TJF Receives $5 Million for Education

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation has received a $5 million gift in support of its education mission through the interest, initiative, and generosity of Hunter and Carl Smith of Charlottesville.

The largest part of the gift, $3 million, is for design and construction of a new education facility at Monticello, to be named the Carl and Hunter Smith History Center. Preliminary plans call for the center to be built near the existing Ticket Office and Shuttle Station as part of a new visitors complex. The facility is to include classrooms, an auditorium, an interactive area for children, and an orientation space for arriving school groups.

“The enlightened philanthropy of Carl and Hunter will enrich the lives of millions of schoolchildren and thousands of teachers for generations to come,” said Thomas A. Saunders III, chairman of the Foundation Board of Trustees. “The foundation is grateful for a gift that is truly transformational.”

The remainder of the gift endows Monticello’s Education Department, now the Carl and Hunter Smith Education Department, and the position of director, now the Hunter J. Smith Director of Education.

“Carl and Hunter have made a bold statement to advance the educational program at Monticello,” said TJF President Daniel P. Jordan. “They believe, as we do, that young people need to know American history, now more than ever, and that their teachers

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CONTINUED, PAGE TWO

need and deserve recognition and support.”

The department, which was established in 1986 and operates as a component of the International Center for Jefferson Studies, is currently based in the Monticello Visitors Center. It offers a wide range of programs for elementary through high school students and teachers, including study tours, school resource packets, summer camps, online resources, curriculum units, and outreach programs.

Each year, approximately 13,000 students from more than 15 states participate in the study tours alone. The new facility and endowments will allow more of the approximately 100,000 schoolchildren who visit Monticello each year to participate in these enhanced programs.

Hunter Smith is secretary of the Foundation Board of Trustees, of which she has been a member since 1996. Carl Smith is the founder of AMVEST Corp., a privately held company specializing in coal mining, natural gas production, and finance.

The gift was made by the Carl Smith Donor Advised Fund of The Community Foundation Serving Richmond & Central Virginia.

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org

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