



Highlights

OUR HISTORY

The Columbia Foundation is the oldest community foundation in the State of Maryland. It was founded by James Rouse in 1969 to help develop the nonprofit infrastructure in Howard County.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our board includes leaders from every sector of the community. All have deep roots in Howard County and a deep commitment to the community.

OUR MISSION

We build a more giving community by promoting philanthropy, managing endowments, anticipating and responding to community needs, and granting funds.

OUR GRANTS PROGRAM

Since 1969, we've granted more than \$9 million to nonprofit organizations in Howard County. In most years, we grant more than \$500,000 to over 50 different nonprofit organizations.

We award grants twice a year through a competitive process. Howard County residents can apply for grant money for either sustaining (operating) funds or specific projects. The Columbia Foundation also has contingency funds and proactive grant funds to meet specific needs, off-cycle or as needed.

THE WAY WE WORK

We fund our operations through the interest earned on our endowment fund, annual contributions, and our annual Spring Party fund-raiser. We appreciate our donors' generosity and manage their funds very carefully. Administrative costs are never more than about 15 percent of our expense budget.

OUR ENDOWMENT FUND

As of year-end 2006, our assets totaled over \$12 million, with an additional \$1.7 million in pledges outstanding. Our endowment fund is managed by our Investment Committee in consultation with Smith Barney and Merrill Lynch. All contributions to the endowment fund are invested, and the income generated provides grant funds and supports Foundation operations.

The Foundation has more than 200 named family and business funds. These include unrestricted funds, donor-advised funds, and scholarship and agency funds.

OUR GRANTING AND PROGRAM HISTORY

If you live in Howard County, you'll recognize the names of many of the organizations that got their start with seed funding from The Columbia Foundation. Chances are, you enjoy the programs they offer or know someone who has benefited from their services. Among them are...

CULTURAL GROUPS

- The African Art Museum of Maryland
- Candlelight Concert Society
- Columbia Festival of the Arts
- Columbia Orchestra
- Howard County Poetry and Literature Society
- The Jim Rouse Theatre for the Performing Arts at Wilde Lake High School. In 1994, with a \$100,000 pledge,
- The Columbia Foundation became a major supporter of this state-of-the-art performance space.

HUMAN SERVICES

- Domestic Violence Center
- FIRN
- The First Tee of Howard County
- Helping Hands Enrichment and Leadership Foundation
- Hospice Services of Howard County
- Humanim
- National Family Resiliency Center
- Neighbor Ride
- Voices for Children

PARENTING

As part of a three-year parenting initiative begun in 1995, the Foundation awarded over \$137,000 to private agencies and PTAs that conducted seminars, workshops and support groups for over 4,000 Howard County parents.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Using money donated to The Ruth Keeton Housing Fund, The Columbia Foundation has made low-interest loans to provide affordable housing to Columbia Housing Corporation; Winter Growth's assisted living facility, Habitat for Humanity, and Oakland Mills Revitalization Partnership.
- The Columbia Foundation has assumed a leadership role in committing \$100,000 in funding to the expansion of the Grassroots Crisis Center to help address the needs of homeless persons in Howard County.
- In collaboration with The Enterprise Foundation, The Rouse Company Foundation, Horizon Foundation and United Way, The Columbia Foundation worked with the village of Oakland Mills to convene public, private, civic and other groups and individuals to develop the 2005 Oakland Mills Revitalization Plan and to hire a community organizer to assist with the process.
- In 1999, The Columbia Foundation provided seed money for Howard County – A United Vision, which is now Vision Howard County and is the steward of recommendations made by grassroots participants to improve Howard County. The organization's efforts led to the All-America City Award for Howard County in 2001.

MATCHING GRANTS

As of January 2007, we had accepted 21 nonprofit organizations into our matching grant agency endowment program, which currently has assets of \$967,000. This program enables some of Howard County's nonprofits to build precious stability and long-range financial prosperity more efficiently.