Written by Cathy Williamson
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Five years ago the Appalachian Women's Fund joined forces with Bonnie and Jamie Schaefer, owners of Westglow Resort & Spa to establish this area's leading and largest independent women's fund. For the fifth consecutive year, the Schaefers are the Premiere Sponsor and underwriters of the annual Woman of Vision Luncheon taking place at Linville Ridge Country Club on June 21st.

The Schaefers are among the founding members of the Appalachian Women's Fund and their support has never wavered. Five years later, the fund continues to grow and flourish because of the financial sponsorship of the Westglow Resort owners. Spending time between Boca Raton and Blowing Rock, the Schaefers' philanthropic roots are deeply planted in both places.

"I hope Bonnie and Jamie are proud of the strides the AWF has made toward improving the odds for many disenfranchised women and girls. Sponsoring the event keeps the cost low and enables more money to make its way back into the community where it is needed most," said AWF President Jean Brooks. "To have the endorsement of Bonnie and Jamie sends a loud and clear signal that this fund is standing the test of time and positively impacting the lives of impoverished women and girls in the region," Brooks added.

Nationally, the Schaefers work with the Women's Media Center in New York, Equality Now, Women Moving Millions, the Women's Funding network, the Women's Division of the Weizmann Institute of Science and co-created the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition's Run/Walk. The couple's local philanthropic endeavors include funding the region's first and only synagogue, slated to open for worship on June 22nd. Farthing Auditorium will be renamed the Schaefer Center for the Performing Arts after a lengthy renovation and the Watauga Humane Society is also among the non-profits benefitting from the Schaefers' support. "When I look at the stature of the causes supported by Bonnie and Jamie, I am so proud that our women's fund is among such an esteemed group" said AWF Executive Director, Parker Stevens. "They are generous, compassionate women who took a leap of faith with us five years ago and we could not be more humbled to have their continued support," Stevens said.

To purchase tickets to the 2012 Woman of Vision Luncheon, call 828-264-4002 or reserve tickets online at www.appalachianwomensfund.org. Tickets are $60 per person and seating is limited.