

SPECIAL EVENTS

**Affiliate Funds Spread Their Wings**

This summer, two of the Community Foundation's Affiliate Funds plan to become independent. In order to take full responsibility of their mission, programs, governance, and financing, Chester County Futures and Chester County Fund for Women and Girls plan to incorporate as independent nonprofit organizations. Futures plans to maintain an administrative office at the Community Foundation, while the Fund for Women and Girls plans to move to a new location.

The Chester County Community Foundation is proud to have been part of starting these Funds from their earliest days, and now, to help them transition to this next step in their organizational evolution and growth. We wish both of these new nonprofits success, and we will continue to partner with them to help improve the quality of life in Chester County.



Chester County 2020, a Trust for Community and Environmental Leadership, is the third Affiliate Fund of the Community Foundation. 2020 Trust will maintain its Affiliate Fund relationship under the Community Foundation umbrella.

On the evening of June 12 at West Chester University, 2020 Trust is convening "Under One Roof." The aim is to bring together up to 250 land planners, developers, and municipal officials to take a focused look at housing and land use issues in Chester County. For more information, contact the 2020 Trust office at 610/696-3180.

*Connecting people who care with causes that matter*

COMMUNITY GRANTMAKING & SCHOLARSHIPS

During 2002, 55 scholarships totaling \$78,836 were awarded through Funds of the Community Foundation. As spring is the season when scholarships are in the air, we take this opportunity to highlight just a few of our 30 scholarship funds.

**Dana Marie Carr Memorial Scholarship Fund** annually awards a \$2,000 scholarship to a graduating senior from Phoenixville High School who aspires to be a teacher.

**Brianne Carter Memorial Fund** annually awards a \$2,000 scholarship to provide financial support to a deserving student from Unionville High School.

**Susan DeCecco Scholarship Fund** offers financial support to a graduating young woman chosen from the senior class of Avon Grove High School. The scholarship is awarded based on financial need and demonstrated outstanding academic potential.

**Eugene J. and Mary DiFilippo Scholarship Fund** offers financial support to a graduating student member of the senior class of Kennett High School. The scholarship is awarded based on financial need and demonstrated outstanding academic potential.

**Dr. John H. Hewlett, III Scholarship Foundation** provides financial support to deserving students of Henderson High School and/or East High School in West Chester, based upon need and academic achievement.

**Rotary Club of Coatesville Educational Fund** is a \$6,000 scholarship awarded in installments to a graduating student of Coatesville Area High School who has demonstrated leadership, scholarship, and service.

For more information on establishing or contributing to a scholarship fund, contact Beth Harper Briglia in Donor Services. For information on applying to any of these scholarships, please Aline Reeley, Scholarship Coordinator. Both can be reached at the Community Foundation at 610/696-8211 or info@chescofc.org.



The Lincoln Building  
28 W. Market Street | West Chester, PA 19382

*Let your legacy make a difference in Chester County*



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**MISSION:**

*The Chester County Community Foundation leads, inspires and encourages all individuals and organizations to create or contribute to lasting philanthropic charitable legacies, to improve the quality of life primarily in Chester County.*

A copy of the official registration and financial information for the Chester County Community Foundation may be obtained by calling the Pennsylvania Department of State at 1-800-732-0999 (toll free in Pennsylvania). Registration does not imply endorsement.

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spring 2003

# Foundation forecast

PARTNERS IN PHILANTHROPY

*The Community Foundation. Where Partners Meet to Make Good Things Happen*

The collective power of the Community Foundation's partners - fund advisors, donors, nonprofit organizations, professional advisors, business, government, foundations and the public-is making good things happen in Chester County!

Sometimes it starts with a donor's vision. For example, in this newsletter you'll read about the Downingtown Area School District Fund, which funds academically focused special projects, teacher mini-grants and scholarships. With the aim of giving students every advantage in becoming better learners and better human beings, the Fund unites various constituencies of the school district, including students, teachers, parents, alumni, senior citizens, business and industry.

Other times, making good things happen starts with the Community Foundation enlisting partners. When we wanted to know more about the real health and human service needs in Chester County, we were delighted to do so in partnership with the Chester County Department of Human Services, the Health Department, and United Way of Chester County. Plus this comprehensive project has gained the support of the Healthy Communities Partnership, the Brandywine Health & Wellness Foundation, the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation, and other valued partners too numerous to mention in this brief summary. Our "Planning for a Healthy Chester County" report will be available later this spring and you will be invited to forums to learn what we have found.

The Community Foundation is a place where diverse partners come together to tackle challenges too great to be solved by any one entity. The Community Foundation convenes the necessary partners to clarify a need, agree on a direction, and work out each partner's complimentary role to achieve a common goal.

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## BUILDING COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT: FUNDS OF THE FOUNDATION

**THE DOWNINGTOWN EDUCATION FOUNDATION** was established in 1998 as a result of the Downingtown Area School district's first strategic plan.

The Foundation is dedicated to advancing Downingtown's tradition of academic innovation and excellence by providing supplemental fundraising for special academically focused projects, teacher mini-grants, and student scholarships. Funds will not be used to offset any

of the school district's ongoing operating expenses.

The Foundation is guided by a five-member Executive Board, which is responsible for securing and distributing funds. A 25-member Board of Trustees provides technical expertise, monitors and evaluates Foundation programs, and serves as an advocate for the Foundation as well as a liaison to its supporters. The Trustees work to unite various constituencies of the

school district, including students, teachers, parents, alumni, senior citizens, business and industry.

The Foundation's motto is "Building Better to Best." In this day and age of increased competition for college admission and in the workplace, The Downingtown Education Foundation works to give students every advantage in becoming better learners and better human beings.

## SAMANTHA LEE ZAJAC MEMORIAL FUND - DEDICATES "SAMMY'S PLACE"

The day breaks clear and warm-perfect weather for a special dedication. Classroom doors burst open as students from kindergarten through fifth grade scurry into place. Some, wearing red carnations, distribute programs. Rows of folding chairs face a stage. The chairs quickly fill with friends, family and 400 Westtown-Thornbury Elementary School students and teachers.

Everyone is here to dedicate Sammy's Place, an outdoor educational center honoring Samantha Zajac, the daughter of Carla and Denny Zajac. When the Zajacs lost their 8-year-old daughter to a severe blood infection in August of 2001, they decided to create this 1,000-foot octagonal structure to give something back to the community that had welcomed and supported Sammy during her lifetime.

The welcoming feeling of Sammy's Place is no accident. Not only did Carla and Denny and a team from Westtown-Thornbury endeavor to create something special, but Carla's father, the late school architect Joseph DiLullo, took a lead role in the center's design. Working with passion and drive, even when his own health was failing, DiLullo oversaw the final design and much of the construction.

The dedication ceremony begins with a welcome, a blessing, and a fifth-grade performance of "Can You Feel the Love Today?" With inspirational speaker Pat Croce to set the tone, several speakers pay tribute to Sammy's great attitude and enthusiasm. Her oldest sister, Lindsay, a fifth grader at Westtown-Thornbury, speaks of what it was like to know Sammy, a child whose heart was "bright, cheery, and large like the sun." Lindsay says her sister taught her to "live life to the fullest" and to try her hardest; that "we should laugh with people, not at them, and that we should always enjoy learning new things."



Sammy's friends offer poetry, and a chorus sings a rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" to the accompaniment of hand chimes. Then the Zajac family-Carla, Denny, Lindsay and 5-year-old Rachel-cuts the ribbon to Sammy's Place, and guests file through this new space, a place for contemplating, learning, questing, exploring, dancing, and singing. In short, a wonderful tribute to Samantha Zajac's life and legacy.

Sammy's Place is marked by a plaque that reads: "Dedicated to the memory of Westtown-Thornbury student Samantha Zajac, whose love of learning, nature and friends inspired this outdoor classroom."

The Zajacs designated Westtown-Thornbury as the initial recipient of proceeds from the Sammy Fund. "We wanted to commemorate Sammy's special personality and interests," Carla explained. "We also wanted to give the community the opportunity to participate in creating this tribute, to help with the healing process. And we wanted to create a meaningful asset to the school as a thank-you for all they did for Sammy."

In building Sammy's Place, the Zajacs show that people can transform grief into a contribution to life. Their project honors Sammy in a way that reminds us that every child brings unique gifts to this world-that each child leaves a legacy.

*Written by Vanessa Christman, friend of the Zajacs.*



## CHARLES A. MELTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Dr. Clifford DeBaptiste surprised the 300+ attendees at Henderson High School's Black Student Union Scholarship Banquet Program. During his welcoming remarks to the audience, Dr. Baptiste spoke of the importance of education and "strengthening our learning capabilities so that we are successful in life." He then announced that he had decided to create a new endowed scholarship, The Charles A. Melton Scholarship Fund, at the Chester County Community Foundation.

Charles A. Melton was a West Chester activist and executive director of the West Chester Community Center from 1966 to 1980. Charles Melton fervently believed in getting to the root of the issue and dealing with core causes. In an October 21, 1966 letter published by the *West Chester Daily Local News*, Charles Melton wrote, "To break the cycle of poverty...we must make productive citizens out of the poor by preparing them for better positions in the labor market. This can only be done by educational programs, training, and retraining citizens for better job opportunities." Charles Melton did not believe in programs that "make people more comfortable in poverty...but that return them to the same depressed economic condition."

The scholarship selection committee is headed by Silver Melton, Alice Thomas, Lillian DeBaptiste, and Clifford DeBaptiste. Scholarship candidates must be a member of the Henderson High School Black Student Union pursuing post-secondary education. Students must have a 2.5 average or better. They must also have a track record of being involved in dealing with core causes of community issues.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS

#### *Forums to learn more about community needs and issues*

The Chester County Community Foundation invites you to join us for exciting programs designed specifically for our donors and friends:

[Learn more about community needs and issues in your own back yard.](#)

[Exchange ideas with other donors who have similar charitable interests.](#)

The forums will include an overview of local community issues, and information from Community Foundation staff on nonprofit projects and grant requests. The sessions will conclude with a "Behind the Scenes" site tour. Sessions will be held from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm as follows:



### "ACTION"

- May 13** in Phoenixville at The Colonial Theatre, with an overview by Barbara Cohen of the Chamber of Commerce
- May 20** in Kennett Square at The Center, with David Teel, Borough Manager
- June 3** in Great Valley/Paoli at the Wharton Esherick Museum, with Joseph Janasik, Township Manager
- June 10** in Coatesville at The Lukens Building, with Paul Janssen, City Manager
- June 17** in West Chester at The Chester County Art Association

Please call Donor Services at 610/696-8045 with any questions or to register. Attendance is limited.



## FACES OF THE FOUNDATION

### John Celii, Jr., Vice Chair

As Co-chair of CCCF's Marketing & Development Committee, John Celii brings his formidable management, strategic marketing and planning talents to bear on the world of legacy philanthropy.

A native of Chester County, John Celii, Jr. recently celebrated his 40th wedding anniversary with his wife, Patricia. As high-school sweethearts at Bishop Shanahan, they were members of the first graduating class that attended the first four years at Shanahan. Their complimentary roles would be needed as John went on to become Finance Manager, then world-wide Marketing Manager for office systems and data communications systems at Hewlett-Packard Company. After 20 years at H-P, he then proceeded to 3Com Corp., where as VP Finance and CFO he managed the 3Com Initial Public Offering in 1984. After a brief retirement, John joined another high-tech start-up company, Grand Junction Networks, as VP of Sales. Grand Junction was acquired by Cisco Systems in 1995. John served Cisco Systems as Director of East Coast Business Development before retiring in 1998.

John Celii now enjoys boating and fishing, managing his horse racing and breeding operations, and managing his family's foundation at CCCF. John has served on the Board of Directors of the Bishop Shanahan Development Committee and the Standard-bred Owners and Breeders Alliance. John is most proud of Patricia's latest accomplishment, renovating and restoring their historic Chadds Ford home, which springs to life to welcome visits by their two daughters, Jacqui and Stephanie, and their amazing toddler granddaughter, Ashley.



### Elizabeth R. Moran, Vice Chair

Elizabeth R. Moran is well-known in Chester County for her involvement in the thoroughbred horse breeding business and for her philanthropic good deeds. Mrs. Moran was born in Chester County and graduated from the Shipley School. She and her husband, J. Maxwell Moran, had six children, many of whom live near and remain active in Chester County. Mrs. Moran is also a grandmother of fifteen. She enjoys spending time with her family and consistently encourages them to engage in charitable pursuits.

Due to her belief in the importance of charitable endowment building, in 1994 Mrs. Moran became a founding Board Member of the Chester County Community Foundation. She is also an active Board Member of the Brandywine Museum and Conservancy, the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Wyoming, the Devon Horse Show and County Fair, Paoli Hospital, and the 1957 Charity Foundation. In 2000, Mrs. Moran was the first recipient of CCCF's Jordan Award, in recognition of her life-long commitment to Chester County philanthropy.

*One of the many strengths of the Chester County Community Foundation is the strong leadership the Board has provided over the years. Four of our Board Officers are profiled here. Meet other Board Members in upcoming newsletters.*

### Kenneth W. Tunnell, Vice Chair

A CCCF Board Member since 1997, Ken Tunnell brings considerable business and management expertise to committee and Board deliberations. He is the Managing Partner of Tanglewood Associates, a management consulting firm founded in 1995, which provides high level advice and counsel to corporate and non-profit senior management, staff and Boards of Directors. During his consulting career he has directed many major consulting assignments in the United States and Europe for a diverse group of clients.

He previously served as Chair of the KW Tunnell Co. in King of Prussia from 1988-1994, the firm he founded in 1962 and headed as CEO until 1988. Prior to 1962 he held management positions with the Kollsman Motor Corporation (a division of Standard Kollsman Industries), the Special Systems Division of Honeywell, Inc., ITE Inc., and Fischer and Porter Company.

Mr. Tunnell holds a degree in economics with a minor in engineering from Cornell University. He also attended George Washington University, majoring in business law. Mr. Tunnell resides with his wife, Joanne, in West Chester. He currently also serves on the Boards of the Episcopal Academy and the Chester County Council of the Boy Scouts of America. His outside interests include tennis, golf, travel and art.



### John A. Henry, Corporate Secretary/Treasurer

A Community Foundation Board member since 1999, John Henry currently serves as Chair of the Finance Committee. An active supporter of Chester County Futures, a mentoring and scholarship program for low income high school students, Mr. Henry served as Futures' Advisory Board Chair from 1999-2002.

Mr. Henry currently is Chief Operating Officer of Rex Medical (Conshohocken, PA), a designer of minimally invasive medical devices. Previously, Mr. Henry served as President/CEO and Director of Keystone Natural Water, a regional bottled water company, and as CEO of the Abar Group, a global leader in the engineering and manufacture of thermal processing equipment and heat treating services.

Mr. Henry is a graduate Amherst College, and he earned his MBA from Harvard. In his spare time, he enjoys golf and hiking. John and his wife, Kate, reside in Malvern. They have three children and eight grand children.