A new year has dawned and with it, new opportunities to use our voice and resources for focused, meaningful philanthropy to address community needs. Our 20th anniversary milestone last year was a time to reflect on Delaplaine Foundation’s beginning, to reflect on our impact over the past two decades, to strategically plan for our future, and to re-examine and re dedicate ourselves to our mission to enrich families, communities and quality of life for all.

The 2021 grant cycle is a testament to our rededication as you will read about the 150 grants we awarded totaling $2,301,300 with 86% of those grants awarded to nonprofit organizations within Frederick County. We’re pleased to report that since the inception of Delaplaine Foundation we have disbursed $22,521,300 to exceptional nonprofits; those with well established records of providing programs and services that meet community needs and bring about help, hope and healing. These consistent good stewards of funding continuously evaluate the effectiveness of their work. Likewise, we’re pleased to note six first-time local nonprofit grantees, each of whom has a passionate purpose for contributing to community enrichment.

Although the shadow of Covid-19 continues to hang over us, I continue to be deeply heartened by this community as we see again and again the best of humanity in action. We are blessed with strong nonprofits and dedicated, collaborative community funders who work together to be attuned and responsive to the needs of our community and our region. Together, we remain determined to achieve long-term outcomes that empower and equip those whom we serve for a Greater Good.

Just as nonprofit organizations have continued to fulfill their respective missions despite the cloud of Covid-19 in 2021, Delaplaine Foundation has been steadfast in its commitment to focus on funding programs that beneficially impact Frederick County, and beyond.

“After receiving approximately 200 grant applications during the 2021 grant cycle, the Foundation Board awarded $2,301,300 in funds to nonprofit organizations, in addition to $50,000 awarded in sponsorships throughout the year,” explained Delaplaine Foundation President, Marlene Young. “We are proud to share that 86% of this year’s grant funding was to Frederick County nonprofits or whose project, programs or services directly benefit Frederick County, while 97% went to projects within the state of Maryland, inclusive of those in Frederick County.”

While connections to well-established nonprofit organizations remain strong, board members sought to identify and fund new nonprofits whose missions align with the Foundation’s areas of focus. The 2021 grants were awarded in the following categories:

- **Spiritual Enlightenment**: 6%
- **Health**: 9%
- **Education**: 22%
- **Human Services**: 33%
- **Arts & Culture**: 20%
- **Historic Preservation**: 9%
- **Other**: 9%

Frederick County nonprofit organization 2021 grant recipients from Delaplaine Foundation’s annual grant cycle include:

Advocates for Homeless Families, African-American Resources Cultural Heritage Society, American Red Cross Serving Montgomery, Howard and Frederick Counties, Asbury United Methodist Church, Asian American Center of Frederick, Blessings in a Backpack, Boys & Girls Club of Frederick County, Burkittsville Preservation Assoc., Inc., Calvary United Methodist Church, Carson Scholars Fund for Frederick County, Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc., Centro Hispano de Frederick, Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership, Choral Arts Society of Frederick County, City Youth Matrix, David Marshall Fund, Distinguished Young Women of Maryland, Crossed Bridges, Inc., Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center, Inc., Downtown Frederick Partnership, Empowered to Live Inc., Endangered Species Theatre Project, Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, Federated Charities of Frederick, Frederick Arts Council, Frederick Children’s Chorus, Frederick Chorale, Frederick Community College Foundation, Frederick County Humane Society, Frederick Health Hospice, Frederick Health Hospital, Housing Authority of the City...
Phoenix Recovery Academy, located in downtown Frederick, is Maryland’s only high school that addresses the needs of students who are recovering from addiction and substance abuse disorder. Specifically, it provides an environment staffed by professionals that is free of illegal substances as well as those who use them. Above and beyond helping students graduate from high school, the Academy also provides its enrollees with lifelong skills to maintain sobriety. The Academy was established in 2020 and operates year round from 8am-3pm and is open to students in Maryland. Students have the option of attending for the length of time deemed appropriate by their parents.

In September 2021, Phoenix Recovery Academy established a formal partnership with Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS), granting its students and their families greater access to the Academy services. Phoenix Foundation will also provide professional development opportunities for FCPS staff to learn about recovery and substance abuse disorder. Monthly tuition is $1,150—an expense many families cannot afford. Fortunately scholarship aid is available. Delaplaine Foundation has supported Phoenix Foundation each year since its founding, initially providing $40,000 in funding for student scholarships in 2019 and grants totaling $30,000 since that time.

“We couldn’t do it without Delaplaine Foundation’s incredible support of our mission,” said Heather Whitcomb, Executive Director. With growing enrollment and increased community support she says, “We’re excited to see what the future brings.”

To learn more about Phoenix Recovery Academy, or to support the school, visit: phoenixrecoveryacademy.org
A 2018-enacted Frederick Community College scholarship program that supports parents in getting a two-year Associates degree is proving transformative for its recipients and the greater community. Parent’s Lead scholarships provide financial assistance for student parents, helping them to underwrite tuition, materials, and childcare costs.

The program, which is receiving national attention and was developed by a core team of FCC faculty and staff, was initially envisioned by Ann Hofmann, Chair of the FCC English department. “Over the years, I had multiple student parents—many of them single—each attempting their first degree. They were navigating challenges related to finances, childcare and other issues,” says Hofmann, who—as a single parent and working on a second degree—empathized with their struggle. “I didn’t know how they were doing it.”

Hofmann says that, nationally, a single parent is 10 times less likely to graduate with an associates degree than a traditional age student. “At FCC, a lot of our single parent students “stop out” (temporarily stop pursuing classes) four to five times before they obtain a degree—if at all.”

“There is a lot of research that shows that financial security is tied to having a college degree,” says Hofmann, noting that it is important for the student and their families, but also the community at large.

Helen Propheter, Executive Director of the Frederick County Office of Economic Development says that the county continues to attract businesses that require an Associate’s degree or higher to advance within their companies. “When a business is comparing our area to other regions or counties, a skilled workforce is always one of the most important comparisons they make. Businesses know they won’t be successful if they don’t have the workforce they need now—and in the next 5-7 years as they grow.”

According to 2019 Census data, 41.4% of Frederick County residents age 25 years and older hold a Bachelor’s degree—some of whom first earned an Associates degree at FCC before completing their final two years.

Michael Thornton, FCC Scholarship Manager, was a member of the team that developed the Parent’s Lead program. “Delaplaine Foundation provided the original seed money for the scholarship and continue to support it,” he says, acknowledging the Foundation’s 2021 gift of $15,000. Since the program’s launch some 60 student parents have been scholarship recipients. Currently, the cost of FCC tuition for a single semester of 15 credits is $2,300.

Hofmann says that studies have shown there is a tremendous return on investment for scholarship programs such as these. “Graduates are getting full or part-time jobs and eliminating the need for state and county social services support.”

Parent’s Lead has received national recognition. It is considered the first of its kind and was recently named for best practices in a national education publication. In March, Hofmann will speak on the subject at the 2022 SXSW conference in Austin, TX, addressing scores of educators. “Programs like this are needed particularly at community colleges.”

To learn more or to contribute to the scholarship fund, contact Michael Thornton at 240-629-7926.

“A Student Parent’s Letter of Thanks

“I am writing to express how very thankful I am for your generous scholarship. As a mom of three girls, my education means the world to me. Leading by example speaks louder than words. My short-term goal is to become a Registered Nurse and if it all goes according to plan I will reach that goal by 2023. My long-term goal is to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. Without your generosity and support my goals would not be possible. I will continue to work hard and one day I will be in a position to help others the way you have helped me. Thank you for lightening my school-related financial difficulties so that I can focus on my studies.”

“Delaplaine Foundation provided the original seed money for the scholarship and continue to support it.”
Kelsey Delaplaine Fulmer was named a Trustee of Delaplaine Foundation in November of 2021. A graduate of West Virginia University, Fulmer holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Agribusiness Management and Animal Science. She is an outside sales representative for BWI Companies as well as the owner of a graphic design firm, and a second business that specializes in equine therapeutic care.

Prior to her role as Trustee, Fulmer served on the Foundation’s Associate Board.

“Delaplaine Foundation touches the lives of so many people. I look forward to helping make more of an impact—now and in the future.” Fulmer resides in Cleburne, Texas with her husband, Brett.

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Melissa Muntz, named Executive Director of Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership (SHIP) in September 2021.

Timika Thrasher, named Interim CEO of the Boys and Girls Club in Frederick in September 2021.

2021 Grants—continues

with Delaplaine Foundation. First-time applicants who received grant awards include Empowered to Live Inc., Love for Lochlin Foundation, Inc., and Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Inc.

George B. Delaplaine Jr., Chairman of Delaplaine Foundation stated “We are pleased that Delaplaine Foundation, Inc., now in its 20th year, continues to support nonprofit organizations that enrich families and communities within Frederick County. Giving is a privilege that all of us on the Foundation Board take seriously and I am proud that my family has chosen to take part in the important work of philanthropy.”

NPO Awards—continues