

FREDERICK COUNTY GIVES



Shirley, left, sits in a garden at Daybreak Adult Day Services speaking with Executive Director Christina Forbes.



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Helping Seniors Thrive: The Gift of Aging with Grace

Shirley has spent her entire life in Frederick County. She was married to her husband, Gerald "Jerry," for more than 50 years and together they raised a son, Gerald Jr. When her husband passed away two years ago, it was clear she was starting to decline cognitively and physically. Her son said that the grief from losing her husband coupled with the onset of dementia was causing her to spiral. And then she started attending Daybreak Adult Day Services and they both found relief.

"My mom is a people person, she loves to be around people and she's very talkative," Gerald Jr. says. "Daybreak has really helped her. She was going downhill after my father passed away, I could see her getting worse and worse. Now she spends time at Daybreak and the tables have turned, it has helped her so much."

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YOU CAN HELP PEOPLE LIKE SHIRLEY TOO.

People **just like you** in our community collectively come together as Strategic Funding Partners to support the most pressing needs in Frederick County.

We are grateful for the generosity and trust of our Strategic Funding Partners, who count on us to keep our finger on the pulse of the community and provide timely support where it's needed most.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES at FrederickCountyGives.org and if you would like to support the community's most pressing needs reach out to Betsy Diehl at b.diehl@FrederickCountyGives.org or call 301.695.7660.

Christina Forbes has been the executive director at Daybreak since 2012. She said they provide daytime services to seniors including activities, meals, transportation, medical support, structured programming, and support groups. Daybreak serves an average of 50-60 clients a day.

"Shirley sometimes just sits and chats. Even if she's not engaged in an activity it's still stimulation and better than sitting home alone watching tv," Christina says. "I can see a physical change when people start coming here, it's a special energy that each person contributes to in their own special way. It's a loving community and it's really special to be a part of it."

Frederick County's aging population is growing and because seniors are living longer, the need for services is increasing in breadth and depth. The Community Foundation provided Daybreak with \$49,000 to help subsidize fees for individuals receiving services.

"The data speaks for itself. We have a lot of people that make too much to qualify for government services but not enough to pay privately for the services they need," Christina says. "This grant helps us provide financial aid for a senior to attend, which keeps families afloat as they ensure their loved ones have the support they need."

Gerald Jr., who worked for Frederick County Public Schools for 40 years, says Shirley continues to live independently in the home she shared with her husband but looks forward to her days at Daybreak.

"I call her every morning and I can tell the days she is going to Daybreak because she's up and dressed and done breakfast and ready for the bus to pick her up," Gerald Jr. laughed.

"I'm almost in tears talking about it because I'm so relieved that she has found a community for herself there."

When a senior needs support, there are often ripple effects that impact loved ones and caregivers. Christina says that programs like Daybreak provide relief for caregivers as well.

"I can carry on with my life knowing that those three days a week she is in a safe environment where she is comfortable and doing things she likes," Gerald Jr. says. "I'm also a senior, so it gives me time to take care of myself and makes it so that when we do spend time together, we can enjoy each other."

"I can see a physical change when people start coming here, it's a special energy that each person contributes to in their own special way. It's a loving community and it's really special to be a part of."

CHRISTINA FORBES,
DAYBREAK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Shirley, on the left, spends time with Daybreak Executive Director Christina Forbes.

WERTHEIMER HONOREES RECOGNIZED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Janice Miller Wertheimer was a well-known Frederick County businesswoman and a prolific volunteer. She created several funds with the Community Foundation and provided funding to support the good work people do in our community. The Janis Miller Wertheimer Endowment Fund supports the Community Foundation's annual Wertheimer community service awards, honoring individuals for their sweat equity rather than their financial contribution to the local community. Thanks to Mrs. Wertheimer's commitment to enhancing life in Frederick County the Community Foundation has honored 55 adults and 15 youths with the Wertheimer award since the program was created. Dozens of new funds have been created and numerous existing funds have grown as a result of the Wertheimer awards. What a beautiful legacy for an amazing woman! Please help us celebrate the 2024 Wertheimer honorees.



ELAINE JUNKER has been a volunteer with Frederick Health Hospice for 28 years. She has logged close to 8,000 volunteer hours and has spent time with more than 450 patients. Beyond giving her time, she has also personally raised more than \$95,000 for the organization through her Handmade for Hospice knitted pieces. She has also volunteered with Frederick County Landmarks and has been active in the Frederick Woman's Civic Club for 16 years, in addition to serving as a volunteer and mentor at the Friends of the Child Advocacy Center since 2010. With her award, Elaine is creating **THE ELAINE JUNKER HOSPICE ENRICHMENT FUND** to support Frederick Health Hospice as it provides care and comfort to patients and their families.

SHIRLEY SHORES is best known for her work as the Brunswick Ecumenical Assistance Committee on Needs (BEACON) treasurer and administrator of the Emergency Relief Fund, positions she has held since the organization's inception in 2006. Shirley served on the board of Frederick County Coalition for the Homeless (now known as Frederick County Continuum of Care Collaborative) and served as a trustee of The Community Foundation of Frederick County. She is also active with American Legion Post 96 Brunswick and Grace Episcopal Church. With her award, Shirley is contributing to **THE BRUNSWICK EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND** to benefit Brunswick area residents who are facing financial emergencies.



CAITLYN LEE LEWIS, a student at Phoenix Recovery Academy, serves her community by volunteering in various addiction treatment groups and centers across Frederick County. She uses this time to share her experiences, strengths, and hopes with individuals battling addiction, to understand and explore a different path in life. When she is speaking in the treatment centers, she is kind, caring, compassionate, and provides active listening to adults who are experiencing setbacks and struggling with their recovery. With her Wertheimer Youth in Action award, Caitlyn will provide a grant to Heartly House, Inc. in support of its mission.

LEARN MORE about the Wertheimer Awards and this year's honorees at FrederickCountyGives.org/Wertheimer.



Planning for Year-End Donations

It is estimated that up to 30% of charitable gifts are made in December.

Some give at the end of the year because it feels good to give and the holidays are often a time of helping others and giving back. Some give at the end of year to take advantage of tax benefits that come with charitable giving. Regardless of your reason to give, it's essential to approach end-of-year giving with wisdom. A financial advisor can help answer questions about what to give, and when, to ensure you're achieving your philanthropic goals.

Important dates for year-end giving to the Community Foundation:

- **ONLINE GIFTS** must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31.
- **PHONED-IN OR IN-PERSON GIFTS** must be received by noon on Tuesday, December 31.
- **MAILED GIFTS** must be postmarked by Tuesday, December 31.
- **GIFTS OF SECURITIES** can take several weeks to transfer and process. Please call our offices at 301.695.7660 to discuss gifts of securities to help expedite the process.

Whatever inspires you to give at the end of the year, we are honored to be your charitable partner and look forward to working together For Good. Forever. For Frederick County. Call our **Philanthropic Services team** to discuss your charitable intentions at **301.695.7660**.

The Community Foundation's **GRANT SNAPSHOT**

Thanks to the support of donors, last year the Community Foundation distributed \$5.9 million in grants to hundreds of nonprofits serving in the areas of health and human services, youth programs, historic preservation, basic human needs, the arts, elder care, animal well-being, the environment, and so much more.



The Weinberg Center for the Arts works hard to provide families with affordable access to the arts. A grant from **THE SHARON I. HOOPER FUND FOR CHILDREN** provided tickets for a variety of shows, like Step Afrika, through the Families Need Fun Program.



Frederick Health Hospice volunteer and veteran Bob Lebron, left, sits with retired U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Jim Randle, a Hospice patient. A grant from **THE ROTARY CLUB OF FREDERICK FIRST CENTURY TRUST FUND** supported services for veterans.



Community Living empowers adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live their lives to the fullest. Several clients recently enjoyed an outing to a Baltimore Oriole's game. A grant from **THE LIONS OF YELLOW SPRINGS FUND** supports Community Living's work.



Transformative Arts Project, Inc. is on a mission to empower communities through evidence-based art programs. A grant from **THE SHARON I. HOOPER FUND FOR CHILDREN** helped get cameras in the hands of youths through their Photovoice Youth Empowerment Project.



THE COLOR ON THE CREEK FUND helps brighten downtown Frederick waterways year-round with grants to Friends of Carroll Creek Urban Park, Inc.



Ben gets ready for a ride on Hilde with the support of instructors at Frederick County 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program. Grants from **THE FREDERICK COUNTY 4-H THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAM FUND**, **THE C. RODMAN AND M. JEAN OGLE MYERS FUND**, **THE KIWANIS CLUB OF FREDERICK FUND**, and **THE PRITCHETT FAMILY FOUNDATION FUND** ensure riders have a safe and positive experience.



A grant from **THE PREPARING FOR AN AGING POPULATION STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FUND** supported programs at Daybreak Adult Day Services including pet therapy group visits.



Five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes... How do you measure a year in your life?

In the timeless words of “Seasons of Love” from the Broadway musical *Rent*—a favorite of Courtney Muse—the answer is simple: **measure your life in seasons of love.**

Pam Flickinger and Don Muse embodied this sentiment in 2006 when they faced the unimaginable loss of their children, Dustin and Courtney, in a tragic car accident. Dustin, a junior and the quarterback at TJ High School, and Courtney, an 8th grader at Monocacy Middle School who loved music and dance, left an indelible mark on their community during their short lives. In their season of tragedy, Pam and Don turned to the Community Foundation to create The Dustin and Courtney Muse Fund.

This fund, built with overwhelming community love and support, honored the legacy of Dustin and Courtney by supporting youth athletes and musicians. Seven years and many seasons later, a local family—Tom and Renee Diethrich and their five children—turned to



Jared Diethrich
hugs Pam Flickinger

the Community Foundation with a dream. The Diethrich boys were passionate about music, but with only one income supporting the family, private music lessons were out of reach. In 2013, they applied for support through the Community Foundation and were awarded grants over the ensuing years from The Dustin and Courtney Muse Fund for drum, piano, guitar, and voice lessons. Those music lessons had a profound impact on the family.

More than 10 years after receiving their first grant from The Dustin and Courtney Muse Fund, the Diethrichs are enjoying success as professional musicians.

Left: Diethrich family 2024 with Pam (middle)

Below: Oversoon performing at Alive@Five



Their pop rock band, Oversoon, performs in venues throughout the region, and this past summer returned to their roots to perform at Frederick's Alive@Five at Carroll Creek Linear Park. It was there that they reunited with Dustin and Courtney's mother, Pam, and took the opportunity to express to her their heartfelt appreciation.

By creating funds to remember loved ones or to support local causes, we work together to build a stronger, more vibrant community that will endure throughout many seasons, well into the future.

You can be part of this enduring legacy by making a gift today to the Widening Circles Society.

Your gifts to the Widening Circles Society provide the much-needed resources that touch every aspect of our philanthropic work. Your gift today will not only impact lives now but will also help to create a lasting difference throughout the seasons for generations to come. Imagine the potential to touch a life—to make a dream come true—because of your gift today.

"These gifts make dreams come true," Renee Diethrich said.

This is the essence of what we do at the Community Foundation—we make dreams come true by connecting people who care with causes that matter.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY! WE OFFER SEVERAL WAYS TO MAKE YOUR GIFT:



SCAN
the QR code

VISIT
FrederickCountyGives.org/WideningCircles

RETURN
the enclosed envelope

NEW FUNDS

THE BODMER-WILLMANN FUND

Founded by Nancy A. Bodmer to support operations at Heritage Frederick.

THE JIM AND JANE BOPST MEMORIAL FUND

Founded by family members to support Junior Fire Company No. 2, Inc. in Frederick with essential supplies, training, and equipment.

THE WILLIAM L. BRUCKART, III SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Founded by wife Margaret E. Bruckart to honor William's passions for science, the arts or agriculture.

THE MICHAEL GROSH S.A.R. FUND

Founded with a bequest from Frederick Mathias Michel for funding for the Sergeant Lawrence Everhart Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and scholarships for students attending Frederick Community College.

THE JOHN HEALEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Founded by the Weinberg Center for the Arts, Inc. in honor of John Healy to support the development, education, and vision of artists in Frederick.

THE FREDERICK HISTORIC DOCUMENTARY FUND

Founded by Donald C. Linton to support efforts to capture and preserve Frederick County history.

THE EDWIN AND MELANIE HOFFMAN FAMILY FUND

Founded by the Hoffman's children to support critical needs in Frederick County.

THE ELAINE JUNKER HOSPICE ENRICHMENT FUND

Founded by Elaine Junker with her 2024 Wertheimer Fellow for Excellence in Volunteerism Award to provide support for the Sunshine Fund administered by Frederick Health Hospice.

THE MAX WELL FOR LIFE FUND

Founded by Wes Tyeryar in memory of son Maxwell to support the mental health needs of veterans and their immediate family.

THE DAVID AND NORMA MILLER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Founded by the Millers for students pursuing certification programs or degrees in nursing or agricultural education.

THE RICK TOPPER CHARITABLE FUND

Founded by family members to support organizations, students, and young adults pursuing careers in the construction trades.

To learn more about starting a fund and to view all of the Community Foundation's funds, visit FrederickCountyGives.org/Give.



**The Community Foundation
OF FREDERICK COUNTY**

To opt out of receiving this print newsletter, email Brooke Kovalcik at b.kovalcik@FrederickCountyGives.org or call 301.695.7660.



The Community Foundation of Frederick County, MD., Inc., is a 501c3 public charity. A copy of the current financial statement of the Community Foundation is available by writing to the Community Foundation, 312 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 or by calling 301.695.7660. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD, 21401, or by calling 410.974.5534.



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