a region that works for everyone by advancing equity through philanthropy and community leadership. Since 1978, we have united thousands of generous Northern Virginians with the causes they care about through donor-advised funds, permanent funds, giving circles, and charitable endowments. We cultivate enduring partnerships with nonprofits, foundations, government, businesses, and community members, maximizing impact to drive meaningful change. Through Insight Region®, our original research initiative, we deliver data-driven insights that reveal the trends and issues shaping Northern Virginia's future.

The Community Foundation proudly serves all Northern Virginians in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties and the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park. Learn more at cfnova.org.