

The Community Connection

Winter 2017

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Giving is a Beck Family Tradition

By Margaret Beck Pritchard

From an early age my parents instilled the importance of the giving experience in their three daughters. For many years each of us donated funds to support individual organizations of our choosing. About ten years ago we became involved with the Williamsburg Community Foundation. Since that time, the Foundation has provided us with an opportunity to become more engaged with the needs of our community while at the same time it has helped us to define and strengthen our individual and shared family values.



By establishing a donor-advised fund, families can direct their philanthropy through a community foundation just as effectively as those that have formed private family foundations. Family members can engage with one another in selecting organizations to support that

provide services to the community that speak to their core values. Giving back to the community together, as a family, has strengthened our relationships with one another and provided us with a shared experience.



There is a very big return when investing in the community—a return that is magnified by approaching the investment as a family partnership.

We are grateful for all that the Williamsburg Community Foundation has done to educate us about needs in our area and for providing us with guidance in directing our philanthropy.



Pictured Clockwise from

Top: Bobby and Hope Beck with daughter Margaret Beck Pritchard; Bobby Beck with daughter Jane Beck; and Catherine (Beck) Swetnam with her husband Rex Swetnam.

What is a Donor-Advised Fund?

- When you make a gift of cash, appreciated stocks, or other assets, (\$10,000 or more), we can set up a Donor-Advised Fund in your name. It just takes one simple form.
- **You receive immediate tax benefits in the year your gift is made, but can make charitable gifts from your fund anytime.**
- At your request, the Foundation will award grants in the name of your fund (or anonymously if you prefer) to tax-exempt organizations, government entities or religious organizations anywhere in the United States. You can also choose a successor advisor to make grants from your fund in the future.
- The Foundation takes care of writing checks, distributing grants, filing paperwork, and conducting due diligence on each grant recipient. We will send you a detailed statement on the fund quarterly.

To learn more, contact Nancy Sullivan at 757-259-1660 or nesullivan@williamsburgcommunityfoundation.org.

Fall Grants Awarded to 17 Local Nonprofits



The Foundation awarded \$59,117 in grants this fall.

This is only possible because of the generosity of our community! Your giving makes a difference in the lives of your neighbors everyday.

Community Endowment

Angels of Mercy Medical Clinic: Medical equipment and supplies to expand medical services in a satellite location.

Armed Services Arts Partnership: Creative writing workshop for veterans, service members and military families.

Jamestown 4-H Educational Center: Weekend family retreats for military families.

Lackey Clinic: Healthy Lifestyle program to provide a Diabetes Nurse Educator and Healthy Lifestyle Coach.

One Child Center for Autism: Monthly Kids' Nights offer a night of qualified childcare to parents of children with special needs aged 1-16.

The Fairfield Foundation: Hands-on educational archaeology events at New Quarter Park in Williamsburg.

Williamsburg Area Faith in Action: To expand the reach and capacity of the in-home services program for seniors.

Donor Advised

The grants below were made possible by an anonymous donor:

Avalon: A Center for Women and Children
Colonial Court Appointed Special Advocates

Benjamin R. Altshuler Memorial Fund: Transportation

The Arc of Greater Williamsburg: Grant supports purchase of two new customized, handicapped-accessible vans.

Avalon: A Center for Women and Children: Supports van transportation for emergency shelter residents.

Colonial Behavioral Health: Supports a portion of the cost of three vehicles used to transport seniors and individuals with developmental disabilities to medical appointments, grocery shopping, etc. in order for them to maintain independent living.

Peninsula Agency on Aging: RIDES provides safe, reliable transportation to seniors.

Williamsburg House of Mercy: Funding to purchase bus passes and gas card vouchers for the low income working poor, offering reliable means to commute to work.

Williamsburg Fund for Women and Girls

Postpartum Support Virginia (Danielle Cauley, photo—right) received a grant for their support groups for women experiencing postpartum depression. Stephanie King (left) established the fund and presented the award.



Grants—Continued on page 4



We are so grateful to our grant lunch sponsors, Middle Peninsula Insurance and Village Bank. Thank you for helping recognize the outstanding work being done in greater Williamsburg!



Caring for Your Community Investments



Stewardship of charitable funds is among the most important services that the Community Foundation provides to donors and nonprofit organizations. In this article, WCF treasurer **Bill Roberts** explains how WCF invests and manages its funds.

Q: How does the Foundation invest its funds?

A: The endowment fund, which currently totals about \$5 million, is invested for the long term, with the goal of producing a return that exceeds the rate of inflation, after annual distributions for grants and operating expenses. Permanent funds such as community endowment funds, agency endowment funds and field-of-interest funds are invested with the endowment fund. Donor-advised funds, which currently total about \$700,000, are normally invested in short-term assets, although donors who expect their funds to be more permanent in nature may choose to invest their funds with the endowment.

Q: Who oversees the Foundation's investments?

A: A volunteer committee of experienced business and finance professionals oversees management of the funds, with the support of Mason Investment Advisory Services, an independent investment consultant based in Northern Virginia.

Q: What is in the portfolio and how are assets allocated?

A: Because of its long-term nature and the need to protect its purchasing power, the endowment fund looks beyond short-term fluctuations in financial markets. Risk is mitigated by the broad diversification of the Foundation's portfolio, which encompasses carefully chosen categories of stocks and bonds, both U.S. and

international. Long-term targets reflect a profile that averages 77% stocks and similar risk assets, and 23% bonds. Within these categories, about one-quarter will represent international investments, with three-quarters U.S.-domiciled.

These broad asset allocation decisions are implemented by investing in institutional mutual funds and exchange-traded funds with low fees and strong performance records. The managers of the mutual funds are monitored by our investment consultant to ensure, among other things, that the portfolio is conforming to its stated investment objectives and that their performance remains strong, compared with other funds with a similar mandate. Our finance and investment committee meets with the investment consultant quarterly to review detailed reports on investment allocations and performance. We also compare our fund performance and asset allocation with other community foundations and with well-established multi-asset funds that are available to us as an investor.

Q: What has the return on investment been this year?

A: Results have been good. Total return to the endowment in the 12 months ended June 30, 2017, was 12.8%, which was above average for community foundations with less than \$50 million in assets and near the average of 13.0% for community foundations of all sizes. Our recent returns are also competitive with college and university endowments that publish their returns.

Market returns since the bottom of the financial crisis in 2009 have been excellent for most investors. History suggests that it will be difficult for returns to continue at this pace, and we, along with many others, are keeping the spending rate from our endowment at a conservative level, so that beneficiaries of the Foundation's grantmaking will not be penalized if there is a pause in the markets' upward path.

Altshuler Grant Supports Community Mental Health

In his lifetime Ben Altshuler was passionate about transportation issues. After his passing in 2007, he left a bequest that has provided more than \$120,000 in grants to increase access to transportation to enable people to participate in community life.

Colonial Behavioral Health received an Altshuler Grant in 2016 to purchase a vehicle for its PACT team.

The mission of the Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) team is to provide comprehensive community-based services for individuals with serious mental illnesses and severe co-occurring disorders in an effort to facilitate recovery and prevent recurring hospitalizations or incarcerations. Services are provided in community locations, such as in the home, that are comfortable and convenient for the clients.

Pictured: Diane Green, PACT Coordinator, Dr. Dan Longo, Director of Behavioral Services, PACT Psychiatrist Dr. Joselito Morales and the PACT team with the new vehicle.



The PACT Team at Colonial Behavioral Health

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



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Nancy Cote Sullivan, **Executive Director**

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McGiffert Grant Recipients

Genevieve McGiffert Fund for Musical Performing Arts

The following organizations received grants from the McGiffert Fund, established by Linda Baker (above, left), Don Baker, and Mike McGiffert, in memory of Genevieve McGiffert. Additional funding to each group was provided by an anonymous donor:

Williamsburg Women's Chorus: Holiday Concert
Williamsburg Choral Guild: May 2018 Concert
Williamsburg Music Club: Monthly Musicales

Spring Community Endowment
Grants Deadline: January 17, 2018

Marian Dawson Supports The Arc with a Donor-Advised Fund Grant

If you have a Donor Advised Fund with WCF, you have the opportunity to use your fund to support special projects or emerging needs right here in your hometown. Marian Dawson (below, second from right) learned from WCF that **The Arc of Greater Williamsburg** had a need for a new van to transport clients with intellectual disabilities. She was able to make a grant from her donor-advised fund to the Arc specifically for the purpose of purchasing a van. This allows the Arc clients to participate more fully in the life of the community they call home — what a wonderful gift!

