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## MPT to air documentary about Frederick County philanthropist

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Nov 11, 2016



George B. Delaplaine Jr. in his Frederick office.

George B. Delaplaine Jr. remembers the flood of 1976, when the newspaper was 90 percent text because including photos was difficult, and the origin of the names Bentz Street and Culler Lake.

Delaplaine, a Frederick native and communications industry pioneer, is being recognized for his philanthropy in a 30-minute documentary airing Sunday morning on Maryland Public Television. The program, "Focus on Philanthropy," traces his life and achievements through interviews with colleagues, community leaders and family members, as well as Delaplaine.

"If it will do any good for anybody to let them see what a person can accomplish, then I think that's why I would like to go and proceed with this," said Delaplaine, 89. "I'm not that bold a person to go out and boast about what I've been doing or how I've been doing it. [The documentary is] only for someone so they can get some ideas for themselves and what can be done with your life and how you can do it."

Delaplaine founded the Delaplaine Foundation in 2001. The foundation is a philanthropic organization that provides grants to nonprofit organizations in the community and surrounding area that fulfill the foundation's mission of education, preservation and enlightenment.

It has awarded more than 120 nonprofit organizations grants totaling approximately \$11 million, according to a news release from the Delaplaine Foundation. Frederick County-based organizations are awarded about 75 percent of the foundation's grants annually.

This year, Delaplaine said, more than \$1 million will be awarded through the foundation.

"This nonprofit has grown so much," he said. "And we give mainly to those that give service in and around Frederick County."

Delaplaine interned at his family's newspaper when he was young and began his career as a newspaper reporter in the mid-1950s.

He went on to become chief executive officer of Great Southern Printing and Manufacturing (parent company of *The Frederick News-Post*). In 1966, he started Frederick Cablevision Inc., which grew to serve more than 120,000 subscribers in four states.

Delaplaine said the core of the cable company and *The News-Post* was the effort to bring "knowledge of what is happening and what is occurring and what has occurred in history."

"It's the service of people and how people can be of service to other people," he said. "I want other people to see it's possible for anyone."

The film was produced by Digital Bard in association with Maryland Public Television, a nonprofit state-licensed public television network and member of the Public Broadcasting Service.