



The National Endowment for the Humanities announced 105 grants of \$14.5 million to U.S. arts groups and individuals for the third quarter of this year.

New ways to give

## Community foundations team up with Merrill Lynch

Four North Carolina community foundations have joined with Merrill Lynch & Co. in an alliance to increase charitable giving.

By BARBARA SOLOW

In response to rising donor interest in new giving vehicles, Merrill Lynch & Co. has formed an alliance with 34 community foundations - including four in North Carolina.

The new partnership is aimed at

### INVESTING

increasing charitable donations by encouraging wealthy clients to make gifts to community foundations.

The Foundation for the Carolinas in Charlotte, the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, the Community Foundation of Henderson County in Hendersonville and the Triangle Community Foundation in Research Triangle Park are participating in the new

alliance.

Giving to community foundations offers numerous advantages to donors, including a lower tax burden, says W. Christopher Singleton, director of Merrill Lynch's nonprofit financial services division.

For example, while a gift of appreciated property or stock to a private foundation can result in a 20 percent reduction in a donor's adjusted gross income, a similar gift to a community foundation can result in a reduction of 30 percent.

"A private foundation is expensive to operate and create, whereas the establishment of a community foundation does not involve costs" to the donor, Singleton says. "Another great benefit that community foundations provide to our clients is real knowledge of local needs."

Studies by the Foundation Center show that community foundations are the fastest-growing segment of organized philanthropy. Community foundations are defined as publicly-supported charities that administer

funds contributed by individuals, other foundations, businesses and community organizations.

The newest edition of "North Carolina Giving" shows that since 1991, the assets of Tar Heel community foundations have risen by 41 percent - from \$194 million to \$275 million.

Nationally, more than 400 community foundations hold more than \$10 billion in assets and make annual

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### Giving back Parents fund lab in son's memory

An after-school computer lab for students at Broughton High School in Raleigh has been established by the parents of the late Wade Edwards, a Broughton junior who was killed in a highway accident April 4.

The Wade Edwards Learning Lab, which opens this week at 714 St. Mary's St., also will be open during the school day for students assigned by their teachers, and for teachers and for parent training. It has 22 computers, all sponsored by individuals or businesses.

The lab is an initiative of the Wade Edwards Foundation, which was created by Wade's parents, Raleigh lawyers John Edwards and Elizabeth Anania, to inspire, motivate and reward young people.

Anania says she hopes the lab for Broughton students will serve as a model for similar labs at other high schools.

Other foundation initiatives include an annual statewide short story award for high school students, including \$5,000 for the first-place winner, \$2,000 for second place, \$1,000 for third place and \$2,000 to the winner's English department; a \$5,000 college scholarship to the national winner of the National Conversation Essay Contest; and construction of an outdoor common area at Broughton. Wade Edwards was one of 10 winners this year of the national essay contest.

For information, call (919) 856-9355.



Wade Edwards

A proposed merger between Moses Cone Health System and Wesley Long Community Hospital in Greensboro is expected to result in the creation of a new foundation aimed at improving health care in the Triad.

By BARBARA SOLOW

### Greensboro

The proposed merger of two non-profit hospitals could lead to the creation of a \$50 million foundation dedicated to improving health-care services.

The Wesley Long Community Health Foundation - to be formed as part of a planned merger between Moses Cone Health System and Wesley Long Community Hospital - would make annual grants of about \$2.5 million to health initiatives in the Triad.

The new foundation "will be a unique additional resource for our community," Stephen Hassenfelt, board chairman of Wesley Long, said

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Facing the future

## Merger could boost charity



A merger of Wesley Long and Moses Cone hospitals may lead to a new charity. Neonatologist James Pascale tends to a patient at Wesley Long.

### New at the top Banker heads Joseph Bryan Foundation

Jim Melvin, whose career as a Greensboro banker dates back almost four decades, has been chosen to head a new foundation established by the late philanthropist Joseph M. Bryan.

By BARBARA SOLOW

### Greensboro

Jim Melvin, a former Greensboro mayor and long-time banking executive, has been named the first president and chief executive of the Joseph M. Bryan Foundation for Enrichment of Greater Greensboro.

In one of its first acts of philanthropy, the foundation in October purchased a 530-acre tract of land for \$1.6 million that it will donate to Guilford County and the city of Greensboro for recreation and green space.

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## Wake Education partnership in transition



The Wake Education Partnership aims to improve schools in the county.

The Wake Education Partnership has adopted a two-year strategy to become a leading voice for public education in Wake County. And Millie Herget, president of the fundraising and grantmaking organization, has resigned to return to the business sector.

The new strategy comes in the face of long-standing concerns among the partnership's member organizations about their voice and role in the partnership. The strategy calls for the partnership to create broad citizen awareness for public education; to foster exchanges among schools, the community,

teachers and parents for ongoing involvement in the schools; and to raise and distribute funds to support Wake students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

The partnership will continue to raise money from corporations, foundations and individuals - including an annual campaign that this year raised more than \$365,000 - but will expand its funding beyond its eight members to include other organizations involved in public education. The partnership distributes more than \$1 million a year.

Grants will be made in a number of priority areas that still are to be

defined but that probably will include programs for at-risk students; technology; staff development; and community collaboration.

"We want the opportunity to get our funds closer to the children," says Herget, the partnership's outgoing president. The partnership will encourage organizations seeking funds to find ways to collaborate with other organizations, she says.

The partnership is seeking an executive director to succeed Herget. For information, call the partnership at (919) 821-7609.

### BRIEFLY

#### Billionaire creates fund for immigrants

George Soros, a Hungarian-born financier, has created a \$50 million fund to help immigrants gain U.S. citizenship. Support will include expenses for English classes, citizen education and the \$95 naturalization fee new citizens must pay. Funds will

support nonprofits serving legal immigrants. Contact: Emma Lazarus Fund, Antonio Maciel, 888 Seventh Avenue, 9th Floor, New York, NY, 10106, (212) 887-0167.

#### United Arts offers project grants

The United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County is awarding grants of up to \$1,500 to artists in Wake, Warren, Vance, Johnston and Franklin counties through its Regional Artist Project Grants Program. Three October workshops were held to help artists prepare applications.

#### New directory lists award winners

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund has published its first-ever directory of recipients of the fund's competitive scientific awards. The directory lists 150 award winners, with addresses and telephone numbers. Call (919) 991-5100 or visit the fund's Internet home page at <http://www.bwfund.org/bwfund/>

#### New Era founder indicted for fraud

The federal government has filed an indictment against John G. Bennett Jr., founder of the Foundation for New Era Philanthropy, accusing him of scheming to defraud nonprofits of at least \$115 million. The Pennsylvania-based foundation filed for bankruptcy last year.

#### Charlotte play aims to combat violence

This month, the Children's Theater of Charlotte is hosting a performance of "Nobody's Listening," a play that is part of a cooperative effort between city schools and the theater. It is funded by a grant from the Cannon Foundation. For information, call (704) 376-5745.