Foundation forms in Florence

Eastern Carolina Community Foundation aims to promote philanthropic endeavors in Pee Dee

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Morning News
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FLORENCE — The Pee Dee now has its own community foundation aimed at supporting and enabling effective philanthropy with the launch Tuesday of the Eastern Carolina Community Foundation.

The Eastern Carolina Community Foundation will be one of eight community foundations in the state. It covers Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Marlboro and Williamsburg counties.

"Finally, our seven-county area can begin enjoying the benefits all other major areas of South Carolina have enjoyed for years," Trip Dillard, chairman of the Eastern Carolina Community Foundation, said. "This has the potential to be a powerful force for good in our community.

"This enables people who want to do good to do it anonymously, tentatively or at their own pace," he said. "It really expands the pool (of donors)."

Community foundations are public charities created by and for local citizens, according to the

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ABOUT THE FOUNDATION
NAME: Eastern Carolina Community Foundation
PURPOSE: To support philanthropic endeavors
REGION: Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Marlboro and Williamsburg counties
RESOURCES: The foundation received a $75,000 donation to fund operating costs for three years.

SOURCE: From staff reports

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Pennsylvania foundation tries to get a handle on $180 million donation.

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Eastern Carolina Community Foundation Web site, www.easterncarolinafoundation.org. The foundation helps people with philanthropic interests to easily and effectively support issues they care about. Through the generosity of donors, community foundations build endowments to meet community needs.

For more details on the Eastern Carolina Community Foundation, visit www.easterncarolinafoundation.org.

The southeastern chapter of the Florence Rotary Club held a community meeting in the offices of Trinity College, the organization's situated at Francis Marion University's College.

"When we first started talking about this idea, we were very excited about it," Veto said. "I'm very proud of being associated with it, and so is our whole club.

In 2006, a representative from the Coastal Community Foundation of Charleston spoke to the Florence Rotary Club about community foundations. Veto said it was the first time members who attended the meeting began thinking about forming a community foundation after realizing the Pee Dee was the only major area of the state that lacked one.

Rotary Club members met with other foundations and nonprofits to discuss creating a community foundation in the Pee Dee. In 2006, the foundation gained its 501(c)3 status, and with a local board of directors from Florence and Darlington counties, the foundation began organizing.

The foundation will serve in four main roles: grantmakers, community conveners/partners, consolidators of endowments and philanthropic advisors/partners. As a consolidator of endowments and nonprofits can combine their funds with others in the foundation. The last role of the foundation, as philanthropic advisors/partners, allows the organization to help families and individuals use efficient and effective targeted funds, such as unrestricted, field of interest, designated or donor-advised funds.

FMU President Dr. Fred Carter said the community foundation shouldn't be seen as a competitor to other foundations in the area, but instead as a partner in terms of looking for ways to better serve the community.

MAKING PHILANTHROPY EFFECTIVE

The Eastern Carolina Community Foundation, aimed at supporting and enabling philanthropy, was formed in 2006. The foundation's board of directors include Trip tubbs, chairman of the foundation; Vivian Galloway-Defanti, secretary, director of student services for Florence-Darlington Technical College; Walker Boyd, president, comptroller for King biodiesel trucking; David Bar, president of United Way of Florence County; Bradley Callicott, executive director of the Dr. Bruce and Lee Foundation; Steve Powers, owner of SW Printing; Dick Puffer, executive director of the Byerly Foundation; Michael G. Roberts, Turner Pledger Graham & Laney PA, attorney; Charles Converse, owner of Sumter Family Auto Center; George Wilkins, managing director for Caldwell Banker Commercial Southeast Properties; and Marguerite Wilkins, Nixon Pruet attorney.

Advisory board members include Francis Marion University President Dr. Fred Carter; Frank Cooper, General Manager of Pepsi Cola Bottling Co.; Emeren Sawyer, vice president of Progress Energy; Carolena Southern Region; and Don Herron, head of Lobo's Global Chemical Manufacturing.

SOURCE: From local reports.