As we have arrived at Springtime, I’m mindful of the adage that “Hope ‘springs’ eternal” and clearly this has been evidenced more so during this Spring than in any other of recent memory. Spring 2021 moving forward holds great hope on many fronts.

Although Covid-19 is still far from being in the rearview mirror, with the availability of the vaccine and the accessibility to those age 16 and older, more people are regaining hope of reconnecting in person with family, friends and associates. In Frederick County 43.5% had received a first dose and 33.6% were fully vaccinated by the end of April. Yes, we will still engage in responsible, protective measures, but for the most part, we are breathing a collective exhale from the lockdowns, shuttering, and quarantines of the past 12 months.

For Delaplaine Foundation, Inc., we’ve witnessed again how hope mobilizes our energy and vitality as a community and galvanizes our courage and the “unity” within Comm‘unity.” The resiliency and resolve of those we serve through grant funding support for our dedicated nonprofit partners embody countless stories of hope in action.

Two high profile projects you’ll read about relate to our leadership gifts made to Frederick Health Hospital for the Critical Care Expansion campaign and to the Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs for their Beyond Shelter campaign for the Emergency Shelter for Homeless Families. I can think of no projects that better epitomize and symbolize the essence of our Foundation’s mission to enrich communities, families and quality of life than these two transformational projects.

The broad spectrum of people who will be impacted by these vital projects bears witness to the caring of our community to sustain the health, healing, hope, and concern we hold for one another, all for “The Greater Good.”

Delaplaine Provides A Lead Gift of $250,000 to FHH Campaign

Delaplaine Foundation has provided Frederick Health with a leadership gift of $250,000 in support of the ReEnvisioning Critical Care Campaign to fund the renovation and expansion of the hospital’s critical care service areas.

The ReEnvisioning Critical Care project is a $45.8 million capital construction project at the hospital’s Seventh Street campus that includes the redesign of the Emergency Department to accommodate adult and pediatric patients, modernize the Intensive Care Unit and expand diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac services to meet current and future demand. The project is expected to be completed in 2023.

“Delaplaine Foundation has been a benefactor to the hospital for nearly 20 years. Its generosity has touched many areas of the hospital. Patients who have utilized the Prenatal Center, the James M Stockman Cancer Institute, or the cardiac, emergency and critical care units of the hospital have benefited from its charitable gifts. We are so very fortunate to have Delaplaine Foundation as a partner in our mission,” said Tom Kleinhanzl, Frederick Health President and CEO.
The annual Frederick Nonprofit Summit brings together the County’s nonprofit community for a day of education and inspiration with speakers, workshops and continuing education. Delaplaine Foundation co-sponsored the virtual event with Ausherman Family Foundation, which took place April 8 and attracted approximately 300 online participants.

The Summit commenced with a keynote address by nationally recognized speaker and author, Vu Le, founder of NonprofitAF. Le encouraged the nonprofit community to reimagine philanthropy without relying on traditional models of behavior. “We have to be able to acknowledge that we have all these archetypes in our minds and we need to change them,” he said. He encouraged attendees to avoid shying away from difficult conversations, asking funders to critically examine the origins of their wealth and the make-up of boards. Le also challenged nonprofits to work together as an alliance and to streamline the application and decision-making process.

The afternoon panel session examined equity, governance and leadership in the nonprofit sector. The thought-provoking discussion was moderated by Janice Simsohn Shaw, with panel members Lisa Alexander Brown, President and CEO of Nonprofit HR, Satonya Fair, President and CEO of PEAK Grantmaking, Jen Bokoff, Director of Development of Disabilities Rights, Franklyn Baker, CEO of United Way of Central MD, and Le.

Vu Le, founder of NonprofitAF, served as the keynote speaker at the 2021 Frederick Nonprofit Summit.

“I would not be doing my job if I didn’t make some of us uncomfortable sometimes.”

– Vu Le, 2021 Frederick Nonprofit Summit

When introducing Le, Marlene Young said, “At Delaplaine Foundation our community roots stem back well over a century, and while philanthropy is in our DNA, we recognize that the Frederick County of today is as vastly different in its diversity of citizens as it is in new and different social and economic challenges within our community, as certainly the past year has underscored for all of us.”

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Families in need of emergency shelter will have a dedicated location for housing in 2022 with the opening of the Religious Coalition of Frederick County’s new Emergency Family Shelter located in the former White-Hayward Farmhouse. At the “Demo Day” event, held April 11, Marlene Young shared the Delaplaine Foundation’s support with a $250,000 leadership gift toward the $3 million fundraising campaign. The campaign will finance the renovation of the historic White-Hayward Farmhouse, its first year of operating costs, and other expenses.

The Religious Coalition’s 88-bed Alan P. Linton Emergency Shelter has provided dormitory-style overnight accommodations for homeless men and women since 2002. Beginning in 2014, the Coalition addressed the needs of homeless families with the introduction of emergency shelter facilities. This was made possible through a network of congregations and their volunteers who hosted families on a rotating basis in spaces within their church buildings.

The opening of the White-Hayward Farmhouse will provide families the assurance of knowing they’ll be staying in a permanent shelter location each night—as opposed to different places. “This insures a level of normalcy that is important to emotional and physical stability,” said Nick Brown, Religious Coalition Executive Director. “With the vital investment made by the County and generous donors in our community we can keep families together and work toward our goal–of returning families to permanent housing.”

Brown says the White-Hayward Farmhouse and its programming was created to help ensure that families succeed. “Client families will leave the Beyond Shelter program with secure housing, employment and the skills needed to remain self-sufficient.” Religious Coalition staff will provide integrated case management and support to assist residents in achieving their goals of securing permanent housing and a road map out of poverty. “We want our families to embrace the path home,” said Brown.

Previously owned by The City of Frederick and granted to the Coalition, the interior of the 8,300 sf farmhouse is being reconfigured to include 10 residential suites that can each accommodate several people—each with a personal bathroom. Other features include a large community kitchen and living area, a children’s play area and counseling rooms. “Parents can prepare meals with their children to be enjoyed in the dining room,” said Brown.

At the April 11 event, Young addressed attendees, saying, “This is truly a community project and upon completion, this building will once again be an iconic focal point of pride in the community. Each time we gaze upon it or travel past it, may we be reminded that it stands tall with a strength and steadfastness as a beacon of hope that watches over the community, ever present to convey a spirit of ‘Welcome Home.’”

Delaplaine Supports Religious Coalition's Family Shelter with $250,000 Gift
Hiking for Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic

Over 20 hikers participated in the Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic Trail Blaze Challenge on January 20, 2021, an annual event to raise funds needed to grant wishes to children with critical illnesses. The Trail Blaze took place at the Catoctin National Recreational Trail, a 26.2 mile endurance hike through the Catoctin Mountains. Lesli Creedon, President and CEO of Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic said that she and her team implemented COVID safety measures to ensure that hikers, staff, and volunteers could still enjoy the day while staying mindful of the pandemic. Each hiker raised a minimum of $2,500 and the money raised from this event will go toward granting 15 to 20 new wishes. Delaplaine Foundation continues to support Make-A-Wish and has since 2002, contributing a total of $79,500 since that time. To learn more about Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic, visit: wish.org/midatlantic

Note Writing Campaign Brings Love To Local Businesses

Delaplaine Foundation supported the Love Letters for Local, in which area residents wrote notes of encouragement and support to their favorite downtown Frederick small businesses. The Downtown Frederick Partnership sponsored event resulted in the scribing and delivery of more than 800 love letters. News of the events was posted on the Partnership Facebook page, “Thank you to each and every person who wrote a Love Letters for Local this month....After the past year, a kind word and a loving thought go an incredibly long way — so thank you, Frederick.” Pictured (third from left) Danielle Doll, Associate Director, and Kara Norman (center), Executive Director of Downtown Frederick Partnership, are seen with (l-r) Terri Boettcher, Phil Hammond, Marlene Young, George Delaplaine and Blair Wilson of Delaplaine Foundation.

American Visionary Art Museum Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The American Visionary Art Museum, Baltimore’s home to works by self-taught artists, commenced celebration of its 25th anniversary in November 2020. The Federal Hill-area museum, which first opened its doors Thanksgiving weekend in 1995 “in a spirit of gratitude and celebration of creative invention of all sort,” has re-opened to the public. Rebecca Hoffberger, AVAM founder and director, noted that having the museum in Baltimore has contributed to the development of its unique vision.

“Delaplaine Foundation has provided grant funding to educational projects and programs at the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore since 2007,” she said. “We are so thankful for their making philanthropy and hands-on caring a high art, in good times and when needed most,” said Hoffberger in reference to COVID-19.
Frederick County middle and high school student finalists competed in the Chords of Courage STEP UP! Frederick Awards Concert competition for best songs on Sunday, March 21 via Zoom. The competition invites middle and high school students to write songs on the theme of courage. The event, emceed by award-winning journalist and commentator, Derek McGinty was seen by more than 800 viewers. Audience members included representatives from The King Center in Atlanta, American activist Erricka Bridgeford of “Ceasefire” in Baltimore, as well as elected officials and others as far away as Africa.

Gabriela Cuddy of Brunswick High School won the first place high school level competition with her song, “Nadia” about Nadia Murad, Iranian human rights activist. Mary Joy Johnson of Monocacy Middle School won the first place middle school level competition with her song, “Dream On” about Coretta Scott King. Prizes included cash awards, recording studio time, scholarships and more.

The event judges included Bill Bromfield, Lisa Jones Bromfield, Richoles Barnes and Marlene Young. Chords of Courage founder and President, Caron Dale says, “We firmly believe that by creating socially conscious music and actions with young people today, we help create socially conscious citizens for tomorrow. We are so grateful to Marlene Young and Delaplaine Foundation for making it possible for us to help students change the conversation from the demoralizing and cynical—to the hopeful and inspirational—one song at a time.”

Delaplaine Foundation has provided grant funding support to Chords of Courage since 2015 as their mission encompasses several areas of the Foundation’s focus: the arts, education, human services and in some cases, historic preservation. Chords of Courage uses music as a catalyst for social change. Young people use the art of songwriting to excite and motivate students of all ages. Students were instructed in techniques of songwriting by songwriter, Andrew McKnight and encouraged to showcase their songs of service by STEPPING UP! and making a difference in the lives of others.

With an almost 17% increase in songs submitted over the previous contest year and an increase of over 30% of schools from which these students attended, the contest is growing steadily. Daily we are barraged with so many negative messages. Together, we can change the conversation one song at a time.

The recorded event can be viewed on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/ChordsOfCourage/videos/273491607647883.

Washington, DC-based journalist Derek McGinty served as emcee of the event.
Grant Supports Renovation of Medical/Dental Center

Delaplaine Foundation is pleased to support the ongoing critical work of the Fulton County Medical Center’s Dental Clinic. Delaplaine Foundation Trustee Jim Delaplaine recently visited the Orbisonia, PA facility where a 2020 Delaplaine grant supported enhancements that included new digital imaging and medical records technologies, new dental chairs to improve patient comfort, and new sterilization equipment to improve patient safety.

“We greatly appreciate Delaplaine Foundation’s ongoing support and Jim’s support of Fulton County Medical Center,” said Chris Boryan, Grants and Donor Relations Manager.

“Delaplaine Foundation has been proud to partner with Frederick Health in support of meeting the healthcare needs of the community,” said Marlene Young, Delaplaine Foundation President. “Our latest grant funding as a lead gift for the renovation and expansion of the hospital’s critical care areas is essential in meeting the emergency and critical health care needs of an ever-growing community while ensuring that patients are receiving first class care right here rather than having to travel elsewhere.”

Young noted that Frederick Health Hospital is the sole provider of emergency and acute health care services in the fastest growing county in the state of Maryland. “We recognize the hospital’s indispensable value as a vital community and regional partner. Our support of their life-sustaining/life-saving work is in keeping with our mission to enrich the quality of life for all.”

The 2021 Frederick Nonprofit Summit was made possible by the Frederick Nonprofit Summit Steering Committee with additional support provided by The Community Foundation of Frederick County, United Way of Frederick County, Helen J. Serini Foundation, Downtown Frederick Partnership, Association of Fundraising Professionals Western Maryland Chapter, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, and PNC Foundation.