



Virginia Counselors Association Foundation
Promoting and Enhancing the Counseling Profession in Virginia

December 5, 2011

Dear Fellow Counselors,

Wait! Before you hit ‘Delete’ please consider my message and its purpose. This e-mail is unlike any others you are likely to receive this holiday season. It is about how you can strengthen your profession! Twice a year your Virginia Counselors Association Foundation (VCAF) makes an appeal for your support, and, *yes*, this is one of those times. The VCAF is the only organization whose sole purpose is to secure and disperse resources to advance the profession of counseling and counselors in the Commonwealth. Your support is vital to help provide the resources, tools, and training for counselors to grow and prosper in the state and in your community.

And how is the counseling profession different because of the Foundation? Perhaps you already know that:

- The Foundation has sponsored and continues to sponsor the keynote speaker at each of the Virginia Counselors Association Conventions
- The Foundation helps to fund the award-winning VCA Journal
- The Foundation awards research grants for creative initiatives by Virginia counseling personnel
- The Foundations funds professional development scholarships to individual counselors, and perhaps most importantly,
- The Foundation supports local chapter and council workshops and professional development activities to promote ‘best practices’ in regions throughout the state.

Counseling is different and counselors are better served because of the support and resources provided by the Foundation. Counselors like you do important work and for over 20 years we have supported that work!

And **who** is the Foundation? It is you and me – counselors and friends of counseling who want to continue the advancement of professionals *AND* the profession. The VCA Foundation Board of Directors is a purely volunteer group—they donate their time, talent, and resources so that administrative costs are nearly nil. You can be confident that your contribution goes toward helping counselors, and the field of counseling, improve and not to pay for overhead and staffing costs.

The founder of the VCAF, Dr. John Cook, a nationally recognized educator and counselor, established the Foundation in 1991 as “an organization dedicated to the prosperity of counseling in the Commonwealth.” Nearly every counselor in Virginia has been touched by Dr. Cook in some way - maybe by attending a Cook lecture, or applying for a Cook scholarship; perhaps, you attended the Awards Breakfast at the VCA Convention last month when we bestowed the John Cook Award on Eleanor Saslaw, former VCA President and counseling advocate, who is currently the President of Virginia Board of Education.

In the spirit of Dr. Cook’s tireless efforts to promote counselors and counseling in Virginia, the Foundation was proud to unveil two new initiatives at this year’s Convention, fully funded by

generous contributions of members like you! The first new initiative is the VCAF Grant Program. VCA Members are invited to submit a grant proposal for up to \$1000 to fund professional counseling activities that foster the counseling profession and/or counselors in the Commonwealth. Applications will be accepted twice a year and must be received by February 1 or July 1, 2012.

The second initiative is the VCAF Student Fellowship Competition, which is designed to identify and support counselor education students in Virginia who aspire to leadership in the counseling profession. Students awarded a Virginia Counselors Association Foundation Student Fellowship will receive the following:

- Paid membership in the Virginia Counselors Association for the fellowship year.
- Paid membership in the student's VCA chapter for the fellowship year.
- Paid registration for the VCA conference for the fellowship year
- A \$100 stipend, and
- Recognition in VCA and VCAF publications, and at the VCA conference.

Applications for the Fellowship Competitions are due at the end of January 2012 and we plan to announce the winners in March. More information on both of these programs is available on the Foundation website: www.vcafoundation.org.

Each of these initiatives stems from our mantra at VCAF that *Virginia Counselors are the Foundation everyday!* We are conscious of nurturing our current group of experienced counselors and in supporting/growing a new legion of leaders in our profession.

We trust you will consider a meaningful gift to 'pay forward' our profession. The VCA Foundation wants to help provide the resources, tools, and training for counselors to grow and prosper in their work. Counselors are the Foundation everyday and your We offer you two ways to make a contribution to the VCA Foundation.

- By going to the VCA Foundation website at www.vcafoundation.org, you can follow the Orange Online Donation button, and use a credit card for payment.
- We will accept you personal check made to the VCA Foundation and mailed to:

Adele Walker-Blue
VCAF Treasurer
PO BOX 71122
Richmond, VA 23229

Either way, we will acknowledge your 100% tax deductible donation to the VCA Foundation for the current year.

Thank you for your good work, your continued support, and your an investment in the future of counseling in Virginia. Happy Holidays and best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Bryan D. Carr
President
Virginia Counselors Association Foundation