



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### GRASP, A COLLEGE ACCESS ORGANIZATION, ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Elsie Rose, CPA

Stacey Strawn

RICHMOND, VA GRASP (GReat Aspirations Scholarship Program, Inc.), a non-profit, education organization, headquartered in Glen Allen, recently elected Elsie Rose, CPA, a Principal with Yount, Hyde & Barbour, PC, and Stacey Strawn, President, Catalog Systems, Inc., to its Board of Directors.

“We are thrilled to have Elsie and Stacey joining our Board,” said Betsy Heggie, GRASP CEO. “Their unique career experiences and their commitment to the GRASP mission of helping all students achieve their educational goals after high school will greatly enhance GRASP’s efforts to continue to provide valuable services to students and their families.”

GRASP is dedicated to helping primarily low income and disabled students overcome financial and social barriers to attending college or vocational education after high school. Supported by individual, foundation and business donations, GRASP has advisors in 70 public and private schools throughout Virginia and provides services and scholarship assistance free of charge to students and their families. In the most recent school year, GRASP advisors assisted over 6,100 students and their families in developing post-secondary education game plans and leveraged more than an estimated \$55 million in financial aid.

“I am thrilled to join this Board who is so dedicated to our mission of ensuring access to education for every Virginia student and empowering them to reach their greatest success,” said Rose.

Elsie, a Virginia Commonwealth University graduate, has been working in the accounting field since 1980. Her specific expertise is in the areas of businesses and non-profits.

Elsie has been involved in numerous boards and organizations including the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants, Member and Past Chair; Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants Educational Foundation, Past Chair; CPA PAC, Board Member; Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce – IMPACT Award Committee; Rotary Club of Hanover, Past President; Instructive Visiting Nurse Association (INVA), Board Member; Ellen Shaw de Paredes Breast Cancer Foundation, Board Member; Hanover Safe Place, Board Member; Virginia Child Care Resource and Referral Network, Past President and former Board Member; and Safe Harbor, Inc., Past President and former Board Member.

“It is such a delight to be asked to join the board of an organization so close to my heart. As the parent of a high school senior, I understand the difficulty and confusion surrounding the college application and scholarship process. This process requires a great deal of time and support. GRASP is a program that helps students with limited financial resources not only apply for and secure funds to go to college, but even help them fill out college applications, meet deadlines, and decide on their best course of action. It is truly an honor to become part of the GRASP Board of Directors,” Strawn said.

Stacey earned her undergraduate degree from James Madison University and her master’s degree from George Washington University. She is currently President, Catalog Systems, Inc. and is a small business advocate and Internet entrepreneur in Waynesboro, VA. She has appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Virginia Business Magazine, and as a guest on NPR’s Marketplace in regards to her business experience. Catalog Systems is a family of retail web sites offering fine gifts and collectibles for sale via the Internet. SilverGallery.com, the largest of the web stores, is known as a favorite of celebrities. Silver Gallery has been chosen by the Screen Actors' Guild for the past nine years as the official source picture frames for the SAG Awards, as well as the MTV 2014 Movie Awards.

Additionally, Stacey currently serves on the boards of the Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation and the Waynesboro Family YMCA. She and her husband and business partner, Steve Dahl, are major supporters of GRASP, Waynesboro’s Wayne Theatre Alliance, the Waynesboro YMCA and other local charitable organizations.

GRASP was organized by Senator Walter Stosch (R-Henrico), a long-time advocate for disadvantaged youth and Dr. Raymond Gargiulo, a career educator. GRASP board members include Dr. Robert Holsworth, Chairman, Dr. David Brat, Vice Chairman, Thomas M. Denson, Treasurer, Jane M. Alford, Dr. David L. Bailey, Kenneth D. Barker, Dr. William C. Bosher, Jr., David W. Didawick, Kenneth M. Dye, Edward L. Flippen, Esq., Dr. Raymond Gargiulo, Andrea McDaniel, Dr. Robyn Diehl McDougale, Robert B. Maxwell, III, and Dr. Sarah H. Scarbrough. For more information about GRASP, visit the organization’s website at [www.grasp4va.org](http://www.grasp4va.org). Follow on Twitter at: <http://www.twitter.com/GRASPFlash>.

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