



THE GREATER GOOD

Spring 2024

A Quarterly Report from Delaplaine Foundation, Inc.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The arrival of Spring signals new beginnings, reminding us that each season of life holds new changes and opportunities. The same is true of organizations, which move through various stages of growth and development.



In 2023, Delaplaine Foundation was proud to award a total of \$2,712,700 in grant funding—88% of which was poured back into Frederick

County in support of our nonprofit organization partners. While grantmaking generally tops the list of the tools we use to achieve impact, we are also committed to finding other innovative ways to build on relationships and resources. We look for methods “beyond the check” for helping our nonprofit partners.

We are making deliberate strides to seek feedback in multiple ways such as grantee site visits, progress reports, performance metrics, community collaborations, and professional development sessions. We are intentional in getting to know the organizations and leaders we invest in and look for multiple ways to better understand and support their vision. One such means is the recent workshop we hosted, “Lifecycles Self-Assessment-Understanding Capacity,” which you will read about in this issue. Recognizing the intense amount of effort, energy and resources that nonprofit organizations pour into delivering programs and services, we brought in consultants Ann Quinn of Quinn Strategy Group and Steven Schack of Clear Blue Associates to offer nonprofit personnel an opportunity to step away from day-to-day operations, take a well-deserved breath, and evaluate their respective organization’s internal capacity. It was a reflective, informative, enlightening, and fun day that provided some new tools and takeaways.

We believe this type of training and capacity strengthening can go a long way in helping our nonprofit, impact partner grantees advance their work—and in doing so, enhance the quality of life for all.

Marlene
MARLENE B. YOUNG
President



The preservation of a 19th century log cabin served as the impetus for a greater examination of racial disparity both locally and nationally in the documentary, “House on Jonathan Street.” MD Gov. Wes Moore was one of numerous people interviewed for the film. Photos: 3 Roads Communications.

“House on Jonathan Street” Film Spotlights Nation’s Racial Disparity

The *House on Jonathan Street*, a one-hour documentary produced by Frederick, MD-based 3 Roads Communications, traces the rise and fall of African-American communities in rust belt towns across the nation, through the lens of a rediscovered 19th century log cabin located in the heart of a downtown Hagerstown, MD Black enclave.

The film proved educational for all who saw it at its premier showings at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, DC, followed by its Hagerstown premier at the Maryland Theatre earlier this year. So too for its co-producer, Russell Hodge, during preparation. “I was not aware that African-American veterans were almost totally excluded from obtaining GI mortgages after World War II—the largest generational wealth-building tool ever created, denied to veterans who risked their lives.”

The project also made Hodge realize that Jonathan Street—and the thousands of other Black neighborhoods across America—had periods of enormous commercial prosperity. “But my biggest takeaway is that

the human spirit is indomitable and that, given a little nurturing, will flourish.”

Hodge said that the Q&A session at the Maryland Theatre was gratifying because it focused on “Where do we go from here?” It sparked conversation and discussion that was civil and probing and forward looking. And that’s the hope of any documentarian.” Hodge stated that many lifelong residents of Hagerstown said there was so much history in the project of which they were unaware. The film team reiterated “there is not Black history or White history; there is only history. We hope this film presented that history clearly, concisely, and without ambiguity.”

Delaplaine Foundation’s \$10,000 grant helped Hodge to secure insurance that is mandatory for distribution. “No insurance, no broadcast,” he said. “The grant was invaluable to improving the film and extending its reach.”

The film has aired on MPT and WETA with additional future broadcasts anticipated.



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Delaplaine Foundation, Inc., is a private family foundation based in Frederick, Maryland, dedicated to the enrichment of communities and families within Maryland, nearby states and the District of Columbia by supporting programs to strengthen the arts and sciences, historical preservation, educational advancement, spiritual enlightenment and well-being.

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Representatives from 25 nonprofit organizations attended the educational workshop hosted at the Delaplaine Arts Center located in downtown Frederick, MD on April 4, 2024.

Delaplaine Foundation Hosts Nonprofit Lifecycles Workshop

Delaplaine Foundation hosted “Lifecycles Self-Assessment – Understanding Capacity,” a workshop intended to establish a greater understanding of the seven stages of nonprofit development—idea, start-up, growth, maturity, decline, turnaround and terminal. Representatives from 25 local nonprofit organizations gathered at the Delaplaine Arts Center for the workshop held April 4, led by veteran nonprofit consultant Ann Quinn of Quinn Strategy Group, and certified Lifecycles Capacity consultant Steven Schack of Clear Blue Associates. The three-hour session was designed as a strategic educational opportunity to help nonprofit leaders evaluate their organization’s internal capacity, to assess imbalances, and to help determine areas of focus for future growth.

Each nonprofit was provided a copy of the book “Nonprofit Lifecycles: Stage-Based Wisdom for Nonprofit Capacity” by Susan Kenny Stevens, PhD. Steven’s book described how an organization’s operating capacity can be measured using the metaphor of a table, with the supporting table legs as the management, governance, financial resources and administrative systems within that organization. Evaluation of these support systems can be used to determine a lifecycle phase, which

facilitates strategic planning. For a nonprofit in a growth phase, formerly outsourced operations tend to be brought in-house, while mature organizations often see a clear assignment of duties, with boards focusing on governance, while the executive director focuses on internal management.

Quinn provided examples of actions that are commonly taken at certain phases that can hasten organizational change. For example, nonprofits that refuse to recognize when programs no longer effectively serve clients risk entering the decline phase. Yet turnaround is possible with narrowed missions and honed priorities. Turnaround often involves new leadership and a willingness to make tough, potentially unpopular decisions such as cutting expenses. Board turnover can be a crucial component of the turnaround phase, as new members can inject novel ideas and energy into the organization. However, new members must also be tasked with specific duties in order to maintain their engagement.

The event was described as informative and thought provoking, leading one participant to say the workshop “will lead to additional discussions with our Board of Directors and hopefully help with some internal changes.”





Young people discover unexplored interests, elevated self esteem, new friends, and much more through the support and program offerings of City Youth Matrix. Photo: CYM

CYM Makes Enrichment Programs Available to ALICE Youth

Budget constraints often stand in the way of children being exposed to the arts, sports activities, and other after-school programming that, once experienced, can affirmatively shape personal development, enhance self-esteem, and improve academic performance.

City Youth Matrix (CYM) helps make access to enrichment programs possible for local youth by providing funding and transportation support. CYM, founded by Aaron Vetter in 2018, partners with over 30 public and private enrichment programs in Frederick, MD, to provide a diverse range of youth activities for the 118 ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) children it currently serves. These activities and support services are underwritten in part by grants and numerous public and private Frederick County entities.

“Families often struggle to make ends meet,” said Vetter. The 2023 ALICE Report showed that 36% or 37,055 Frederick County households cannot afford basic needs such as housing, transportation, childcare, food, health care and technology. “By eliminating financial, transportation, and cultural barriers, CYM is able to provide families the opportunities and networks to build a better future for their children.” Something as simple as reliable

transportation often prevents children from after-school activities. CMY’s trained and insured drivers transport family members to and from programs.

CYM requires a specific “parent partner investment of time and resources” within each of the services it provides. Each family is paired with a volunteer Family Liaison to form a trusted relationship, providing the technical and emotional support needed for a successful experience for both the child and the family. “The Liaisons support youth with encouragement and positive support to our families and children,” said Vetter. CYM youth participants take cooking classes, join Girl Scouts, play on sports teams, take karate, dance, and music lessons, are introduced to woodworking, and much more.

In December, CYM was awarded a \$21,000 operational grant from Delaplaine Foundation to support local ALICE children and their families. “Our participants will stay in school longer, have better attendance rates, and be more likely to pursue higher education,” said Vetter. “Delaplaine Foundation has supported CYM from our 2018 founding. Their sustained support has allowed our mission to grow from serving seven children to 118 children today.”

Delaplaine Foundation Implements Letter of Intent Phase For New Grant Seekers

Delaplaine Foundation is implementing a Letter of Intent (LOI) phase for first-time grant applicants as well as former applicants that have not previously received a grant. This prerequisite, enacted henceforward in 2024, requires nonprofits fitting this description to respond to specific questions to determine whether the nonprofit’s mission and program goals align with those of Delaplaine Foundation. The LOI is intended to streamline the Foundation’s grant process, potentially spare the nonprofit from the time-consuming task of completing the full application, and to ensure future sustainability for the Foundation.

“Nonprofits that have previously received a grant from Delaplaine Foundation will not need to complete an LOI,” said Blair Wilson, Program Manager. “If the nonprofit has received a Delaplaine Foundation grant, it can utilize either the Renewal Grant Application or the Returning Grantee/Grant not received in past 3 years application. All grant applications can be found in the Grantee Portal, which can be accessed through our website.”

All first-time applicants must submit responses to the LOI questions no later than September 1, 2024. Responses will be reviewed and notification made regarding eligibility within a two-week period. Nonprofits that receive approval to proceed must then submit a full grant application prior to the general October 1st deadline. If you have questions regarding this process, please email Program Manager Blair Wilson at bwilson@delaplainefoundation.org.



If you know of a family whose children could benefit from CYM—or are interested in supporting the organization, visit: www.cityyouthmatrix.com



Delaplaine Foundation Underwrites Shannon Bream Speaker Series Appearance



Shannon Bream is pictured with Marlene Young at the February 15 Series event.

The Frederick Speaker Series brings newsworthy public figures to Frederick’s Weinberg Center to engage audiences in enlightening discourse and meaningful topics.

Delaplaine Foundation, which has supported the Series since 2016, helped underwrite the February 15 appearance of Fox News anchor and legal correspondent Shannon Bream, whose presentation “Strength in Adversity” recounted how major life challenges can lead to personal growth.

During her career, Bream has covered numerous political campaigns, and landmark Supreme Court decisions. Prior to her media career, she practiced labor and employment law, specializing in race discrimination and sexual harassment cases. Bream is a *New York Times* best-selling author of the books *The Women of the Bible Speak* as well as *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak*.

Proceeds from the event benefit Frederick County Public Libraries.



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Delaplaine Foundation Hosts Nonprofit Lifecycles Workshop
 Each 1 Teach 1 and Community Free Clinic were among the 25 nonprofits attending the Nonprofit Lifecycles Workshop on April 4, which along with other attendees received recognitions. See page 2

The Frederick Catoctones Spread Love Through Singing



Delaplaine Foundation received a surprise visit to the office on Valentine’s Day from the Frederick Catoctones!

Founded in 1967 as a chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, the Frederick Catoctones focus on a capella music old and new, from early 1900’s classics to more contemporary music from Elvis, Billy Joel, and Plain White Ts.

The group performs each year at local baseball games and other community events such as the annual Clustered Spires High Wheel Bike Race.

The Frederick Catoctones operate as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and received grant funding from Delaplaine Foundation in 2019. Staff was treated to a beautiful rendition of “Heart of My Heart,” along with a dozen roses. Thank you to the Frederick Catoctones!