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Jim Mathis Announces Retirement from North Georgia Community Foundation

GAINESVILLE, Ga. (June, 2015) –North Georgia Community Foundation President/CEO Jim Mathis has announced his retirement.

He will remain with the Foundation until December 2016 to mentor his successor and spearhead a major campaign to raise funds to support the NGCF's initiatives.

"Under Jim's leadership, the Foundation has enjoyed tremendous success in growing its investment portfolio and providing philanthropic opportunities," said Strother Randolph, chairman of the North Georgia Community Foundation board of directors. "Jim is a strong leader, a visionary, and has guided the organization in an exemplary manner."

Today the Foundation has philanthropic assets of nearly \$50 million as well as \$174 million in assets under management. NGCF has made over \$50 million in grants and scholarships since its founding in 1985.

Mathis has served as president and CEO since 1998 and has helped guide the Foundation's growth. Under his leadership, NGCF became the first foundation in Georgia to achieve the National Standards for US Community Foundations, based on accountability, transparency and continuous self-improvement. The organization was recertified in 2011.

"It has been my honor to work with our staff, board and donors for the past 17 years to build a firm foundation for North Georgia Community Foundation," said Mathis. "Creating legacies through philanthropy is at the heart of what we do – something that was my passion even before it was my profession. I look forward to following the continued success of the Community Foundation as it grows and furthers its impact in our community."

The NGCF board has formed a search committee led by board chair-elect Daren Wayne. Joining Wayne on the committee are Jim Mathis, Strother Randolph, Rick Asbill, Lynda Askew, Tim Darrah, Shane Gaddy, James McCoy and Mary Hart Wilheit. The committee has engaged The Chason Group to assist in the search for its new executive.

“The Search Committee will be conducting a thorough and extensive search for the new President/CEO,” Wayne said. “We hope to attract candidates from a wide range of backgrounds with proven leadership experience, communication skills, financial expertise, vision and character. Most importantly, we are looking for someone whose exceptional credentials and capabilities are matched by their passion for serving the community.”

Founded in 1985 by Lou Fockele and other business leaders, the North Georgia Community Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the spirit and quality of life in the Northeast Georgia community by building, managing and awarding charitable grants from a pool of community funds valued in excess of \$47 million. To date, more than \$50 million in grants have been awarded. The organization also promotes training and networking among the region’s nearly 300 non-profits. For more information, please contact the foundation at www.ngcf.org or call (770) 535-7880 ext. 226.

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