



THE GREATER GOOD

Spring 2026

A Quarterly Report from Delaplaine Foundation, Inc.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spring has arrived! This time of year inevitably brings a welcome sense of renewal. For our nonprofit partners, who continue to work hard despite limited resources and challenging circumstances, we hope the seasonal change provides a boost of energy to continue moving forward with new ideas that inspire growth and resilience, and renewed focus to drive their missions forward.



In April, we offered our 3rd annual free workshop to grantees as a way to provide support "beyond the check." Delaplaine Foundation and Dr. Lili Leonard of Black Dog Philanthropic collaborated to create a workshop exploring the fundamentals of fundraising and based on our survey results, the workshop was a huge success, with many responders listing the valuable takeaways they are excited to implement.

In the same spirit of renewal, Delaplaine Foundation has a new website! Working with Lockkeeper Graphics, staff spent the first few months of the year updating our online content to provide present and future grantees with valuable information about the foundation, its Board, and our grant process. Check it out at delaplainefoundation.org!

As we continue to celebrate Delaplaine Foundation's 25th Anniversary, we're taking a moment to look back at what it truly represents. Our progress didn't happen in a single year or through any individual effort - it was built over time, through steady work, strong relationships and partnerships and a shared belief in the important role we play in funding our nonprofits grantees who work to strengthen our community. It's a reminder that when we stay connected to our mission and to one another, great things happen. It's Philanthropy for a Greater Good at its finest!

Michele Corr
MICHELE CORR



Dr. Lili Leonard of Black Dog Philanthropic Consulting presenting to attendees at the Delaplaine Foundation workshop.

Foundation Hosts Fundraising Workshop for Grantees

For the third consecutive year, Delaplaine Foundation hosted a free workshop for recent grantees at the Delaplaine Arts Center. The workshop, entitled "Fundamentals of Fundraising: Building Connection, Commitment, and Capacity," was led by Dr. Lili Leonard of Black Dog Philanthropic Consulting on April 16th. Sixty participants, along with Delaplaine Foundation Board members and staff, gathered to discuss topics including diversified funding strategies, creating frameworks for donor engagement, and aligning fundraising activities with organizational capacity.

"After receiving feedback from last year's post-workshop survey, we decided to offer the 2026 workshop to a select number of recent grantees who are seeking additional funding

opportunities," said Blair Wilson, Director of Grantmaking at Delaplaine Foundation. "When making funding decisions, our Board always wants to see that an organization is making strides towards sustainability, and hopefully this workshop will be of benefit to those smaller or mid-sized nonprofits who want to diversify their funding sources."

The day began with Leonard explaining the distinction between fundraising and philanthropy, and how giving is an emotional act rather than a transaction. Common fundraising strategies and methods were identified and discussed. Leonard provided examples of best practices that reinforce trust and donor retention, and introduced ideal ways to cultivate engagement with potential

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Delaplaine Foundation, Inc., is a private family foundation based in Frederick, Maryland, dedicated to the enrichment of communities, families, and quality of life for all. We do so by supporting programs to strengthen the arts and culture, educational advancement, health, and human services in Frederick County, as well as historical preservation and spiritual enlightenment in Frederick County and surrounding areas.

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donors based on their age and ability to give.

"It was a joy to spend the day with Delaplaine Foundation grantees, alongside members of the Foundation's board and staff," said Leonard. "As someone who works with nonprofits and private philanthropies across Maryland, I'm always struck by the commitment of our local foundations, and Delaplaine is no exception. Offering this kind of resource to strengthen fundraising knowledge and capacity speaks volumes about the Foundation's investment in its grantees' success."

Workshop participants were treated to lunch and door prizes, including three one-on-one consulting sessions with Leonard that were won by Centro Hispano de Frederick, Each 1 Teach 1, and Heartly House. A piece of art donated by Executive Director Michele Corr was given to the Frederick Children's Chorus.

When asked about any takeaways from the workshop in a follow-up survey, Sally Selby, Board President of Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership stated, "What a terrific workshop you presented yesterday! Dr. Leonard's presentation was engaging and relevant, and I felt that I left the session ready to take significant steps to move forward, especially in donor stewardship. I also very much appreciated the chance to talk with others involved in nonprofit work in the Frederick area. Many thanks to Delaplaine Foundation for this incredible opportunity."

Delaplaine Foundation hopes to continue to offer workshops to recent grantees. If you would like to suggest a topic for a future workshop, send an email to Blair Wilson at bwilson@delaplainefoundation.org.



Workshop attendees Malcolm Furgol of Coalition for a Healthier Frederick County and Carla Carrion of Centro Hispano de Frederick show off their certificates of achievement for completing the workshop.



Dr. Leonard hands Amy Benton of Heartly House a sweet treat for correctly answering a workshop question.



Game On: Inspiration Rolls into Kemptown Elementary



Delaplaine Foundation Executive Director Michele Corr was invited to join in a short form game with team members (front row) Lionel Rogers, Michele Corr, Larry Toler, Carlton Coleman, and Ron Shafer. Seen standing are Cassandra Gray, Eddie Diggs, Maryland Ravens CEO, and Delaplaine Foundation Vice President Ted Delaplaine.

Delaplaine Foundation Vice President, Ted Delaplaine and Michele Corr had the privilege of seeing firsthand the impact of the Maryland Ravens, led by their incredible CEO, Eddie Diggs. The Maryland Ravens is a nonprofit wheelchair basketball organization whose message is “Always Promoting Abilities.” Before the game, Eddie reminded the enthusiastic teachers, staff and students at Kemptown Elementary School to, “always show appreciation, believe in yourself, work hard and don’t let anyone tell you that you CAN’T do something you want to try to accomplish!”

The athletes shared the stories of what led to their life in a wheelchair. From polio and meningitis to birth defects and accidents, these men persevered, never gave up and thrived. Carlton Coleman shared that when he was 21 years old, he stopped on the side of the road to help change a person’s tire and lost his leg when he was hit by a drunk driver. He could have lived a life filled with anger and feeling sorry for himself. They all could have, both chose not to!

Carlton said that his accident and being in a wheelchair led to meeting his best friends and becoming a member of the 2006 National Wheelchair Basketball Championship team as a player for the Maryland Ravens!



Maryland Ravens team member Carlton Coleman is pictured with Delaplaine Foundation Vice President Ted Delaplaine.

The team challenged a group of students and school staff to use specially designed wheelchairs and play against them in a game.

“I was blown away by the presentation of the Maryland Ravens at Kemptown Elementary School,” remarked Ted Delaplaine. “Mr. Eddie Diggs and his team put on a dazzling display, involving the students and staff in their live wheelchair basketball game and I was so excited they asked Michele to play with their team! The packed gym was wild with excitement! By allowing them to try out the wheelchairs, I’m certain it gave them a new appreciation for people with differing abilities and how anyone can overcome difficult obstacles that life throws at them. I am so proud that Delaplaine Foundation is able to help support such an inspiring organization.”

Founded in the 1970s, the Maryland Ravens helps people with physical differences build confidence, teamwork and life skills through adaptive

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Professor Emerita Joins Community Advisory Council



Delaplaine Foundation's Community Advisory Council has a new member representing its education sector—Dr. Ellen Koitz!

Dr. Koitz is a Professor Emerita at Hood College where she served as a faculty member for forty years. She taught both undergraduate and graduate courses and was the Program Director for the Reading Specialization program. Dr. Koitz is most proud of being the Director of the Hood College Summer Reading Clinic, where she mentored reading specialist candidates

as they tutored students in grades K-12 who struggled with reading and writing. Delaplaine Foundation has awarded four grants to the Hood College Summer reading clinic, including one in 2025.

Delaplaine Foundation's Board of Trustees established the Community Advisory Council in 2022 to serve as a supplemental source of specialized knowledge, expertise and insight for making grant decisions. We welcome Dr. Koitz and look forward to her service in our upcoming 2026 grant cycle.



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Check out our updated website!
www.delaplainefoundation.org

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Maryland Ravens team member Larry Toler is seen with a Kemptown Elementary School student during the team's visit.



Michele Corr gets in the game with Maryland Ravens team member, Lionel Rogers.

basketball, outreach and education, thereby encouraging abilities in everyone. At Delaplaine Foundation, we are proud to have provided grant funding to support the Maryland Ravens for many years. It's an honor to invest in this extraordinary nonprofit organization that is a front runner in empowering physically challenged persons to encourage students of all ages, disabled or not, to use their God-given abilities to play a more meaningful role within their school, family and community. Eddie and the athletes remind us all what determination, strength, courage and joy really looks like!

