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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY FUND ANNOUNCES NEW DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, MARGO MILLER

Knoxville, Tennessee -- The Appalachian Community Fund (ACF) is pleased to announce that Margo Miller has been named Development Director as of September 15. The Appalachian Community Fund is a regionally based and controlled grant making resource for grassroots organizations working to change systemic economic, racial, environmental, and social inequalities in Central Appalachia (Eastern Kentucky, Southwest Virginia, East Tennessee, and the state of West Virginia).

“It’s my desire to make a positive difference and change through my work here and to be back in Appalachia where I was born and raised” Miller said.

As the Development Director for the Appalachian Community Fund, Miller will coordinate donor and fundraising programs and marketing for the Fund as well as publication of *AppalActions*, the ACF newsletter. Miller will provide media and communications relations about Appalachia and ACF’s grantees as well as other development materials.

Miller is an East Tennessee native, and she returns to Knoxville after living and working in Washington, DC for eight years. While in DC, Miller was on the staff of the Washington Performing Arts Society. She also worked for the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, and the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange in Takoma Park, MD.

A cultural activist who sees art as a powerful tool for organizing and uniting communities, Miller brings a

passion for social justice and cultural activism to her new role with ACF. In the Knoxville area, she worked for several years as a professional actor and arts administrator for the Carpetbag Theatre, a professional multigenerational ensemble company whose mission is to give artistic voice to the issues and dreams of people who have been silenced by racism, classism, sexism, ageism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression. Additionally she worked with many community groups including Knoxville Women's Center, Community Shares of Tennessee, American Festival Project and Alternate ROOTS; and she served on the advisory committee for the "We Shall Overcome Fund" of the Highlander Research and Education Center.

Miller is excited to be back in Appalachia and working for ACF. "I'm grateful to be back in the community that has played such an important role in shaping my views, and I'm proud to work with an organization that is supporting systemic change in this region I call home."

The Appalachian Community Fund (ACF) was founded to bring resources and provide grants to groups for community organizing and social change in the central region of Appalachia (East Tennessee, Eastern Kentucky, Southwest Virginia and all of West Virginia). With an office in Knoxville, Tenn., the Fund offers grants for community-based organizations addressing underlying causes of the economic and social distress of the region. ACF also seeks to become a sustainable resource to the region through building a long-term resource base and expanding community philanthropy in the region and is built on a model of community-based philanthropy for social change. In its history, ACF has distributed more than \$5 million to over 300 community organizations.

You can find out more about ACF and the organizations it supports on their website, www.appalachiancommunityfund.org.

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