



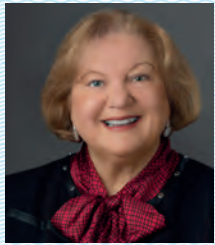
THE GREATER GOOD

Spring 2025

A Quarterly Report from Delaplaine Foundation, Inc.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We've officially welcomed the return of spring. Yet the cold winter winds didn't match the turbulence we've been navigating given the uncertainty driven by the current political atmosphere.



Consequently, with all the change, confusion and unpredictability that our local nonprofit organizations are facing, there comes major challenges in trying to deliver services and impact for both the nonprofits and those whom they serve.

The National Council of Nonprofits estimates that nearly 1.5 million nonprofits in the U.S. employ over 12 million people. The nonprofit sector, like many others, is feeling a palpable tension and anxiety in the face of funding freezes, job and program cuts, and in some cases, entire agencies being dismantled. As stated in the March 11th edition of the Nonprofit Quarterly newsletter, "This moment presents a crucible for the nonprofit sector. Nonprofits and the communities they serve cannot afford to be passive casualties of political shifts. They must prepare to wield their strongest weapons – strategic planning and collaboration – to defend their missions."

The rapidly changing federal landscape prompted the Frederick County Philanthropic Funders Collaborative to quickly convene, recognizing the need to assess the amount of exposure for local nonprofits should federal grants cease. Delaplaine Foundation is proud to be a member of this group of dedicated funders. We are all deeply committed to strengthening Frederick's nonprofit sector through grant funding. Together, our philanthropic organizations annually invest over \$13 million to support the critically needed and essential services that sustain and enrich the quality of life in Frederick County. Working with and through the efforts of the Collaborative along with Dr. David Gurzick, Chair of

the Delaplaine School of Business and Director of the Data Driven Frederick Center at Hood College, we quickly framed survey questions which were answered by over 100 nonprofit partners. In short, we learned that more than 90 nonprofits in Frederick County receive federal grants totaling over \$80 million with more than 60% of those grants currently at risk.

It's especially important in these circumstances that are changing as rapidly as the news cycles that report them to stay connected as a community with trusted partners and collaborators and to leverage community networks. Creativity, caring concern and collaboration can open doors, pool resources, build hope and provide innovative approaches and resiliency strategies for nonprofits in times of instability.

To name just a few, Delaplaine Foundation, Inc., is again pleased to offer a spring workshop for our nonprofit grantees. This year's workshop entitled "In It For the Long Haul – Nonprofit Sustainability" will be held Monday, May 5th, at the Delaplaine Arts Center. The Frederick County Chamber of Commerce's Frederick Nonprofit Alliance has published in their nonprofit-focused newsletter information on upcoming educational opportunities within the broader nonprofit community.

Then, on Tuesday, June 10th, save the date for the annual Frederick Nonprofit Summit at Frederick Community College that will once again offer dynamic and diverse training sessions on timely topics for nonprofit leaders, board members and staff.

Working together in a spirit of unified commitment to meet the needs of this community, we will once again find innovative ways to collaborate and turn challenges into opportunities to rise to a more resilient "Greater Good" for Frederick County.

Marlene

MARLENE B. YOUNG



George Delaplaine and Marlene Young are seen at an initial screening of the film.

Docudrama *Boomtown* Has Local Premier

It was a great evening at Warehouse Cinema where members of the Delaplaine Foundation Board of Trustees and staff attended the film premiere of *Boomtown*. The docudrama incorporates creative liberties while remaining rooted in actual historical events that took place in Frederick during the 1960's and 70's.

As Delaplaine Foundation is an Executive Producer of the film, President Marlene Young was asked to make comments prior to the premiere on why the Foundation supports the film and the arts in general.

Boomtown encompasses a period of time starting in the 1960's when the downtown Frederick area was losing businesses and vitality, and through the epic flood of 1976 and subsequent events that led to the eventual vibrant renaissance of downtown. The film includes a segment on iconic business leader George Delaplaine, Jr., then owner/president/editor and publisher of the Frederick News-Post, whose decision to keep the newspaper operations in downtown Frederick set the stage to inspire and motivate others to do the same.

Screenwriter, producer, and director Salyer McLaughlin will be offering additional showings in the future.



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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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L to R visible in front row: Bonnie Key, Seaven Gordon, Marvin Ausherman, Dr. Olivia White, Marlene Young, Zolinka McCauley, and Rose Chaney.

AARCH Hosts Groundbreaking and Honors Community Leaders

March 18th was a momentous day for the African American Resources Cultural and Heritage (AARCH) Society, as over 100 community members, supporters, and local leaders gathered to commemorate the groundbreaking of the African American Heritage Center. This landmark project will preserve and celebrate the rich history and contributions of African American residents in Frederick and will include exhibits, a theater and meeting space, research and archival facilities, and oral histories from Frederick County’s “Living Treasures.”

“This milestone represents more than just bricks and mortar – it is a testament to the

resilience, achievements, and enduring legacy of African Americans in Frederick and beyond,” said Dr. Olivia White, Board President of the AARCH Society. “The Heritage Center will be a beacon of education, inspiration, and cultural preservation, serving as a bridge between past and future generations.”

AARCH collaborated again with Yemi Fagbohun in selecting recipients for the African Americans of Excellence (AAOE) exhibit. The February 5th event, held at the Weinberg Center, was a celebration of those individuals (pictured below) and the contributions they have made to the community.

2025 AAOE Recipients

L-R: Theresa Williams-Harrison, Author/ Speaker, Dr. Renee Thomas-Spencer, Physician, Gayon Sampson, Senior Advisor, The City of Frederick, Dr. Denise Rollins, CEO, Whole Heart Grief and Life Resource Center, Earl Robbins, Dir. of State and Local Affairs (ret.), Kavonte Duckett, VP, Frederick County Council, and Scott Ambush, Musician, Spyro Gyra.





L to R: Emcee Derek McGinty, COC Founder Caron Dale, and Marlene Young are seen with STEP UP! Frederick songwriting winners and professional performers.

Step Up! Frederick Celebrates Acts of Courage

Chords of Courage (COC) is a nonprofit organization that encourages middle and high school students to use music as a catalyst for positive social change. Founded by Caron Dale in 2015, the organization brings together students and musicians to celebrate the courageous actions of everyday people. Students are given the opportunity to take a songwriting workshop. They are then tasked with performing their own research to identify a person who has shown tremendous courage in the face of adversity, in order to craft an original song. COC believes that this creation of socially conscious music today helps create socially conscious citizens for tomorrow.

The 7th Annual Chords of Courage STEP UP! Frederick Student Songwriting Contest was held on March 16th at the Jack B. Kussmaul Theater at Frederick Community College. Songs written by students from 13 local schools were performed by professional musicians. Urbana High School student Abhiram Tammana won first place for his song “Cut to the Case,” inspired by Ida B. Wells, a civil-rights leader. Wells was also an investigative journalist who dedicated her career to combating prejudice and violence, reporting on the violence against African

Americans during the era of lynching.

Oakdale Middle School participant Lakshmi Sahasra Somisetty was awarded first place for her song “Just Like Me,” inspired by Ruby Bridges and Barbara Henry. As a young girl, Ruby Bridges was the first African American child to integrate to an all-white school in New Orleans, Louisiana, facing daily mobs and screaming taunts that required her to be escorted by four federal marshals into the school building each morning. She was taught by Barbara Henry, the only school employee of William Frantz Elementary School who was willing to teach a black child. Somisetty’s song illustrates the courage both Bridges and Henry showed by standing up to the people who fought to prevent school integration.

Somisetty’s well-deserved win stands out even more because on March 6th, Ruby Bridges spoke to a sold-out crowd at the Weinberg Center for the Arts, as part of the Frederick Speaker Series, also sponsored by Delaplaine Foundation. Bridges recounted her time as a six-year-old student, which was commemorated by Norman Rockwell in the painting “The Problem We All Live With.” Bridges contrasted the hostility she

experienced entering the school building with the loving atmosphere of her classroom with teacher Henry. “Mrs. Henry taught me what Dr. King died trying to teach all of us,” said Bridges. “We can’t judge a person by what they look like, but by the content of their character.”



Above, Marlene Young with first-place winners Lakshmi Sahasra Somisetty and Abhiram Tammana; and below with civil-rights activist, speaker, and author, Ruby Bridges.



Establishment of the Delaplaine Youth Grant



Kelsey Delaplaine Fulmer with Starlight Driver

Delaplaine Foundation Trustee member Kelsey Delaplaine Fulmer has been passionate about horses and equestrian riding her entire life. Currently living in Texas, Kelsey has competed the last five years as a “Non Pro” in events hosted by the National Reined Cow Horse Association Foundation (NRCHA). She has a deep enthusiasm for the NRCHA family and the life skills and ethics it promotes, and wanted to find a way to help more youth get involved with the organization.

To that end, using discretionary grant funding, Kelsey collaborated with NRCHA to establish the Delaplaine Youth Grant. Designed to assist with the high costs involved with competing in horse show exhibitions, the grant will help cover expenses such as entry fees, stall fees and travel, allowing more youth get involved with the organization. Way to go Kelsey!



DELAPLAINE FOUNDATION INC.

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<https://nonprofitsummitfrederick.org/partners/become-a-speaker/>

Delaplaine Foundation Meet and Greet Event



L to R: President and CEO of Frederick County Chamber of Commerce Rick Weldon, Frederick County Council President, and I Believe in Me board member Brad Young, Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater, Michele Corr, Marlene Young, and The City of Frederick Mayor Michael O'Connor.

On January 30th, Delaplaine Foundation Board of Trustees and staff members, the Delaplaine family, city officials and nonprofit community leaders came together to meet and greet newly hired Executive Director, Michele Corr, and to celebrate the many years of service of President Marlene Young. Held at the Delaplaine Arts Center, the event featured opening remarks by Young, and well wishes by Frederick County Council President and I Believe in Me Board member Brad Young, President and CEO of the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce Rick Weldon, Frederick City Mayor Michael O'Connor and Frederick

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater.

Addressing the crowd, Corr said “We all want to try to make people’s lives happier, healthier and easier. Everyone goes to work and uses their brain, but the basis of what we all do starts with our heart. We don’t just work to make a living. We work to make a difference.”

President Marlene Young will continue to serve as President of the Delaplaine Foundation Board of Trustees following her retirement from daily leadership on June 30th.

