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NEW TELLICO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MAKES FIRST GRANTS

(Photo of Award to SMSD with appropriate caption.)

Really surprised!

That best describes Mike Kitchens reaction to the news that the new Tellico Community Foundation (TCF) had selected Smoky Mountain Service Dogs (SMSD) as one of the Foundation's first grant recipients. Kitchens is volunteer chair and founder of SMSD.

The new foundation also recently issued grants to the Tellico Village Volunteer Fire Department and the Tennessee Bluebird Society. All toll, \$1,420 of funding was issued to the three organizations.

According to Kitchens, "Our group will use this award for a wide-range of canine care supplies to assist our trainers prepare these exceptional dogs to support our disabled war veterans. We were really surprised and honored to be one of the first groups selected by this new foundation."

The TCF was organized this past summer by a small group of Tellico Villagers. The goals of the foundation are to enrich the lives of the greater community by evaluating and addressing community issues, connecting generosity to programs and projects, and nurturing a culture of charitable giving. This new Village organization is affiliated with the East Tennessee Foundation, a collection of hundreds of individual charitable funds, affiliate funds and supporting foundations covering a 25 county region in East Tennessee.

The Tellico Village Volunteer Fire Department will use the donated funds to help underwrite Emergency Medical Responders education and training. The grant given to the Tennessee Bluebird Society will be used for nature area signage and to further the group's efforts to obtain Audubon Society designation for the Village's golf courses.

"The TCF was pleased to make these awards to these valued organizations," commented Joe Beyel, chair of the new foundation. "As the TCF continues to grow, we hope to expand our gifting to other worthwhile programs and groups in the Village and surrounding area."

Beyel asked Villagers, as they consider year-end charitable giving, to consider a donation to the TCF. Gifting options, including online giving, as well as more information about the Tellico Community Foundation can be accessed at www.etf.org/Tellico and on *Tellico Life*.

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