

FREDERICK COUNTY GIVES



A client of SOAR, Leo poses for a photo with Judy White, SOAR program assistant (left) and SOAR Executive Director Leslie Schultz.

A LOOK INSIDE



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Strategic Grants Support Aging Population How SOAR Changed Leo's Life

It was the mid-1970s and Leo was living a full life – he was employed, married, wrote poetry, and made a little money on the side playing pool. A lifetime resident of Frederick, he was one of seven children growing up (six sisters) and says his mom was his best friend. And then, at 26 years old, he was involved in a workplace chemical accident that knocked his world off kilter, starting him on a path he couldn't have imagined.

He says following the accident he spent years in and out of the hospital, was unable to work, and was on a lot of medication to deal with the injuries and pain. "That chemical leak sorta destroyed me," Leo recalls. "I finally lost my sanity and was hospitalized."

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Years turned into decades. Leo says he was unable to work due to the injuries he sustained and illnesses that resulted over the years. It was a tough journey, but he says, “something kept telling me ‘you’ll be alright, you’re going to make it’ and some days that hope is what I lived on.”

Now 72, Leo says that a couple years ago he was in a really tough place.



He was in very poor health and he did not have a home. In a series of small miracles, Leo was taken in by a family living in Emmitsburg and was able to eventually secure housing in Frederick. Once he had an apartment, he was connected with SOAR (Supporting Older Adults Through Resources, Inc.) and **that connection altered Leo’s world again, but this time in a very good way.**

SOAR’s mission is to assist Frederick County’s 65 and older residents whose monthly incomes do not exceed \$2,100, by providing financial assistance or accessing resources on their behalf. Frederick County’s aging population is underserved and growing. According to SOAR, there is an increasing demand for support and limited resources. **The Community Foundation provided SOAR with a \$51,000 grant to provide emergency financial assistance for low-income seniors who are aging in place.**

“I had sorta given up on life because so many awful things happened,” Leo says. “But then I met [the people at] SOAR and I’ve never really had anyone in my life that wanted to help me like that.”

SOAR Founder and Executive Director Leslie Schultz says that their first

priority upon meeting Leo was to help him get his health in check. SOAR sent an occupational therapist to assess home safety needs and based on those recommendations, purchased Leo an electric lift chair, walker, and shower chair so that he could age in place safely. They also assisted with paying co-pays so he could see medical specialists.

SOAR then addressed concerns about Leo being isolated and lonely – they arranged for him to spend two days a week at Daybreak, a day program for seniors where they can engage and socialize with others, under the care of trained medical and support staff. SOAR also provides food support for Leo.

Financial support and health resources mean a lot to Leo but what stands out the most for him is the way in which the assistance was delivered. Leo says he was always treated with respect and dignity by Leslie and her team at SOAR. He said **they helped restore his faith in humanity after decades of feeling forgotten, mistreated and generally lost.**

“I was severely injured in my life. I didn’t trust people because I was never compensated for the terrible things that happened to me. When I met SOAR, they were straight with me. If they couldn’t do something, they didn’t beat around the bush, they were honest and told it to me straight.”

More than anything, it seems that **Leo has found comfort in a community of people committed to his well-being.** He still can’t believe the family in Emmitsburg opened their home to a stranger and he counts his blessings every day that SOAR is in his corner.

“These kinds of things break my heart in a gorgeous way,” Leo says with a grin and shake of his head.

FOUR WERTHEIMER HONOREES RECOGNIZED at 37th Annual Report to the Community

The Community Foundation was proud to honor four individuals this year for their volunteer service in Frederick County. The 2023 Wertheimer Fellows for Excellence in Volunteerism are Sharon Jacko and Pat Rosensteel, and the Youth in Action award honorees are Ilka Tona and Pragna Yalamanchili.



SHARON JACKO has a long history of volunteering in Frederick County, serving tirelessly at organizations including Heartly House, United Way of Frederick County, Frederick County Veteran’s Advisory Council, Literacy Council, and Rotary Club of Carroll Creek. She has stepped into leadership positions to help move organizations forward, she knows the issues facing the community, and she is a connector – building relationships with individuals across the nonprofit spectrum.



PAT ROSENSTEEL has spent more than 25 years supporting local nonprofit organizations. She has volunteered with a range of organizations including Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (COIPP), Frederick County Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Workgroup, Maryland 2-1-1, Frederick County Interagency Early Childhood Committee, Zonta Club of Frederick, and Frederick County Local Management Board. Her involvement has included creating strategic plans, writing and reviewing grants, developing action plans, and creating systems and processes to carry out goals and missions.



ILKA TONA was born in Rwanda and raised in Sierra Leone. Her family relocated to the U.S. in 2016. A volunteer and leader, Ilka was very involved in Middletown High School’s Key Club and she is a strong advocate for immigrant youth and served actively on the Frederick County Immigrant Affairs Commission. She volunteered at other organizations including Frederick Health Hospital and was involved in her church. Ilka graduated from Middletown High School in the spring and is now attending college.



PRAGNA YALAMANCHILI is an active student at Oakdale High School where she is a part of the “Lunch out of Landfills” initiative. She spearheaded the waste diversion program at the school and has been meeting monthly with students from Montgomery County as part of the Committee to Reimagine School Waste. A strong advocate for compost program funding, Pragna successfully argued for an increase in funds to support school composting in Frederick County and across the state.

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



Why Charitable Gift Annuities are Rising in Popularity

Charitable gift annuities (CGAs) are becoming more attractive to philanthropists, making this planned giving vehicle a good fit for individuals who like the idea of:

- an upfront tax deduction,
- a steady lifetime income stream that includes a portion that is non-taxable, and
- a gift to support community causes that matter to them.

HOW IT WORKS

In exchange for an irrevocable gift to The Community Foundation of Frederick County, the Community Foundation pays a fixed dollar amount to the donor and/or a designated family member or friend, for life. The amount of the payment to the donor or designee is determined by the size of the gift and the age(s) of the person(s) receiving the payments. The income is guaranteed, regardless of market fluctuations. In addition to receiving a charitable deduction for a portion of the gift at the time it is established, a portion of the gift annuity income may also be income-tax-free.

To learn more about the benefits of a CGA, call our Philanthropic Services team at 301.695.7660.

The Community Foundation's GRANT SNAPSHOT

Thanks to the support of donors, last year the Community Foundation distributed \$7.1 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 JESSICA LEE MURPHY MEMORIAL FUND, THE VISUAL ARTS FIELD OF INTEREST FUND, and THE PRITCHETT FAMILY FOUNDATION FUND provided grant support for City Youth Matrix for their family empowerment and education program. The grants also strengthened City Youth Matrix's mission of offering extracurricular activities for youth in families with limited resources.



Frederick Rescue Mission provides a multitude of services for members of the community, from recovery programs to food distribution to transitional living. Their Changed Life Recovery Program offers participants the tools needed to combat the behaviors that led them to addiction and begin a new life. **THE RESPONDING TO SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FUND** supported this program and grants from thirteen other Community Foundation funds supported the Mission's many other programs.



For 30 years, **THE FREDERICKTOWNE PLAYERS FUND** has provided grants to the nonprofit community theater allowing people in Frederick County to enjoy quality theatrical productions and enriching the cultural landscape. The recent production of "The Little Mermaid" resonated with audiences of all ages and showcased the talent and artistry of the performers.



February Star Sanctuary's mission is to rescue, rehabilitate, and find homes for horses and cats that have been abandoned or abused. Through their Kids' Horse and Farm Camp, they teach children respect and love for animals, building a generation of animal advocates. Grants from **THE AG-C.I.T.E. FUND, THE AGRICULTURE FIELD OF INTEREST FUND, and THE SECRET SANTA FUND** supported the sanctuary's mission this year.



Family Partnership of Frederick County supports families with children, striving to improve those in ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households. Grants from **THE SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FUND** and **THE BRUNSWICK AREA FUND** were awarded for their Family Resilience Program and for family enrichment programs in the Brunswick area. One of the many facets to their programs is Parent and Child Together time, as shown here, when parents have meaningful time with their children to interact, learn, and have fun.



Committed to ensuring that no school-aged child goes hungry on the weekend, the Frederick Chapter of Blessings in a Backpack provides food to thousands of children during the year. Countless volunteers and generous donors support this important cause, including grants from **THE MARY MASON HENDRICKSON MEMORIAL FUND, THE ROBERT P. LAPOINTE MEMORIAL FUND, THE CHARLES F. AND MARY FRANCES TRUNK CHARITABLE FUND, THE GORDON M. AND TERESA WARFIELD COOLEY CHARITABLE GIFT FUND, and THE KIWANIS CLUB OF FREDERICK FUND.**



5 Reasons TO GIVE

With a season of giving upon us, we wanted to share five reasons you may choose to make charitable gifts this year.

1. IT JUST FEELS GOOD

Did you know that charitable giving creates a stimulus in the brain that creates a surge of dopamine and endorphins, ultimately making you feel better? It has also been proven that people who give to others tend to be more joyful and content than individuals who do not give.

2. RECEIVE A TAX DEDUCTION

It is true, charitable contributions may decrease your tax burden. Talk with your professional advisor about how a charitable gift may benefit your tax situation. Strategies like “bunching” charitable gifts could be a great resolution to your tax obligation. There may be other tax programs available to you depending on the type of gift you make. Call our office to learn more.

3. HONOR OR MEMORIALIZE SOMEONE

Having a difficult time getting a perfect gift for someone special? A charitable gift to their favorite cause may be the answer! It is also a great way to remember those who have passed away.

4. INVEST IN A MEANINGFUL CAUSE CLOSE TO YOUR HEART

Maybe you have a favorite charity, or perhaps a broader cause that tugs at your heart – a charitable gift is the perfect way to say “it matters to me.” Whether it is children, the arts, our seniors, or those without homes, you can make your mark on the community this holiday season. Search our list of charitable funds at FrederickCountyGives.org/funds and see what fits you.

5. LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Do you want to evoke change or be a catalyst of philanthropy? Create your own fund with the Community Foundation and start a movement that matters to you!

Scholarship Recipients Show Appreciation for Support

This year we are supporting the academic dreams of 411 students who are receiving a combined \$1.8 million in scholarships. The recipients include students studying in a diverse range of disciplines, at schools across the country, and at different points in their higher education journey. Here are a few scholars sharing their appreciation for the financial support.



Collin Sewell

RECIPIENT OF THE MICHAEL SCHRODEL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

“I am so grateful to receive this scholarship. This will help reduce the amount of loans that my family and I need to take in order for me to pursue my business degree.”



Sarah Buckley

RECIPIENT OF THE KATHRYN "KITTY" M. REED AND ROBERT "BOB" J. REED SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND THE LINGANORE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

“I am incredibly grateful for this scholarship because it will help pay off the tuition for my MBA program. I cannot overstate how much weight your generosity has taken off of my shoulders. Thank you.”



Maya Khorshed

RECIPIENT OF THE KENNETH W. PARKER-CLASS OF '55 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

“This scholarship will allow me to continue my educational career with less debt. Gaining an HBCU [historically black colleges and universities] education from Spelman College will help me reach my desired forensic science career path. Thank you.”



Do you remember the feeling of making a connection in your community that truly mattered?

The feeling of warmth and belonging that we all crave. That’s exactly what our mission at the Community Foundation is all about – connecting you with causes that matter and making a difference in our community.

Viola Marie Robinson cherished her family, her friends, and her independence. When she began to lose her mobility, she relied on a cane, then a walker, and eventually a wheelchair, her wings as she fondly referred to it, to maintain her active lifestyle.

Viola felt strongly that people should not be left behind as they age. She had a dream for seniors to live dignified, fulfilling, independent lives. When Viola passed away, her family came to the Community Foundation to continue her legacy. **The Viola Marie Robinson Give Them Wings Fund** was created to foster independence and enhance the quality of life for senior citizens residing in Frederick County. A path was paved for Viola’s vision to become a reality.

This past winter, the oven at Daybreak Adult Day Services broke, leaving 50 participants with no hot breakfast or lunch. Our partners at Daybreak reached out to see if we could make any connections to help.

This is the best part. Viola’s dream came true. Because of a grant from her fund, Daybreak purchased a new oven and remained an outlet for



seniors in our community to get out of the house, be active, and socialize with others.

The problem is funds are limited, and the needs of many local organizations are greater than ever. At the Community Foundation, we strive to provide resources to our local community and believe everyone should have access to the same opportunities. Sadly, that is not always the case. We need your help.

Your support is critical in making a real impact in our community. By making a gift today, you are becoming a vital part of our shared mission to connect people who care with causes that matter.

Please consider making a gift today to the Widening Circles Society. Your gift today will not only make an impact on someone’s life now but will also provide a tangible difference in the future for our community. **Imagine the potential to make a difference in the world all because of your gift today.**

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



SCAN
the QR code

VISIT
FrederickCountyGives.org/WideningCircles

RETURN
the enclosed envelope

The 2024–2025 scholarship application will be open on ScholarshipsFrederickCounty.com from **Feb. 15 – March 15, 2024.**

DONOR IMPACT | New Funds

THE WILLIAM H. BROWNING, SR., AND MARIANNE E. BROWNING UNRESTRICTED FUND

Founded by William H. Browning, Sr., and brother Robert F. Browning to support nonprofit organizations making a positive impact on the lives of people in the Frederick County community.

THE CARLTON B. AND DARLENE LIN-OI HAAKINSON FUND

Founded through Carlton B. Haakinson's estate provisions to benefit Hospice of Frederick County, Frederick County Animal Control, and fields of interest including veteran services and the Hispanic community in Frederick County.

THE FOREST LEE HOUGH AND ALICE JEAN STINE FUND

Founded by Ms. Stine in memory of Mr. Hough to support the Salvation Army's local initiatives.

THE RICHARD W. KANODE FUND

Founded through Mr. Kanode's estate provisions to benefit Heartly House and other organizations that provide care, support and service to children and rescue animals.

THE ROBERT C. AND WINIFRED A. MOUNT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Founded through Robert C. Mount's estate for students attending any two- or four- year college, trade and technical school or post-graduate program.

THE SENIOR RESOURCES CENTER AT SPRING BANK FUND

Founded by Supporting Older Adults through Resources, Inc. for the renovation and expenses for the Senior Resource Center at Spring Bank.

THE HENRY AND KATHERINE TRIPP CHARITABLE FUND

Founded by the Tripps as a donor advised fund to support local nonprofit organizations.

THE NANCY H. WHITNEY, R.N. SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Founded by Mrs. Whitney's children for Brunswick High School graduates, including nontraditional students, pursuing an education in the healthcare field.

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



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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For Good. Forever. For Frederick County.

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