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Giving Matters

The Columbia Foundation E-newsletter

March 2009

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Dear Friends of the Columbia Foundation,

The Columbia Foundation and the Howard County community are fortunate that so many families and companies rely on us to personalize their charitable giving. As you'll read in this issue, whether commemorating someone's life through a memorial scholarship, or celebrating a birthday on Facebook, our donors help us live up to our mission of "creating a more giving Howard County."

Now, more than ever, Columbia Foundation grants are crucial to the county's nonprofit organizations and those they serve--which makes your presence at our 27th Annual Spring Party even more important! Thanks to our generous sponsors, we can put 100% of the party's proceeds directly into the grant budget. Be sure to click on the link in this e-news to sign up for the event at the Spear Center - our only fundraiser for the year and the place to be on May 7! As we did for last year's party, we're asking those who can do so to add an extra \$25 that we can distribute to each of our 25 agency endowments.

Our endowment is the primary source of our grant funds, and it did experience a loss in 2008. Thanks to very careful and prudent management, however, it is down only 24%, while many other institutions are reporting losses of 30% or more. Protecting the principle during difficult economic times is our money managers' overriding philosophy, and we are able to continue providing grants and supporting our agency endowment program as a result.

Many thanks to you for your financial contributions and your volunteer time to both The Columbia Foundation and the many nonprofit organizations that make Howard County one of the top places to live in the United States. Please call me at 410-730-7840 or email me at bfrancis@columbiafoundation.org if you have any questions, or if I can help direct you to an organization or program in need of your assistance.

Beverley Francis
President and CEO
bfrancis@columbiafoundation.org

Educational Endeavors

In Memory of "Big Doug"

Spring Party

27th
Annual
Columbia
Foundation



**Thank you to our
generous 2009 Spring
Party sponsors:**

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**Management/Orchard
Development
Corporation**
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Make A Note Of It!

Your community Foundation awards \$230,002 in Operating Grants! [Click here to see the entire list.](#)

The Columbia Foundation awarded \$230,002 in operating grants to 32 local nonprofit organizations.

With a shoe size of 15 EEEE, Doug Parker lived up to his nickname of "Big Doug." But those who had the privilege of knowing him knew his heart and his commitment to young people and sports were far bigger than his shoes.

Doug passed away from pancreatic cancer in May 2008. While he and his wife Jean had four children of their own, Doug was known to what seemed an entire generation of kids who he drove to sporting events in his 15-passenger van with the "Kid Taxi" license plates. He coached nearly 20 basketball, soccer and lacrosse youth teams, and with Jean, founded the Howard Stampede, a Howard County field hockey club and league.

With Jean's blessing, Doug's friends established the Doug Parker Scholarship Fund at The Columbia Foundation. Fittingly, they have launched the "Big Doug Classic," an inter-county girls' basketball competition to help fund the scholarship. The first of what will be an annual sporting event took place January 2nd and 3rd and featured Junior Varsity teams from Howard County and Carroll County High Schools as well as McDonough High. Congratulations are due to the Francis Scott Key High School Eagles who took home the Big Doug Classic Trophy on behalf of Carroll County.

Howard County Public School seniors interested in applying for the \$2,500 Doug Parker Scholarship should contact their guidance counselors for applications. For more information about the Big Doug Classic, go to www.bigdougclassic.org.

Scholarships

Do you know a high school senior looking for a scholarship? Donors to The Columbia Foundation have established scholarships for Howard County public high school seniors who will attend two or four-year colleges or universities in Fall 2009. Information and applications are now available at high school guidance counselor offices, and [on our web site!](#) High schools require completed application forms before the end of March so they can send them to our scholarship committee for final selection. Help spread the word to a talented senior!

Donor Profile

VSG: A Very Special Gift

VSG actually stands for Volunteer Service Grant, and The Columbia Foundation owes both donor Robin Steele and her employer [Booz Allen Hamilton](#) a very special thank you.

Robin and her husband David established their donor-advised fund, the Robin and David Steele Educational Fund, in 2006. A former board member of the Women's Giving Circle (WGC) and an employee with Booz Allen for almost 15 years, Robin has taken advantage of the company's Volunteer Service Grant, and a number of Howard County nonprofit organizations have benefited as a result.

Did You Know?

You don't need a PayPal account to use a credit card at our website. So be sure to visit to pay for Spring Party admission or to make an online contribution. It's easy and it's safe!

In the News

The [Women's Giving Circle](#), a donor-advised fund at The Columbia Foundation, was featured in a New York Times article on November 11, 2008. The story, "As Women's Incomes Rise, So Do Their Donations," discussed how groups of women are pooling their charitable contributions to support programs that benefit women and girls, including Journey, the WGC's week-long summer camp for adolescent girls. [Click here to read the entire article!](#)

Board Awards

Congratulations to Annie Geiermann for being a 2009 Maryland's Top 100 Women Honoree! The Top 100 Women are selected based on their impact through leadership, community service, and mentoring.

[Ascend One](#) was recently named one of the "Best Places to Work" by Baltimore Magazine. Ascend One was chosen for its mission, virtual work option, great benefits, and voluntary programs, including pre-paid legal

Since 2000, the VSG has been Booz Allen Hamilton's way of recognizing the time their employees spend volunteering. Employees who volunteer at least 40 hours annually for a charity can apply for up to two VSGs per year. If a grant is approved, Booz Allen will issue a check to that organization in the individual's name. On average, the firm donates \$500,000 in VSGs each year.

Booz Allen also makes it easy for employees to donate financially to nonprofit organizations through their "Giving Station." Employees use the online feature to contribute to their favorite charities using a credit card or payroll deduction, for either a one-time or a recurring gift. An important feature of the Giving Station is that Booz Allen underwrites the administrative costs so 100% of the employee's donation goes directly to the nonprofit. Robin uses the Giving Station to send payroll deductions to The Columbia Foundation.

Robin applied and received a \$1,500 VSG for the Women's Giving Circle in 2006.

Over the past four years, Robin has gotten a VSG for other organizations she is involved with in Howard County. Booz Allen has contributed over \$6,000 to the WGC, the Columbia Festival of the Arts, the Columbia Delta Foundation and the Links Inc. Foundation, all in Robin's name. As she says, "It's important to me to actively participate in the Howard County, Maryland community because I believe in giving back." Obviously, Booz Allen believes in doing so as well.

Ask any staff person in a nonprofit organization just how important volunteers are to their mission. The Columbia Foundation extends a Very Special Thank You to both Robin Steele and Booz Allen Hamilton for their contribution and recognition of those efforts.

A Roof Over Their Heads

Shortly after midnight on December 30, the offices of Congregations Concerned for the Homeless burned to the ground, and all their files, equipment and furnishings were destroyed. The staff is temporarily housed, thanks to the generosity of The Arc of Howard County, and continuing to provide services to those who face cold winter nights without a roof over their heads.

With a \$10,000 grant from the United Way Community Partnership Board of Howard County, CCH has launched their Vision Fund to supplement what they will receive from insurance to rebuild and re-energize their operations. Their board has met and is using this unfortunate experience as the impetus to identify new practices that CCH might employ, to fill gaps in service and to augment current services that will stem the rise in homelessness. The Vision Fund will finance the costs of locating and furnishing a new and inviting, well-equipped space equal to the important work of assisting families who are facing homelessness to become stable and self-sufficient.

Many nonprofit organizations, individuals, businesses and county officials have extended support, and The Columbia Foundation has given CCH a \$2,000 emergency grant, in addition to a \$10,000 operating grant in fall 2008. If you would like to contribute to the Vision Fund,

service, and pet insurance.

Congratulations to Mike Croxson, President of CareOne Services and Amerix, and COO of Ascend One!

[Howard Bank](#) has been named to SmartCEO Magazine's Future 50 List for the third year in a row. Each year, the magazine lists the 50 fastest growing companies in the greater Baltimore region. In choosing the companies to include on the list, the magazine looks at both growth in revenues and employees over the most recent three year period.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce and Baltimore Business Journal awarded the Maryland Business Philanthropy Award to Howard Bank in the Small Employer Category. The Business Philanthropy Award recognizes businesses that have provided outstanding support, through employee time and charitable contributions, for local non-profits. Congratulations to Mary Ann Scully, President and CEO!

Should you know of any board member who has received an award or recognition, please call or email us. We value their contributions, not just to our organization, but to the community at large!

New Funds

The Columbia Foundation is pleased to recognize the following funds

CCH's temporary mailing address is P. O. Box 1504, Columbia, MD 21044 or you can go to their web site: www.cch-hc.org. For more information, call Executive Director Jane O'Leary at (410) 884-5408, extension 100.

Party Hearty!

Spring officially starts at 7:44 a.m. on March 20 this year, but in Howard County, the unofficial start is always **The Columbia Foundation's Spring Party!**

This year's event marks the 27th time this gathering has taken place. Once again, thanks to the generosity of General Growth Properties, we're having it at the **Spear Center**, so put **Thursday May 7** on your calendars. Doors open at **5:45 p.m.** and the nearly 700 partygoers reluctantly leave at 8:30.

So what makes this party so popular? Well, once you've arrived, there's nothing else to do but enjoy the scene. No speeches, no raffles, no silent auctions ... just fun! Eat and drink at the full buffet from Clyde's (including seafood and roast beef!), catch up with old friends, make some new contacts, hang out on the terrace overlooking the lake and listen to the music of the Ellington-Adderly African American Community Jazz Ensemble. All for \$75.

It's also the Foundation's only fundraiser of the year. Thanks to our generous sponsors, we can add 100% of the proceeds to the grant funds we award Howard County nonprofit organizations. These difficult financial times make our grants - and your support - more important than ever.

Something new! This year we're being economically and environmentally sound and have eliminated paper tickets. You can sign up using your credit card at www.columbiafoundation.org. Or, send a check, stop by the office or give us a call at 410-730-7840. Just be sure to check in at the desk when you get to the party.

Sign up today to welcome spring in the traditional Howard County way - at **The Columbia Foundation's Spring Party!** See you there!

The Party Goes On...

It's 8:30 pm on May 7. All the lights are on in the Spear Center and the crowd is being ushered out after another great Spring Party. But there's one question on everyone's mind: Where to next? This year, the answer is easy: Keep the celebration going at twenty.five.forty.five's Spring Party After Party sponsored by [HoCoMoJo](#).

Join members and friends of twenty.five.forty.five at That's Amore beginning at 8:30 pm on May 7 for more food, fun and festivities. A suggested donation of \$15 gets you a drink ticket (beer and wine only), coffee, desert and a chance to avoid going home for another couple hours.

You'll also have an opportunity to learn more about twenty.five.forty.five

established between November 17, 2008 and March 13, 2009. These families join our growing list of over 250 funds in contributing to our community.

Donor Advised Funds

Kvech Family Fund
Ulman Family Fund
Van Winkle Family Fund

Scholarship and Award Funds

Eldred Jackson Family Scholarship Fund
Doug Parker Scholarship Fund

Have You Included TCF In Your Will?

Your bequest to The Columbia Foundation can be a way to leave your legacy in Howard County. For more information, call Beverley Francis, President and CEO, at 410-730-7840, or log onto [TCF's website](#).

Stock Gifts

Please notify Foundation staff if you make a stock gift.

Join our list

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

and why we insist on using only lower case letters.

For those who can't wait to learn more, here's a taste of what we're about: [twenty.five.forty.five](mailto:twenty.five.forty.five@gmail.com) is an initiative of the Columbia Foundation to promote philanthropy among those aged 25 to 45 in Howard County.

Not within that age range? Don't worry, the event is open to everyone, regardless of age. We can use all the support and company we can get.

Questions? Want to get involved now? Write us at twenty.five.forty.five@gmail.com. Or, join the cause on Facebook (<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/189299?m=3f1cca43>).

Grants at Work

HC DrugFree

According to 2007 figures, among Howard County teens, over 50% of 12th graders and almost 40% of 8th graders report using alcohol. Nearly one-third of 12th graders have used drugs other than alcohol and tobacco.



With a mission of empowering the Howard County community to raise drug-free teens, HC DrugFree offers educational programs, a parent newsletter and other resources to families and teenagers. Foundation project grants in 2007 and 2008 helped fund their educational resource bank and newsletter, while this year's operating grant will support the overall organization, including their very successful Teen Job and Volunteer Fair held March 7 at Long Reach High School.

Over 1300 teens and 700 parents attended the four-hour long event, which had 100 exhibitors. Representatives from community businesses, nonprofit groups, military and law enforcement organizations, sports teams, camps and other schools provided information about paid and volunteer positions as well as recreational activities. Teens attended workshops on job skills such as completing job applications and interviewing, and participated in a "Dress for Success" fashion show modeled and emceed by high school students. New to this year's fair were teen health and wellness exhibitors who offered services and demonstrations on topics including eating disorders, skin care, diet and nutrition, yoga and counseling.

Research has shown that teens active in their community, whether working, volunteering, participating in sports or other activities are less likely to experiment with alcohol and other drugs. Howard County is fortunate to have so many opportunities for our young people to get involved and HC DrugFree's fair provides teens with the information they need to do so. Their educational materials and seminars support parents in the difficult job of raising teenagers and keeping them free of substance abuse and other dangerous behaviors. Nobody said it was easy - but HC DrugFree is a resource parents can add to their list of those willing and able to help. Check out their website at www.hcdrugfree.org.



Sundays at Three

Are you a fan of chamber music? Now in its 12th year, Sundays at Three presents chamber music performances by some of the region's top musicians, including players from the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and internationally-known guest musicians. Columbia Foundation operating grants help them keep their ticket prices lower than they could otherwise. In fact, the group offers free admittance to anyone under 18 who comes in with a paying adult.

This year, Sundays at Three is introducing their Awards for Outstanding Student Chamber Musicians to recognize aspiring high-school aged chamber musicians. They will ask the music or orchestra director at each of the county's 12 high schools to identify a student in his or her junior year with an interest and talent in chamber music, and the organization will award each with a small check and two tickets to the following season's concert series.

For video clips of their performances, click here to go to their website: <http://www.sundaysatthree.org/videos.html>.

Giving Outside the Box

A Little "Face" Time

Are you on Facebook? Social networking web sites are valuable tools for anyone interested in rallying support for a cause. Recently, Ilana Bittner established a "Cause App" for twenty.five.forty.five, The Columbia Foundation's next generation initiative, on her Facebook account. Those on Facebook can [go to the page](#) to learn about twenty.five.forty.five, and here's what they'll see:

The screenshot shows a Facebook Cause page for 'twenty.five.forty.five'. The page header includes the Facebook logo and navigation links: Home, Profile, Friends, Inbox. The user's name 'Ilana Bittner' and 'Settings Logout' are visible in the top right. Below the header, there are navigation options for Causes: Causes Home, Find Causes, Your Causes, Causes Account, About, Help, and a search bar for Causes. The main content area features the cause name 'twenty.five.forty.five' and its mission: 'The Next Generation Initiative's mission is to promote philanthropy among 25-45 year olds in Howard County'. The beneficiary is listed as 'Donations to the cause benefit: COLUMBIA FOUNDATION INC A 501(c)(3) nonprofit'. The positions section lists four goals: 1. Provide members with opportunities for hands-on involvement in community and social investment; 2. Educate our members about the power of collective philanthropy; 3. Identify and fund nonprofit organizations in Howard County that address community needs; 4. Social networking and visibility. The category is 'Human Services'. The description states: 'twenty.five.forty.five is an initiative of The Columbia Foundation, which serves as a catalyst for building a more caring, creative and effective community in Howard County.' Below the description, there is a button to 'Post one now'. The page also displays statistics: 86 MEMBERS and \$450 DONATED, with buttons to 'Invite' and 'Donate'. A small group of people icons is shown next to the statistics. At the bottom, there is a 'Fundraising Goal' section. On the right side, there is a red circular logo with white wavy lines. Below the logo, there are options to 'Email All Members', 'Edit Cause', 'Invite', 'Donate', 'View Members', 'View Past Announcements', and 'Leave Cause'. There is also a 'Share' button. At the bottom right, there is a section titled 'How You Are Helping' with a progress bar showing: 22 members recruited, \$100 donated, and \$160 raised.

Ilana also took advantage of what Facebook calls a "Birthday Cause," so

those who wanted to could contribute to twenty.five.forty.five in honor of her birthday. Those gifts totaled \$450! It also was a great way to make more people aware of twenty.five.forty.five.

If you'd like to find out more about twenty.five.forty.five, please call Priscilla Reaver at the Foundation, (410) 730-7840. And if you're not of the right age group, please pass the word on to someone who is. The initiative's events are a great way to network the old-fashioned way - face to face!

The Dance Continues

A pioneer of dance and one of the founders of Kinetics Dance Theatre, Dorothy "Dottie" Fried passed away from cancer in April 2008.

During the 1980s, Dottie was in the dance department at what was then Towson State University where she started a children's dance program and a program for student dance teachers, both of which continue today. She ran children's summer art camps at St. Mary's College and, in 1982, with her long-time companion Keith Nichols and colleague Stephanie Simmons, founded Kinetics in Columbia.

Her friends recently established The Dottie Fried Choreography Fund with The Columbia Foundation. Each year, the fund will award a Howard County dance company with a grant to pay for a guest choreographer who will work with the company to create a new dance. Mention of the fund appeared in the December 2008 issue of Baltimore's Child in an article titled "The Art and Science of Dance." Check out pages 20-22 in the following: <http://www.bluetoad.com/publication/?i=8534>.

Chair of the Board of Trustees, Meg Moon
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President, Beverley Francis
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Questions or Comments?

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