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## **Future Fund Grants \$32,500 for Four Community Projects**

GREENSBORO – The **Future Fund** of the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro has awarded \$32,500 in grants to fund four projects designed to attract and keep young adults living and working in Greensboro. The grants were presented Wednesday evening at the Community Foundation’s Partners in Philanthropy Reception at O. Henry Hotel.

Non-profit organizations whose projects were selected for 2003 grants are Professionals in Transition, \$4,500; Greensboro Community Television, \$6,000; Guilford Green Foundation, \$10,000; and Action Greensboro’s synerG, \$12,000. The projects were chosen from among 19 proposals with requested total funding of \$165,000. The awards were based on four criteria outlined by Dr. Richard Florida, noted author of *The Rise of the Creative Class – Territorial assets, Talent, Tolerance, and Technology*.

“Our grant making theme for 2003 is attraction and retention of young adults, ages 18-45, to live and work in the Greensboro area,” said Therese Coon, co-chair of the Future Fund’s grant making committee. “These young adults are known as the Creative Class, and there is growing data to suggest that the attraction and retention of the Creative Class leads to economic development in a community. This year’s grant recipients meet the criteria identified as necessary for a community to attract and retain its Creative Class.”

Selected for territorial asset, Professionals in Transition will use its \$4,500 grant to fund six workshops on “how to find the hidden job market.” The organization and its founder, Damian Birkel, are nationally known for developing networks and enabling unemployed and underemployed professionals to find their next career opportunity.

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Chosen for talent, Greensboro Community Television-Cable 8 will use its \$6,000 grant to produce a video series set in different Greensboro locations with interviews of various Creative Class members. The featured guests will tell their definition of creative class, why they chose Greensboro, and their volunteer/community connections.

Guilford Green Foundation, recognized for tolerance, will produce and run four GreenQueen Bingo events with its \$10,000 award. Guilford Green provides funding for qualified groups and institutions serving Guilford County's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community. The bingo events, to be held downtown, will be fundraisers to support the foundation's charities.

The \$12,000 grant to synerG will support a wireless technology corridor downtown along Elm Street from the Center City Park site south to Lee Street. Action Greensboro's task force of young professionals, synerG brought Dr. Florida to Greensboro in October for hands-on workshops on building a more creative, entrepreneurial, innovative community.

The Future Fund's steering committee, co-chaired by Jimmy Reitinger and David Ball, approved the four projects for full funding on recommendation of the grant making committee. Co-chairing that committee with Coon was Mary Barr, who helped present Wednesday's awards.

Established in 2000, the Future Fund is a group of young leaders who are committed to making Greensboro a better place and improving the quality of life. The mission is to attract, nurture, and educate effective, ongoing philanthropic leadership in the community through grant making. To date, the Future Fund has distributed more than \$140,000 in community grants to local nonprofits.

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