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## **BYERLY FOUNDATION SEEKING GRANT-CONCEPT LETTERS**

Hartsville, S.C. – The Byerly Foundation is accepting concept letters for the first cycle of grant funding of the 2008/2009 year through October 30, 2008. The Foundation Board will review the proposals and will begin awarding accepted grants during December.

The Byerly Foundation, which was formed with the sale of the Byerly Hospital in 1995, has been awarding grants for Hartsville-focused projects since 1998. The Foundation funds non-profit 501(C) 3 organizations as well as schools, colleges, and governmental sponsored community projects. The major requirement is that the projects have a direct impact on the Hartsville area. Letters should indicate the concept of the project, the objectives of the project, how the organization plans to achieve those objectives and how much funding is being requested for the project. The Foundation generally does not support grants for scholarships or grants to individuals.

### **Request for Proposals**

One new element that is being added to the grant cycle this year is a Request for Proposals that will be going out from the Foundation to those who would be interested in addressing the challenge of “at-risk” middle school students. The Foundation Board hopes to fund some strategies that will help these students accelerate their learning and enter high school more prepared for success. The Foundation has not used a Request for Proposal idea in the past and is exploring the efficacy of this means of getting grant proposals to concentrate on a specific target area.

The Byerly Foundation Board of Trustees is responsible for allocating the Foundation’s assets. The concept letters are the first step in the process. If the Board feels the timing of the concept works they will ask the organization for more information on which to determine final funding approval. “The Board generally looks for projects that will have a direct and lasting impact on the Hartsville community. They want to know that the project will be able to continue to affect citizens in the future” said Dick Puffer, Executive Director of The Byerly Foundation. “The Foundation has been using concept letters, rather than fully developed grant proposals in the hopes of saving time and money for the requesting organization, in the event a program should not receive funding.”

Anyone with additional questions about the concept letters should contact the Foundation at 383-2400.