

Ben Gave the Gift that Keeps on Giving

LEGACY



Ben's fund makes grants for youth wrestling, like Tabb HS wrestlers Aidden Hedrick (left) and Hannah Wilson.

Longtime Williamsburg residents may remember seeing a station wagon around town with the license plate reading 'Matmobl.' The matmobile's owner was **Mr. Ben Altshuler**, who was very involved in youth wrestling. When he wasn't coaching, Ben could be found speaking out at City Council on issues ranging from public safety to transportation.

Ben's legacy and love of Williamsburg lives on in our community through his bequest in partnership with WCF. The Benjamin R. Altshuler Fund makes grants to support both amateur youth sports and improving access to transportation. Now in its 11th year, Ben's fund has awarded over **\$500,000 in grants** to our community.

This winter, **\$23,874** will go to support six youth sports organizations, including Tabb High School Wrestling which has the distinction of having female wrestlers. They intend to field an all-female team this season. Wrestler Aidden Hedrick finished 2nd in the regional tournament last year and even qualified for the state tournament.

The Altshuler Fund has done much over the years to improve transportation access, especially for those who cannot drive. One of the major beneficiaries of the Transportation grants has been the Arc

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WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT?

- A fund that is invested so it **grows** over time.
- Each year, a portion of the fund is given out to support the causes you care about.
- With prudent investing and spending, the fund will keep growing to benefit others forever.
- Your fund has the potential **to grant out more money over time than your original donation!**
- An endowment creates a **lasting** impact and provides a **consistent** source of support.

THE ALTSHULER ENDOWMENT

\$1,177,610

Original Gift in 2009

\$502,234

Total Grants (2010-2021)

\$1,732,489

Endowment Value Today

Student Spotlight: Update on the First Semester

WJCC Scholarship Fund

Anna Chavez, Janet Rose Fuchs Memorial Scholarship**Thomas Nelson Community College**

"Right now at TNCC things are going great! I'm getting all my basic core classes out of the way by taking history, English, Calculus, Biology, and health. Calculus has certainly been the most challenging, but I absolutely love math and problem solving when I understand it. Right now we're in the unit of genetics in biology. Since I want to be a genetic counselor, it's so captivating to learn more in depth about genetics. I intend to transfer next fall and I have already applied to Virginia Tech, because that's my number one choice."

Jessica Felder, JBH Scholarship**Pennsylvania State University at Schuylkill**

"I'm doing well and I'm having a good time here. I'm doing great in school. So far I have an AB Honor Roll. Right now, I'm thinking about majoring in Health and Policy Administration. I play basketball and I applied for a job that I should be starting next week."

Evan Haney, Marjorie C. Joseph Memorial Scholarship**Christopher Newport University**

"I am doing good during my first semester at CNU. I am taking a diverse range of classes and enjoy the challenge of them. My favorite class is my Physics 201 Lab, where I get to apply the topics I have learned in my lecture class to hands on experiments. This coming semester I am planning on diving deeper into my major (electrical engineering) classes by taking higher level physics, mathematics, and an introductory engineering and computer science course. Additionally, I will be learning more about leadership through CNU's President's Leadership Program."

Philanthropy & COVID-19: Looking at the Bigger Picture

The **Center for Disaster Philanthropy** along with the charity tracking organization **Candid** (formerly GuideStar) issued a report in early 2021 on the state of Philanthropy one year into the pandemic.

Globally, more than **\$20 billion** was awarded for COVID-19 in 2020. Much of the COVID relief funding went to health and human service organizations on the frontline providing food, medicine and basic needs.

Of that \$20 billion, community foundations like WCF awarded **more grants than any other type of grantmaker** – often smaller grants, but a larger number of grants when compared to other funders. The median award size was \$10,000; WCF grants for COVID relief were typically close to \$5,000. While corporate funders awarded the highest dollar amount (total \$9.4B), community foundations awarded the largest number of grants (total \$542M).

The study also identified more than **1,000 COVID-19 response funds**, such as WCF's **Community Emergency Response Fund**. In 2020, WCF, like many other funders, offered a higher proportion of unrestricted dollars available in grants to non-profits, compared to pre-pandemic. Often called "operating support," this kind of funding gives nonprofits the flexibility to use their resources to respond to changing needs that may arise especially during a crisis.

In addition, the report states that "**the racial justice movement in the United States** in 2020 had an impact on COVID-19 funding for BIPOC communities." Specifically, 35% of funding dollars designated for specific recipients went to BIPOC communities (Black, Indigenous, People of Color.)

The report also looked at the resiliency of the nonprofit sector, noting that **930,000 jobs** were lost in the sector since the pandemic began. The Center for Civil Society Studies at Johns Hopkins estimates that nonprofit employment may return to pre-pandemic levels by late summer 2022.

With all this data, what can we learn as a community foundation going forward?

- **Be flexible with grantmaking.** Recovery from the crisis will take time, and nonprofits need the resources to respond to long-term impacts.
- **Be intentional about funding** communities that are systemically marginalized and disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
- **Expand your reach and your dollars.** Think about new areas and ways to make grants outside traditional grantmaking circles.

Williamsburg Community Foundation has distributed over \$250,000 in COVID relief grants, as well as \$569,000 in small business relief grants, in partnership with the area localities. We are immensely grateful to the hundreds of residents who gave generously to support these efforts. You can learn more about how donors and grantmakers have responded to the pandemic by visiting DisasterPhilanthropy.org.



Msgr. Joe Lehman helps prepare food bags at House of Mercy, a major recipient of WCF COVID relief grants.



**Connecting people who care
with causes that matter...
forever.**



The Williamsburg Community Foundation enhances the quality of life in greater Williamsburg by connecting people with causes that matter, managing charitable funds, and providing grants and scholarships for our community's most pressing needs and promising opportunities. Founded in 1999, the Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public charity. EIN #54-1927558. CVC Code 201115.

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of Greater Williamsburg.

"67% of Americans with disabilities, who have the ability to work, do not work because they lack reliable transportation," says Arc director Pam McGregor. "Through the generosity and support of the Altshuler grants, the Community Foundation has supported our mission to provide reliable transportation to and from our activities and most recently for our clients who are working with our partners in meaningful employment, as part of our Wheels4Work program."

Many people think that an endowment is only for the very wealthy. Actually it's not uncommon for an individual to make an endowment gift in their life or through their will with \$10,000 – \$20,000. A gift of this size will still have a **greater impact in the long-term, often granting out more money than their original gift!**

Learn more about endowment funds at WilliamsburgCommunityFoundation.org, or by calling our office at 757-259-1660.



Arc clients participate in job training. The Altshuler Fund at WCF has provided grant funding to help these individuals with reliable transportation to jobs and job training.