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NEWS RELEASE

Cherokee County Community Foundation Board Awards \$23,000 in Grants to 15 Organizations *From 2016 to 2018, grant awards increased 39 percent thanks to Give, Grant, Grow Cherokee County*

For the second year in a row, the Cherokee County Community Foundation awarded more than \$20,000 in grants. This year, the board awarded \$23,000 to seven local nonprofits, including Broad River Baptist Church and Cherokee County Alliance for Visual Artists. The grants support causes including education, public health, family and youth, crime and safety improvements, and economic development. CCCF – an affiliate of Charlotte-based Foundation For The Carolinas – has awarded a record \$48,000 combined over the last two years.

Under Give, Grant, Grow Cherokee County – a new partnership between the Cherokee County Community Foundation and Foundation For The Carolinas – local grants have grown 39 percent since 2016. With Give, Grant, Grow Cherokee County, current and former board members' contributions are matched by FFTC and awarded to local nonprofits.

"Our board is thrilled to see our grantmaking grow," said Ben Kochenower, Cherokee County Community Foundation board chair. "We are fortunate to have strong local nonprofits, and we are grateful to be able to support their important work."

Broad River Baptist Church was one of the beneficiaries of CCCF's grant funding this year. The grant will support the church's Blacksburg Backpack Buddies Ministry. This program began in September 2017 to make sure children that are living in hunger in Blacksburg, SC have meals and snacks to eat when school is out. Based on need-based referrals, the Backpack Buddies Ministry currently provides 73 bags per week and services three of the four area schools. Based on continued need, they plan to serve all four Blacksburg schools in the 2018-2019 school year.

"Imagine you leave school on Friday and you will not eat again until Monday morning, or even longer if you have days out of school," said Robin Woodward, Backpack Buddies Ministry program director. "For children in Blacksburg, this is a reality. With the Cherokee County Community Foundation Grant, Blacksburg Backpack Buddies Ministry Project can make sure these children have food on weekends and when school is out for extended periods."

Cherokee County Alliance of Visual Artists was another recipient of grant funds this year. They provide studio and gallery space for Cherokee County citizens to learn about, create and exhibit original works of art. CAVA received funds to support their annual summer art camp for children. This camp is an endeavor to supplement arts awareness for children in schools that have little or no art budgets.

"Cherokee Alliance of Visual Artists provides Summer Art Camps for children 8-14 years old," said Noah Lindemann, CAVA president. "We are grateful to Cherokee County Community Foundation for their continued support to help us promote appreciation and understanding of the Visual Arts for all of our citizens."

Additionally, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Upstate, Children's Cancer Partners of the Carolinas, Junior Achievement of Central South Carolina, Know(2), and Jerusalem Project received funding. For a full listing of the grants and projects awarded by the Cherokee County Community Foundation, visit www.cherokeecounty-cf.org.

About the Cherokee County Community Foundation

Established in 1994 as a permanent endowment, the Cherokee County Community Foundation benefits a wide range of charitable purposes in Cherokee County. As an affiliate of Charlotte-based Foundation For The Carolinas, the Cherokee County Community Foundation inspires philanthropy, increases charitable giving and strengthens the community. For more information please visit www.cherokeecounty-cf.org.

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