

# FREDERICK COUNTY GIVES



The Murphy family (Don, Jessica, Brad and Sue) poses for a photo while visiting the Rocky Mountains.



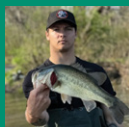
## A LOOK INSIDE ↓



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## Full Circle: Jessica's Legacy, Still at Work

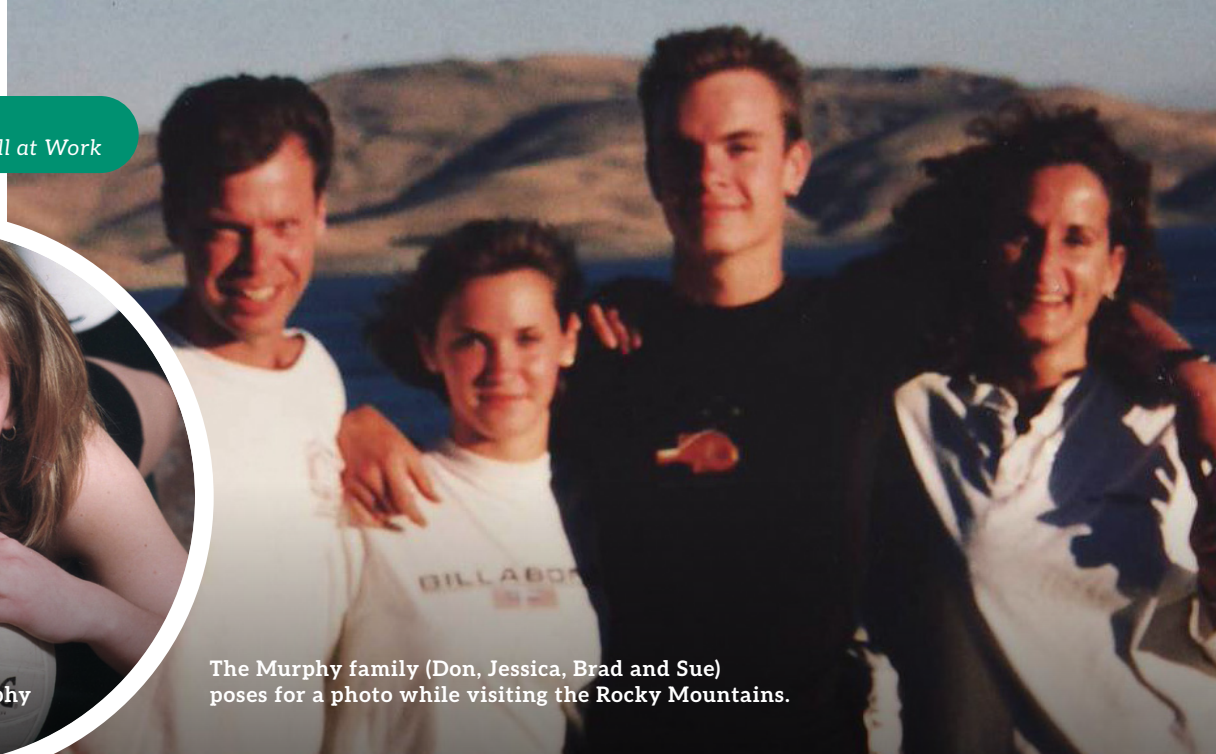
In 1999, the family of Jessica Lee Murphy created **The Jessica Lee Murphy Memorial Fund** at The Community Foundation of Frederick County to honor a life that shined brightly, even in its brief time. Jessica was about to begin her sophomore year at Gov. Thomas Johnson High School when she was tragically killed in a car accident.

Jessica was a student-athlete who played volleyball, basketball, and softball. She was a tutor at a local elementary school, a member of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, and—most memorably to those who loved her—someone with a vibrant spirit and a smile that never went unnoticed. Her family describes her loyalty to the people she cared about as never-ending.

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Jessica Lee Murphy



The Murphy family (Don, Jessica, Brad and Sue) poses for a photo while visiting the Rocky Mountains.

**“Whenever anyone new gets to know her story—and remembers not just how Jessie’s life ended, but who she was—that is a gift to us.”**

**DON AND SUE MURPHY**

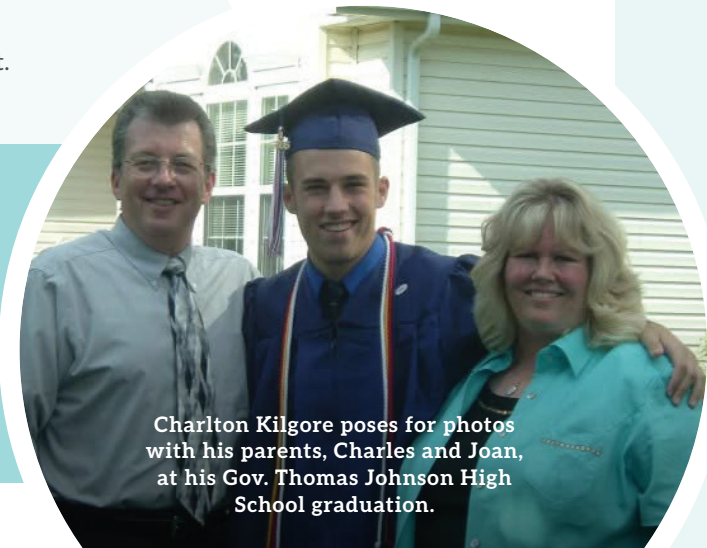
Created in her memory, the fund awards scholarships to student-athletes graduating from Frederick County schools and to date has supported the educational dreams of 35 students, while also providing grants to local nonprofits.

This past December, the fund’s story came full circle in a powerful and unexpected way. Over the holidays, Charlton Kilgore, a former scholarship recipient, made a gift to the fund with a simple message: he wanted to pay it forward. Charlton shared that the scholarship helped him pursue his education at the University of Maryland, where he earned a degree in civil engineering. Since graduating from college, he has spent 15 years working in construction management.

“I am grateful to The Jessica Lee Murphy Memorial Fund and hope this donation helps fund future scholarships in memory of Jessica,” he wrote.

For Don and Sue Murphy, Jessica’s parents and fund founders, the gesture was deeply moving.

“Whenever anyone new gets to know her story—and remembers not just how Jessie’s life ended, but who she was—that is a gift to us,” they shared. Charlton’s compassion, years later, affirmed something lasting: that Jessica’s legacy continues to inspire generosity, connection, and hope for the next generation.



Charlton Kilgore poses for photos with his parents, Charles and Joan, at his Gov. Thomas Johnson High School graduation.



**YOU CAN HELP CREATE MORE FULL CIRCLE MOMENTS LIKE THIS.**

Make a gift to the Widening Circles Campaign and support the Community Foundation’s work connecting generosity, opportunity, and lasting impact in our community.

[FrederickCountyGives.org/WideningCircles](https://FrederickCountyGives.org/WideningCircles)

# Their Service Matters. Make Sure it’s Seen.

The Community Foundation will be accepting nominations for The Wertheimer Fellows for Excellence in Volunteerism Award from May 1–31.

The Wertheimer Fellows award honors the legacy of the late Janis Miller Wertheimer, a well-known Frederick businesswoman and prolific volunteer. The awards program is made possible through The Janis Miller Wertheimer Endowment Fund. The award aims to honor a volunteer who doesn’t seek or receive a lot of recognition for their countless hours of community service.

The Wertheimer Youth in Action Award, now in its 14th year, recognizes youth under the age of 18 who are positively impacting the community by volunteering their talents and energies in extraordinary ways.

The honorees will be recognized at the Community Foundation’s Annual Report to the Community in November 2026. Wertheimer Fellows are awarded \$25,000 to establish or add to a permanent fund with the Community Foundation for the nonprofit or charitable endeavor of their choice. The Wertheimer Youth in Action honoree will receive a \$2,000 grant to support a Frederick County nonprofit organization of their choice.

Learn more about our Wertheimer awards and access the nomination form at: [FrederickCountyGives.org/Wertheimer-Nominations](https://FrederickCountyGives.org/Wertheimer-Nominations)



**FORMER WERTHEIMER FELLOWS**

Left to Right Top Row 1: Richard Markey ('04), George and Ruth Dredden ('07), Amy Rembold ('25); Middle Row: Jeanie Cronin ('10), Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ('22), Kristopher Fair ('13); Bottom Row: Sharon Jacko ('23), Charles and Charlotte Glick ('04), Rose Dorsey Chaney ('21).

## Generosity, STREAMLINED

We’re excited to share that we’ve improved our online giving experience—making it simpler, faster, and more flexible than ever to support the causes you care about. We’ve been working behind the scenes to ensure our digital donation process is straightforward and intuitive, so giving feels easy from start to finish.

You can make a gift to any fund, at any time, using the payment method that works best for you—including credit and debit cards, PayPal, Apple Pay, and more. Whether you’re making a one-time contribution or setting up recurring support, giving online is a seamless way to turn generosity into impact.

**VISIT [FrederickCountyGives.org](https://FrederickCountyGives.org)** to support a specific fund or a cause you care about.



# The Community Foundation's GRANT SNAPSHOT

Thanks to the support of donors, last year the Community Foundation distributed \$6.9 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.



A grant from **THE AG-C.I.T.E. FUND (AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY INTERACTIVE TEACHING EXPERIENCE)** supported Hearts of the Herd's mission of providing intentional programming to help students build friendships, develop communication skills, and embrace hands-on learning through new challenges.



Get Kids Outside received a grant from **THE FREDERICK KEYS CARE FUND** to support a recent trip for 12 City Youth Matrix kids to Yellowstone National Park. Through outdoor education, the students built confidence, gained life experience, developed team-building skills and discovered that with hard work, there's nothing they can't do.



A grant from **THE PREPARING FOR AN AGING POPULATION STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FUND** supports Daybreak Adult Day Services, Inc., enriching the lives of participants through meaningful and engaging activities. In the courtyard garden, Tom and Charlie tend to their vegetables—an activity that helps older adults stay active, reduce stress, and connect with nature.



Parent learners in the Literacy Council of Frederick County's program at Hillcrest Elementary were excited to receive free books and materials—made possible by a grant from **THE SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FUND**. The Parent Literacy Program helps families build English skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.



A veteran mentor met with an active-duty service member before a mentorship session at Platoon 22, a veteran-focused service organization committed to ending veteran suicide. This peer support program is supported by grants from **THE HALLEMAN FAMILY FUND** and helps guide service members through their transition out of active duty.



A grant from **THE WALTER W. AND CATHARINE PRENTISS PLUMMER ENDOWMENT FUND** supported Chesapeake Bay Foundation staff and volunteers in an Earth Day tree-planting event along Catocin Creek in Frederick County.



A grant from **THE RANDALL CHARITABLE TRUST DONOR ADVISED FUND** supported the Big Blue Foundation's production of Boomtown, a docudrama film about the history of Frederick.



A grant from **THE MILDRED JONATHAN WARNER ENDOWMENT FUND FOR NEW SPIRE ARTS** supported a captivating performance by Chilean singer-songwriter and accordionist Pascuala Ilabaca A. and her band Fauna.



Through Centro Hispano de Frederick's Éxito program, students conducted hands-on science experiments. Supported by a grant from **THE SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FUND**, these interactive lessons helped students build critical thinking skills, deepen their understanding of science, and spark curiosity.



# Every Ripple Starts with You



It all begins with a single moment of generosity—yours.

Have you noticed that when you drop a single pebble into water, ripples spread far beyond the point of impact? The same is true for generosity. One gift to the Widening Circles Campaign can set powerful ripples in motion—touching lives, opening doors, and inspiring others to give in turn.

Imagine what your ripple could mean: a scholarship that leads to a college degree, a meal that gives someone the strength to face tomorrow, or transportation that allows a senior citizen to reach urgent medical care. **Every gift matters. Every ripple has an impact, and that impact grows and broadens over time.**

We invite you to make a gift to the Widening Circles campaign today.

With your generosity, we can expand the ripples of hope and change, ensuring they reach farther than we could ever imagine.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY! LEARN MORE AND MAKE A GIFT HERE:**

**RETURN**  
the enclosed envelope

**VISIT**  
[FrederickCountyGives.org/WideningCircles](https://FrederickCountyGives.org/WideningCircles)

**SCAN**  
the QR code



## Jake's Legacy: Turning Pain into Purpose

James and Karen Baker pose for a photo with son, Jake, after a Catoctin High football game.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month—a time to shine a light on hope, healing, and the reminder that no one should struggle alone.

The Community Foundation is proud to hold multiple charitable funds established in memory of individuals who faced mental health challenges, each one supporting programs and initiatives that expand awareness, access, and compassion in our community.

James and Karen Baker created The Jake Baker 27 Fund in memory of their son to support mental health awareness, suicide prevention, and resources for families impacted by loss. Jake, a Catoctin High standout athlete and artist who went on to play collegiate football, left a lasting mark on everyone who knew him. Visit [FrederickCountyGives.org/JakeBaker27](https://FrederickCountyGives.org/JakeBaker27) to watch heartfelt videos from the Baker family and learn more about Jake's legacy.

## New Funds

Thanks to generous donors, The Community Foundation of Frederick County distributed \$9.3 million in grants and scholarships last year. As we continue to connect people who care with causes that matter, help us celebrate these new funds

### AUGIE FUND

Founded by long-time Frederick residents to support United Way of Frederick County's ALICE programming and scholarships for students studying culinary arts, food service, or teaching.

### MELANIE AND HAROLD COX CHARITABLE FUND

Founded by the Cox's to provide scholarships to nursing students and will eventually expand to support senior citizens.

### WILLIAM H. AND MARGARET LUKENS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Founded by Margaret Lukens in memory of her husband, William, to provide scholarships to students pursuing careers in visual arts or teaching.

### 12-TO-24 COLLABORATIVE FUND FOR FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND YOUTH

Founded by the 12-to-24 Collaborative to elevate youth voice, strengthen youth-serving nonprofits, and expand opportunities for Frederick County residents ages 12 to 24.

### ENG-LAND ACRES CHARITABLE FUND

Founded by Jeffrey England as a donor advised fund.

### FREDERICK MOTOR COMPANY LOVES FREDERICK FUND

Founded by James P. and Amy S. Warfield as a donor advised fund.

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**The Community Foundation  
OF FREDERICK COUNTY**  
*For Good. Forever. For Frederick County.*

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DIGITAL NEWSLETTER.

## New Funds

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### CLARK E. AND EVELYN P. SHAFF SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Founded by Laura Jean Shaff, in memory of Clark E. and Evelyn P. Shaff, to provide scholarships to students studying agriculture and related fields.

### CHARLOTTE LELAND BLUE MEMORIAL FUND

Founded by Gregory and Sherry Burgee in memory of their granddaughter, Charlotte, to support families receiving care through Children's National Hospital.

### MARY ANN SIMMONS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Founded through Mrs. Simmons's estate for scholarships for students studying horticulture, landscape design/architecture, or related fields.

### THERESA WILTROUT EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AWARD FUND

Founded by the family of Theresa Wiltrout to award scholarships to Linganore High School graduates pursuing degrees in sciences or science-related fields.

### PEASE BASEBALL FAMILY FUND

Founded by the Pease family to raise awareness about juvenile diabetes and to support various community programs.

The Community Foundation is dedicated to connecting people who care with causes that matter to enrich the quality of life in Frederick County now and for future generations.



**The Community Foundation  
OF FREDERICK COUNTY**

To opt out of receiving this print newsletter, email [marketing@FrederickCountyGives.org](mailto:marketing@FrederickCountyGives.org) or call 301.695.7660.



**CFNS**  
ACCREDITED  
FOUNDATION

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.