

For more information, contact:

**Jim Mathis, President**  
**North Georgia Community Foundation**  
770 533-7393  
jmathis@ngcf.org

### **NGCF Accepting Philanthropists of the Year and Woodrow Stewart Awards Nominations**

**GAINESVILLE, Ga. (March 17, 2015)** – The North Georgia Community Foundation, which is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, has opened the nomination process for its 2015 Philanthropists of the Year and Woodrow Stewart Leadership in Philanthropy awards.

The Philanthropist of the Year Award recognizes an individual or family for their impact on the region through their lifetime of giving. The Woodrow Stewart Leadership in Philanthropy Award is given to philanthropists who show exceptional generosity and a passion for bettering the quality of life in North Georgia. Applications for both awards will be accepted through May 15.

The North Georgia Community Foundation will honor the winners at its Philanthropy Day Luncheon on Nov. 19 at the First Baptist Church Banquet Hall in Gainesville.

“Our Philanthropist of the Year award is the Foundation’s way of honoring people in our community who have given their financial support, time and effort to help others,” North Georgia Community Foundation President/CEO Jim Mathis said. “If you know an individual or family that deserves recognition for their philanthropy, please consider nominating them for this prestigious award.”

To be eligible for either honor, a person must be nominated and live in the Foundation’s 15-county service area which includes Banks, Dawson, Fannin, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Jackson, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union and White counties.

A selection committee comprised of five previous recipients, three members of the Foundation’s board and three at-large members will choose the finalists for each honor.

Previous Philanthropists of the Year recipients are Tommy and Chantel Bagwell, Lorry and Sherrie Schrage, Dr. Richard and Phyllis Leet, Jim Walters, Philip & Mary Hart Wilheit, Mrs. Lessie Smithgall, Mike and Lynn Cottrell, George and Anne Thomas, John and Martha Jacobs and Walter and Winkie Boomershine.

Don and Pat Pirkle and Kevin Price are previous recipients of Woodrow Stewart award. The award is named in honor of the late Woodrow Stewart, who dedicated his life to improving the quality of life in the North Georgia community. He was honored posthumously with the first award.

Nomination forms and eligibility criteria can be downloaded from the Foundation's website, [www.ngcf.org/poy](http://www.ngcf.org/poy) or you may call (770) 535-7880, ext. 221 for more information.

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](http://www.ngcf.org) or call (770) 535-7880 ext. 226.

###