

Educating the Next Generation of Environmentalists

Mike and Jeanne Millin enjoy any excuse to be outside, but one of their favorite activities is birdwatching. Their worldwide birdwatching trips have added to the bird count within the U.S. and abroad, and they have been actively involved in the Williamsburg Bird Club for over ten years. Now, thanks to an incredible gift from their son Michael and his wife Amy and their children, Mike and Jeanne can pass on their love of nature to the next generation.

Michael surprised his parents with a very special gift last year. Partnering with WCF, Michael, Amy and their family established a fund in recognition of his parent's lifelong passion for sustaining the environment and educating youth in environmental stewardship.

"We felt it was important to ensure that many students, over many generations, have the opportunity to take advantage of such a wonderful, local resource," said Michael.

The Mike and Jeanne Millin Fund which will support **Williamsburg Bird Club scholarships to send local youth to Nature Camp**, a two-week educational experience in the George Washington National Forest. Studies have shown that when



The Mike and Jeanne Millin Fund will support Williamsburg Bird Club scholarships for Nature Camp.

children feel connected to nature, they are more likely to feel a personal responsibility to protect and preserve it.

"Both my husband and I agree that *kids belong outside*," says Jeanne, "and giving the gift of nature is one of the best gifts you can give them."

For more information about the Williamsburg Bird Club and Nature Camp Scholarships, please visit WilliamsburgBirdClub.org.

Unsure about the new tax law? Save on taxes when you give from your IRA

If you are age 70 and 1/2 and have an IRA, you might want to think about using your IRA for charitable giving this year.

You can make required minimum distributions directly from your IRA to charity, tax-free. This effectively lowers your adjusted gross income. This benefits those who no longer itemize, but gives a similar benefit to a deduction.

This is a great way to support a scholarship for one of our local students. With a \$1,000 distribution from your IRA, you can create a named scholarship that will go out in 2019.

For more information about giving from your IRA, contact your tax professional to find out what is right for you. To learn more about IRA giving and WCF, contact Nancy Sullivan at WCF at 757-259-1660 or ncsullivan@williamsburgcommunityfoundation.org.

Spring Community Endowment Grants

Williamsburg Community Foundation awarded \$25,876 in grants this spring. This includes \$6,716 in donor-advised grants, which are awarded by donors to the foundation who chose to underwrite some of the applications received this grant round. Special thanks goes to Howard and Towana Smith of Oleta Coach Lines, Inc. for sponsoring the grant luncheon. The following grants were presented:

***Avalon: A Center for Women and Children**

Focus Area: Children & Young Adults

"Summer Strong Resiliency Camp," for children aged 9-17 who have experienced trauma related to being a victim of a crime.

***Child Development Resources**

Focus Area: Health & Community Wellness

CPR/First Aid/AED equipment for use by CDR's in-house trainer.

***Grove Christian Outreach Center**

Focus Area: Health & Community Wellness

The Emergency Financial Assistance Program will assist Grove area residents who need help with evictions, cut-off of vital utilities, prescription medications, gas vouchers and bus tickets.

Olde Towne Medical and Dental Center

Focus Area: Health & Community Wellness

Purchase of two Ophthalmoscope/otoscope sets to be used in patient examination rooms.

***One Child Center for Autism**

Focus Area: Children & Young Adults

For the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Program, an evidence-based behavioral therapy intervention.

Rx Drug Access Partnership

Focus Area: Health & Community Wellness

Grant will support expansion of the "Access to Medication Program" and will increase access to generic medication for 400 uninsured Williamsburg residents.

Virginia Regional Ballet

Focus Area: Arts & Culture

Grant will allow Virginia Regional Ballet to add a dance class for individuals with special needs (ages 5-adult).

**Grants made in partnership with a donor advisor*

Photos below (left to right) Olde Towne Medical Center, Grove Christian Outreach, One Child Center for Autism.



SAVE THE DATE

Fall Grants Luncheon: October 24, 12pm
Ford's Colony Country Club

Thanks to our 2018 Fall Grants Lunch Sponsors:

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Remembering Gwynn Sawyer, 1926-2018

Many people knew Gwynn Sawyer as woman who was passionate about animal welfare and actively involved in helping pets and their human families. She loved volunteering at local animal shelters, walking the dogs, and socializing them so they could be adopted into new homes. She chose to live at Williamsburg Landing because it was welcoming to residents with pets. Anyone who entered her home would receive a gracious welcome. Thank you notes were written for every kind gesture. She was steadfast and loyal to those that she took under wing and into her circle of friends.

Like many people who give from the heart to support the causes they care about, Gwynn also had a practical side. She was concerned that her donations should be used in an efficient and effective manner. She chose to partner with WCF and became the second member of the Foundation's Legacy Society in 2004 so that her high standards would be met when she was no longer able to personally manage her charitable giving. While Gwynn will be greatly missed, it will be our privilege to carry out her charitable legacy and continue to support the areas of community life that were most important to her.



Gwynn Sawyer with her dog Sable.

Bill Massey Honored for Outstanding Service to Seniors

This past spring, **Williamsburg Landing** presented the Outstanding Service to Seniors Award to **Bill Massey, CEO of Peninsula Agency on Aging**. Williamsburg Landing partnered with WCF to establish a fund to annually honor leaders in the field such as Bill during Older Americans Month each May. A grant was awarded to Peninsula Agency on Aging in Bill's honor by Williamsburg Landing.

"It is hard to estimate the impact that Bill has had on the community, as he is always more focused on seniors and their needs rather than his own role," said **Rick Jackson**, who nominated Bill for the award.

"He is a great collaborator and convener of champions for Seniors. When something needs to be done for seniors in our community, Bill's name is often the first that comes up as a resource or a guide, and he is quick to respond," said Jackson. "Bill does not speak to why things can't be done, but finds ways to get them done."

In addition to his work at Peninsula Agency on Aging, Bill was actively involved in starting the Center for Excellence in Aging. He worked with the local Senior Services Coalition to develop the Community Action Plan on Aging, and later helped bring a branch of Peninsula Agency on Aging to Williamsburg.

"Because of his quiet way of working behind the scenes, Bill is not often specifically recognized for his contributions. This is a great opportunity to celebrate all that he has done."



Bill Massey (center), with Kathy Kammer & Vernon Baker of Williamsburg Landing.

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

Williamsburg
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

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Congratulations to our Scholarship Students!

Every year, our wonderful WJCC Scholarship Committee volunteers raise funds to provide scholarships to local students as they head to college. The outpouring of support from the community was amazing this year! **54 Students received a record \$73,640 in scholarships this past June.** Learn more about how you can get involved by visiting our website or calling 757-259-1660.



Just a few of the WJCC Scholarship Fund recipients for 2018. Students from Lafayette, Jamestown, and Warhill High Schools are eligible to apply.

SAVE THE DATE

WCF Fall Social

Hosted by Old City Barbecue
Enjoy tasty food and drinks
and learn about how WCF
impacts YOUR community!

Thursday, November 8

5:30-7:00pm

Old City Barbecue

700 York Street

Tickets: \$15

See website for details

