



# OUR HISTORY

Connecting People Who Care  
With Causes That Matter...Since 1999.

## 1999 FOUNDING

February 1 – The Greater Williamsburg Community Trust was formed. Founding Trustees: Bobbye B. Alexander, James Baker, Robert Cornelius (Vice President), Mary Lee Darling, Vernon “Bud” Geddy, Jr., John Jamison (Secretary/Treasurer), James Kelly, Trist McConnell (President), Joseph Montgomery and Roger Thaler.

The Trust announced its launch with a million-dollar challenge from Jim Ukrop of Ukrop’s Super Markets.

Proceeds from the 300th Anniversary Gala of the City of Williamsburg and a fundraising dinner at The Trellis are used to create the Community Endowment, the Foundation’s permanent grantmaking fund, in December 1999.



Roger Thaler, *past Trustee* and  
Trist McConnell, *founding President*



### Williamsburg’s 300th Anniversary birthday celebration on May 1, 1999 *Pictured from left:*

Martha Hamilton-Phillips, *Executive Director* for Williamsburg’s 300th Anniversary with Bob Wilburn, *Colonial Williamsburg President*.

Jeanne Zeidler, *Williamsburg Mayor* prepares to cut the cake at the birthday celebration with Bob Wilburn, *Colonial Williamsburg President*.



John Jamison, *past Chair*



Millie West, *past Trustee* and  
Vernon Geddy III, *past Chair*



Ron Lodzieski, *past Chair* and  
*Trustees* Lori Conen and Tom Cardwell



John Curtis, *past Chair*  
and Benny Zhang, *Trustee*



Margaret Pritchard, *past Chair*  
and Mary Humelsine and  
Kerry Mellette, *past Trustees*

## 2002 FIRST GRANTS

First five grants totaling \$5,000 are awarded by the Distribution Committee.

## 2004 FIRST STAFF

Nancy Sullivan and Marge Gonyea hired as first staff. The Trust moved into donated office space behind the Food Lion. 5th Anniversary Gala raised \$31,000 for the Community Endowment. Dan & Ingrid Jones became founding members of the Legacy Society when they pledged a gift in their estate plan to the Trust.

## 2005 FIRST AWARD CEREMONY

WCF held its first grant award ceremony in August. \$7,350 was presented to eight organizations at the event. At that point, over \$1 million in grants had been awarded over six years.

## 2006 THE CHALLENGE

\$300,000 challenge from former chair, John Jamison, the "Chairman's Challenge," kicked off a campaign to raise funds for the Community Endowment.

## 2007 A NEW NAME

The "Trust" became the **Williamsburg Community Foundation** to better align with the community foundation field.

## 2008 FIRST BEQUEST

The first bequest, from the estate of Benjamin Altshuler for \$1.2 million, made a major impact on transportation and amateur sports. We all learned about singlets. Van Ruckman joined as WCF's volunteer Webmaster and is still with us today.

## 2009 100 FUNDS

Surpassed 100 named funds established. 10th Anniversary Gala raised \$95,000 for WCF and set the bar high with a professional dance duo. Williamsburg-James City County Community Scholarship Fund merged with the Foundation and the Scholarship Endowment Fund was created.

## 2011 A NEW HOME

WCF moves into the little green house on Scotland Street. The parking was great, the roaches were friendly.

## 2012 PERRY SCHOLARSHIPS

Donald Perry Foundation (\$500,000 private foundation) was transferred to WCF to establish a statewide scholarship fund.



Mike Maddocks, *past Chair*,  
Nancy Sullivan, *President & CEO*,  
and Karen Jamison, *past Chair*



Kendall Kerby, *past Chair*, Kent Harrell,  
Joe Steele,  
Jane Taylor, *past Vice Chair* and Bob Taylor



Craig Stambaugh, *past Trustee* and  
Paul Gerhardt, *past Chair*



Kathleen Slevin, *Chair*,  
Hank Wolf and Dixie Wolf, *past Trustee*

### 2013 FIRST SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY

WCF presented \$51,500 at its first Scholarship Award Ceremony at Bruton Heights. \$81,262 was awarded at the Spring & Fall grant luncheons.

### 2014 15TH ANNIVERSARY

Received a donation of three office condos from Bobby and Hope Beck. This gift provided a home and a source of income for WCF over the last ten years. 15th Anniversary Gala provided over \$90,000 for the Community Endowment.

### 2015 VISION 2020

WCF campaign began with the creation of the Arts & Culture, Children & Young Adults, Environment & Conservation, Health & Community Wellness, and Senior Services Endowment Funds to support its grantmaking work.

### 2019 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Jenny Wible (2018), Bihin Perisie & Gwendolyn Sawyer estate gifts have a major impact on the growth of WCF assets. Five Year Strategic Plan included a goal of representing all members of the community by engaging diverse individuals and groups in the work of the Foundation.

### 2020 PIVOT

The Covid Pandemic leads to the creation of the Community Emergency Response Fund and the Greater Williamsburg Small Business Relief Fund. Over \$800,000 in grants to support local residents were distributed from March 2020 to March 2022. The Diversity Workgroup developed a diversity plan for WCF while meeting on Zoom.

### 2021 RECOVERY & CHANGE

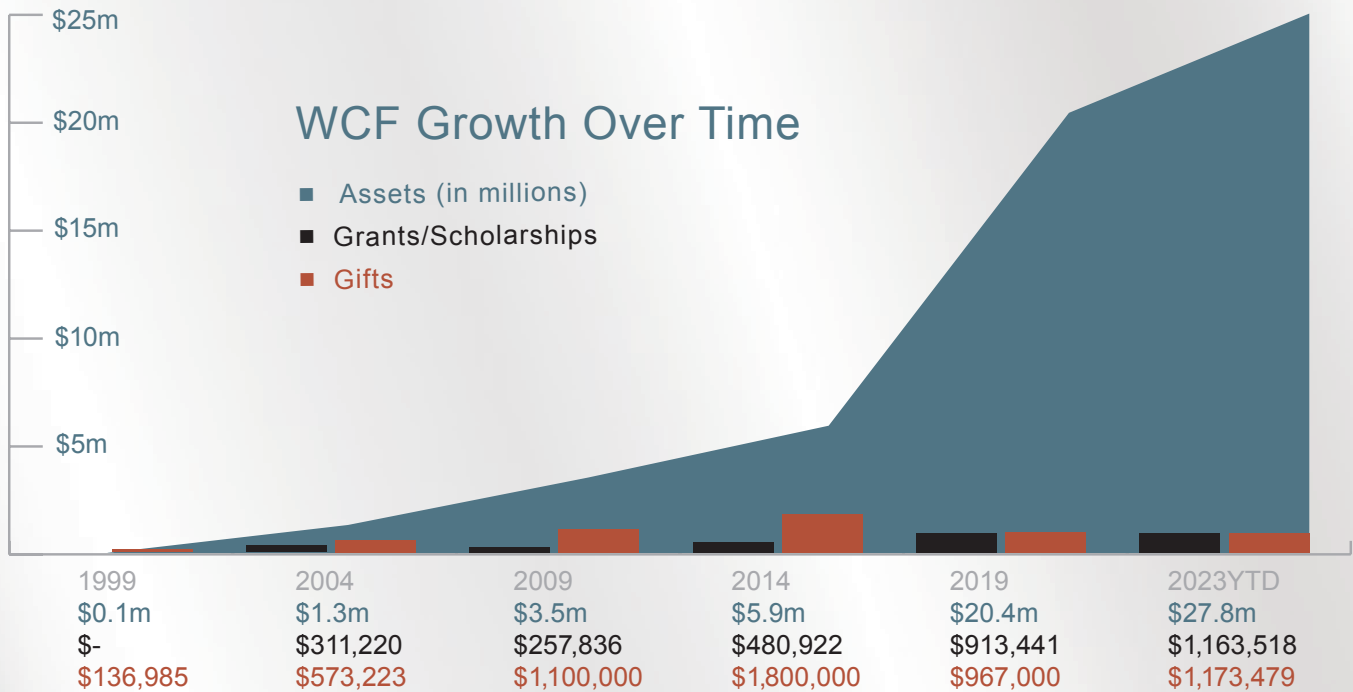
WCF Ambassador Program created to bring current and past Board and Committee Members together for educational and social purposes. Grant programs restructured to better serve our community.

### 2022 IMPLEMENTATION

Established a position of Program Officer to implement changes and Ginny Gasink moved into that role.

### 2023 TODAY

WCF staff and board learned about Local Impact Investing. Diversity efforts have resulted in a shift in more grants to minority led nonprofits. Scholarships are being provided to a more diverse and larger group of students. New Capacity Building grant opportunity added to help smaller nonprofits.



## WCF Trustees Past and Present

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 Jim Allburn  
 Betsy Anderson  
 James E. Baker  
 Linda T. Baker  
 Carol S. Beers  
 Jan M. Brown  
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 Rex M. Ellis  
 Geoffrey Feiss  
 John Fogarty  
 Michael J. Fox  
 Corinne Garland  
 Laura Geddy  
 Vernon "Bud" Geddy Jr.  
 Vernon Geddy III\*

Paul Gerhardt\*  
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 Michael Maddocks\*  
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 Barbara E. Watson  
 Peter Wendell  
 Millie B. West  
 Christine Williamson  
 Dixie Wolf  
 Kenneth M. Wolfe  
 Alfred L. Woods  
 Benming "Benny" Zhang

### Past & Current Honorary Trustees:

Colin Campbell  
 Cliff Fleet  
 Frederick "Rick" Nahm  
 Timothy Sullivan  
 Taylor Reveley  
 Katherine Rowe

\*Board Chair