

## The Community Connection

Winter 2015

Volume 9, Issue 2

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### Avalon Endows Its Future

Avalon: A Center for Women and Children began a campaign last spring to raise the funds to start an endowment. After much thought, the Board of Directors of Avalon decided to entrust this endowment to the Williamsburg Community Foundation. The permanent fund is designed to support the work of Avalon over the long term.

Terri Christin, Executive Director noted, "this endowment represents a source of enduring support that will be a great asset in our fight against sexual assault and domestic violence for years to come." By offering tools for safety, self-sufficiency, and empowerment, Avalon works to break the cycle



Nancy Sullivan, WCF Executive Director received the first donation toward the Avalon Endowment Fund from Terri Christin, Executive Director and Brian Muse, Chairman of Avalon.

of abuse and helps create a positive future. To make a gift to the endowment visit [www.avaloncenter.org](http://www.avaloncenter.org).

### An Occasion for the Arts Announces Fund

Stuart Honenberger, president of An Occasion for the Arts, announced to an audience of WCF friends that the nonprofit organization has created a new endowment fund at the Williamsburg Community Foundation to support the arts in greater Williamsburg. In making the announcement Stuart said "We are grateful for the role the Community Foundation plays in Williamsburg and found it to be the perfect partner to enhance the impact An Occasion has strived to have for over four decades." The fund will provide grants to non-profit organizations and local schools in order to assure continued support of young artists in our area.

An Occasion for the Arts, the area's premier art and music festival, will take place on October 1 and 2, 2016. Donations



may be made directly to the fund at the Foundation. The fund will have an advisory committee of AOFTA volunteers that will develop guidelines and initiatives for grants in the coming months. For more information about An Occasion for the Arts visit [www.aofta.org](http://www.aofta.org).

## Center for Veteran's Engagement Receives Grant

The Center for Veteran's Engagement at William and Mary received its first grant from WCF this fall. The Veterans Writing Groups (VWG) offer free, monthly creative writing sessions to service members, veterans, and military family members of all writing backgrounds and skill levels. Group members complete writing prompts and receive feedback during meetings, share their work with fellow members for comments and criticism between sessions, publish in blogs and journals, compete in writing contests, and attend guest speaker events.

The grant from WCF provides a stipend so that the program can hire professional writing instructors to work with veterans on their writing projects. The program provides a therapeutic benefit to veterans without the perceived stigma typically associated with therapy. It also connects our local veterans with other members of the community fostering improved understanding among W&M students, faculty, community members and the veterans themselves. For more information on the program visit [www.asapasap.org](http://www.asapasap.org).

**With your help, we can do more!**  
**Your Gift or Bequest will Make a Difference for Williamsburg.**

## Women & Girls Fund Awards Grant

We live in a world where women's roles have expanded to encompass every facet of society from first responders to wall street wizards to college presidents. And yet, there is one role that can still bring anxiety and/or depression even to the most accomplished among us; motherhood. During pregnancy and the first year after giving birth perinatal mood and anxiety disorders often referred to as post partum depression affect up to 1 in 5 new or expectant mothers and their families. These illnesses – also known as , or PMADs — are the #1 complication of pregnancy and child-birth.

Women of every culture, age, income level, and race can develop PMADs. Symptoms can appear anytime during the



two-year span from conception through baby's first birthday. Onset of symptoms may be gradual or sudden. One group in Virginia is working to help women who are experiencing this problem.

Postpartum Support of VA, Inc. recently received its first grant from WCF from the Williamsburg Fund for Women and Girls. The grant will help the organization spread the word throughout our area about resources available in our community for women experiencing PMADs. A support group meets at the Williamsburg Regional Library on Scotland Street, 2nd Tuesday morn-

ing of the month. Contact Diana McSpadden, [dmcspadden@postpartumva.org](mailto:dmcspadden@postpartumva.org) or 757-349-6641, for more information.

## Your Gifts Help Williamsburg

WCF distributed \$52,700 at its Fall Grant Award luncheon. The total includes \$10,000 contributed by some of the Foundation’s Donor-advisors who chose to fund applications received by the Distribution Committee. An additional \$22,813 was awarded after the luncheon.

The luncheon was sponsored by Oleta Coach Lines. Howard Smith, owner of Oleta Coach Lines, spoke at the luncheon about his feeling that the Foundation mirrors what he and his family have chosen to support in the community over the years.

Each of the organizations present at the luncheon had an opportunity to provide information about their programs. “The beauty of attending the luncheon as a donor is that not only do you have an opportunity to hear about how your gifts have supported the community, you learn about new programs and needs that you did not know existed,” noted Margaret Pritchard, Chairman.

### Community Endowment Grants

Funds established by 93 families support grants to organizations in Williamsburg, James City County and York County.

- Bacon Street Youth & Family Services
- Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment
- James River Elementary School
- One Child Center for Autism
- The Williamsburg Symphonia
- W&M Center for Veterans Engagement

### Genevieve McGiffert Memorial Fund for the Musical Performing Arts

Established by Linda & Donald Baker and Michael McGiffert to support vocal performances for adults.

- Williamsburg Music Club
- Williamsburg Choral Guild

### Williamsburg Fund for Women & Girls

Established by Stephanie and Bob King to support programs for Women and Girls in the greater Williamsburg area.

- Postpartum Support Virginia, Inc.

### Benjamin R. Altshuler Memorial Fund — Transportation

Ben Altshuler left part of his estate to make transportation accessible and affordable, enabling residents of the area to participate in community life.

- Avalon: A Center for Women & Children
- Colonial Behavioral Health
- Lead Historic Triangle Class of 2015
- Williamsburg Area Faith in Action
- Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

**Benjamin R. Altshuler Memorial Fund —Amateur Sports**—Ben Altshuler left the remainder of his estate to support amateur sports, with a preference for wrestling, programs throughout the area.

*(Continued on page 4)*



# Connecting People Who Care With Causes That Matter...Forever

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## Your Gifts Help Williamsburg

Past Chairman Karen Jamison, past Trustee Craig Stambaugh and current Trustee Chrissy Williamson enjoyed the Fall Grant Luncheon.



*(Continued from page 3)*

These grants were presented at a later date.

New Kent H.S. Wrestling  
Smithfield Wrestling Athletic Booster Club  
Tabb H.S. Wrestling  
Warhill H.S. Wrestling  
Warwick H.S. Wrestling  
Williamsburg Boat Club

The following grants were awarded by our generous donor-advisors to assist agencies that WCF was not able to fund through the Community Endowment or other funds. Donor-advisors receive information on WCF grant applicants. “Having a direct connection to the community is one of the benefits that we receive as members of the Community Foundation family.” noted a WCF donor who wishes for his and his wife’s grants to remain anonymous.

### Donor Advised Grants

The ARC of Greater Williamsburg  
Lackey Free Clinic  
Reach Out and Read of Virginia

For more information on establishing a Donor-Advised Fund this year call us at 757-259-1660 or email [ncsullivan@williamsburgcommunityfoundation.org](mailto:ncsullivan@williamsburgcommunityfoundation.org).