

Charlotte County

A Practical Vision for the Future

By the year 2012, the residents of Charlotte County will enjoy **an improved standard of living**. Poverty will have been significantly reduced and personal and family incomes will approach national averages.

Charlotte County will enjoy a greater degree of **economic growth and stability** than in the past decade. This growth will be fueled by small business development, expanding job opportunities for young people and local entrepreneurs. Farming and other traditional sources have been preserved and strengthened.

Technology related job opportunities will have increased as a result of new industrial growth, a telecommunications center and a technology incubator for small businesses. These accomplishments were brought about by providing the necessary **infrastructure for economic growth** including fiber optic networks, industrial park sites, good highways, water and sewer service and a skilled workforce.

Tourism is an important industry in the county. The county's tourism marketing efforts promote the numerous natural, scenic, historic and recreational resources the area has to offer. A resort motel, a cultural center, numerous shopping opportunities and other resources help attract both visitors and residents alike while providing new job opportunities.

Our educational institutions are known for their **educational excellence**. The county school system is run efficiently and its pupils rank near the top every year on the State Standards of Learning. Southside Virginia Community College now offers four-year degrees and, overall, adult literacy has markedly improved.

Charlotte County has a **strong image and identity**. We communicate our image and stay connected to one another through our local radio station and the internet links we have established.

Our **safe, family-oriented communities** provide recreational opportunities for all ages, including a YMCA park for youth. Our youth are drug free and active in the community, helping to contribute to a safe, clean and healthy place to live and work. **Quality health care** and emergency services are available, and **daycare services** are available throughout the county.

Source: Summary of Accomplishments, Charlotte County Strategic Planning Workshop, May 30, 2002

Figure 1-1