



THE ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION

LEADING COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT THROUGH NONPROFIT SUSTAINABILITY & INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY

Release:	IMMEDIATE	Contact:	Mary E. Renwick
Date:	12/15/2011	Email:	maryr.taf@gmail.com
		Phone:	(540) 345-1292

The Advancement Foundation announces obtaining a grant from Rack Room Shoes that provided shoes to underprivileged persons in the Roanoke Valley!

Roanoke, VA – The Advancement Foundation has obtained a grant from Rack Room Shoes allowed the Foundation to distribute over 550 pairs of shoes to individuals living in poverty in the Roanoke Valley this holiday season! The grant was won by an AmeriCorps*VISTA member, Julie Piernikowski, who works with The Advancement Foundation to develop capacity and sustainability in local non-profits who fight poverty. The shoes were delivered to The Advancement Foundation's offices located in the Charity Cottage Thrift Store at 301 South Pollard St. in Vinton on Wednesday, December 14th, 2011.

Rack Room stores throughout the country raise funds to provide shoes to the needy so they can attend school/work in comfort and with dignity. By taking away this concern, Rack Room feels that they are enabling those they help to grow and improve their lives because they are able to concentrate on their other needs rather than their circumstances.

The shoes were distributed to East Mental Health, two non-profits which The Advancement Foundation serves, Manna Ministries and The West End Center for Youth, as well as, several other small local charities. Manna Ministries is a food pantry providing nourishment and hope to the working poor in the Vinton area. While the West End Center for Youth enables inner city youth to lead more self-determined and enriched lives by creating a positive and nurturing child development community.

With this grant award of brand new shoes from Rack Room Shoes valuing well over \$25,000, The Advancement Foundation is spreading the spirit of the season throughout the Roanoke Valley by providing those in need with a little more comfort as the weather gets colder out!

For further questions please do not hesitate to contact us at 540-345-1292 or send us an email at maryr.taf@gmail.com.

###

*** Images attached are of the initial delivery of the boxes of shoes from Rack Room Shoes to The Advancement Foundation