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## MICHELE CORR

AS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE **DELAPLAINE FOUNDATION**, MICHELE CORR IS FOLLOWING A LEGEND IN LOCAL **PHILANTHROPIC** CIRCLES IN MARLENE YOUNG, THE ORGANIZATION'S FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER. BUT MICHELE HERSELF IS ALSO A FAMILIAR FACE IN THE **NONPROFIT COMMUNITY**, HAVING SPENT NEARLY A DECADE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FRIENDS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION, WHICH **RAISES FUNDS** FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS. THE FREDERICK NATIVE SPENT HER TEEN YEARS ON THE EASTERN SHORE AND TRAVELED TO ALABAMA FOR COLLEGE BEFORE FINDING HER WAY BACK TO "WHERE IT ALL BEGAN" 30 YEARS AGO TO RAISE HER FAMILY.

**FM:** How difficult is it to replace someone whose name is so closely associated with the foundation and philanthropy?

**MICHELE:** Let's be honest—there is *no* replacing Marlene Young! Marlene is a powerhouse and a true icon in the world of philanthropy. Her leadership, vision and deep commitment to this community have set a high bar and I have immense respect for the legacy she's built. In looking to continue the important work she's championed, it's about honoring what's come before, building on it thoughtfully and continuing to move the mission forward in ways that reflect both continuity and innovation. I'm committed to listening, learning and leading in a way that keeps the mission rooted in service and community. But truly, I feel incredibly lucky to have learned from the example of this extraordinary mentor and leader. Lasting legacies aren't built overnight. Marlene has earned this distinction by dedicating her life's work to serving alongside George Delaplaine Jr. and leading the Delaplaine Foundation with unwavering purpose. Her work has been anchored in mission, shaped by compassion and fueled by her unwavering spirit.

**FM:** How important is the work of the Delaplaine Foundation in our community?

**MICHELE:** The Delaplaine Foundation is a true labor of love, born from the vision of George and Bettie Delaplaine, their sons, and Young in 2001, after the sale of the Delaplaines' for-profit businesses. With their strong belief in giving back, they established a foundation to support local nonprofit organizations and initiatives that would make a lasting impact in Frederick County and

the surrounding community. Over the years, the foundation has awarded more than \$30 million in grants, benefiting a wide range of areas, including arts and culture, education, health, human services, historical preservation and spiritual enlightenment.

**FM:** You are also known for your outdoors photography. Tell us about your favorite locations to take your camera and what makes them special.

**MICHELE:** I love taking the scenic route, either by car or by foot, through Frederick County, as well as on my travels, and seeing whatever surprises the day brings. We are blessed to have so many picture-perfect locations right here in our county and I particularly love the summertime flowers and nature on Carroll Creek. I never leave home without my camera because you never know when the perfect moment will arise, so I like to be ready for action.

**FM:** What inspires you?

**MICHELE:** For me, life is all about the relationships we build and my whole entire family is my foundation. They've all taught me, in their own ways, what it means to be loyal, to live with gratitude, to be there for one another no matter what and to never underestimate the power of a good laugh.

**FM:** What do you enjoy about Frederick?

**MICHELE:** What I love most about Frederick County is the people. They're just naturally giving. Whether it's volunteering, pitching in to help a neighbor or supporting a local cause, you can always count on Fredericktonians to step up.

# FOUNDATION

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