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Giving Matters

The Columbia Foundation E-newsletter

Spring 2007

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Welcome to our Next Generation Initiative Committee!

The committee will focus on educating and promoting philanthropy among 25-49 year olds in Howard County.

The committee members are:
Joshua Feldmark, Howard County Commission on the Environment and Sustainability
Ian Kennedy, the Enterprise Foundation
Priscilla Reaver, the Columbia Foundation
Akbar Masood, Akbar Masood, DDS
Meg Moon, Lakeview Title
Candace Dodson Reed, the Columbia Foundation
Krysta Huxford, Leadership Howard County
Jaki Ulman, IBM Consulting

Dear Friends,

The ways people give to The Columbia Foundation are as individual and creative as the donors themselves. In this issue, you'll read about a family who started a fund to help young people involved in the county's foster care system. You'll meet a 14-year old who responded to our annual giving letter sent to her by mistake and a group of women in a Birthday Club who give to nonprofit organizations rather than each other.

It isn't the amount of the gift that matters. We encourage folks to contribute what they can to community groups whose missions touch some piece of their hearts. One way is to add a bequest in your will so your **legacy** of supporting a cause of importance to you continues after your lifetime. The Columbia Foundation commissioned Jean Moon & Associates to study how to educate people in Howard County about that kind of giving. You can read the results by [clicking here](#).

It is indeed an honor to help individuals, families and businesses in Howard County – and even some who have moved away! – find new ways to contribute to our community. This month, look for our new communication, "Opportunities to Give", which will highlight various ways that our donors can **creatively** give to the nonprofits that we support. On behalf of The Columbia Foundation board and all those who benefit from your generosity, I thank you.

Sincerely,
Barbara K. Lawson

Grants At Work Healthy Families

Anyone who has gone through the experience of a new baby in the household knows just how stressful a time it can be. Why won't he



**Chris Marasco, Howard Bank
Monica Butler, Bart Butler
Real Estate**

Make A Note of it!

**Your Community Foundation
Awards \$230,000 in Operating
Grants! Click here to see the
entire list.**

Top 10 Reasons Attorneys and Professional Advisors Work with Maryland Community Foundations:

**One: They are local
organizations with deep roots
in the community.**

**Two: Their professional
program staff has broad
expertise regarding
community issues and needs.**

**Three: They provide highly
personalized service tailored
to each individual's charitable
and financial interests.**

**Four: They accept a wide
variety of assets, and can
facilitate even the most
complex form of giving.**

**Five: Their donor advised
funds help people invest in the
causes they care about most.**

**Six: They partner with
professional advisors to
create highly effective
approaches to charitable
giving.**

**Seven: They offer maximum
tax advantage under state and
federal law.**

**Eight: They multiply the
impact of gift dollars by
pooling them with other donor
gifts and grants.**

stop crying? When can she eat baby food? Shouldn't he be crawling by now? Questions seem to multiply with every passing day, and moms and dads often feel overwhelmed, frightened, frustrated and sometimes just plain silly!

Funded in part by Columbia Foundation grants, the Healthy Families program – a partnership between Howard County General Hospital and Family and Children's Services of Central Maryland – helps new parents create a healthy home environment for their children. Free to any Howard County resident, the program is part of the national Healthy Families America initiative and has served over 2,750 first-time moms or dads since November 2001.

[**Read the full article...**](#)

Donor Profile St. Clair Family

The family of Duane and Janis St. Clair of Columbia, Maryland has established a fund with The Columbia Foundation to benefit foster children in Howard County. The St. Clair Family Foundation Fund will provide financial support to foster children who need funds for items such as athletic equipment or musical instruments so they can participate in school activities. It also will help young adults transitioning out of the foster care system.



Currently, there are over 100 youth in the Howard County foster care system, yet fewer than 45 families are licensed for foster care. The St. Clairs hope to grow the fund through an annual event and contributions from those who want to help this little-known population in the county. Distributions from the fund will begin in 2008.

[**Read on...**](#)

Financial Advisors Corner

**2006 Pension Law Provides for Charity
Provision Allows for Tax-free Charitable Transfers from IRAs
By Buffy Beaudoin-Schwartz**

Since 1974, millions of Americans have saved billions of pre-tax dollars in Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). Thanks to continued savings and investment returns, an estimated \$3.6

Nine: They build endowment funds that benefit the community forever and help create personal legacies.

Ten: They are community leaders, convening agencies and coordinating resources to create positive change.

Printed with permission from the Maryland Community Foundation Initiative

Have You Joined the Howard Legacy Society?

Your bequest to The Columbia Foundation can be a way to leave your legacy in Howard County. For more information, call Barbara Lawson, President and CEO, at 410-730-7840, or log onto www.columbiafoundation.org.

New Funds

The Columbia Foundation is pleased to recognize the following funds established between November 30, 2006 and March 30, 2007. These families join our growing list of over 200 funds in contributing to our community.

Donor-Advised and Designated Funds:
Barker Family Fund
Seals Family Fund
St. Clair Family Foundation Fund
Speizman Horowitz Family Fund
Talkin Family Fund

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trillion is currently invested in IRAs, and the total continues to grow. In early August 2006, a federal law was enacted allowing IRA owners to share the wealth of their retirement savings by giving directly to charity—without first counting it as income and paying income tax.

The new law could be a boon to local philanthropy.

[Read the full article...](#)

Giving Outside the Box

Return to Sender

Around Thanksgiving, Rebecca Colandrea received our annual letter soliciting end-of-year contributions. Nothing unusual about that, except that Rebecca is only 14 years old. Rather than throw the letter away, however, Rebecca looked over our list of grantees and decided to help out. She sent a note explaining she had gotten our letter and was donating \$15, asking that The Arc of Howard County, Special Olympics and the Domestic Violence Center each receive \$5.00.

Those organizations mean something special to Rebecca. Her family shares their home with a local woman who has developmental disabilities. One of Rebecca's sisters was involved in an abusive relationship and now helps educate people about violence and abuse. The variety of organizations The Columbia Foundation supports means generous individuals such as Rebecca can make one gift that helps many.

Pam and David, Rebecca's parents, say Rebecca learned about the value of giving back to the community from her grandparents, among whom are Herb Johl, Treasurer of FISH (an all volunteer organization, that the Columbia Foundation supports, which provides assistance in emergency situations), and from themselves. What a great family tradition!

Special Gifts

Mary McGraw, publisher of Generations, celebrated her 60th birthday late last year, and we got the present! An envelope arrived at our office with this note:

Enclosed are two checks of \$20 each for the Women's Giving Circle. My friends and I have started a new tradition I wanted to share with you. We get together to celebrate one another's birthday and have dinner. In the past we have given each other token gifts, that is, until recently. Now, in the spirit of giving back to the community, we designate a charity for our donations. Please share our "giving circle" idea. Mary McGraw

According to Mary, the woman whose birthday it is gets to select the organization. So thank you, Mary, and Happy Belated Birthday!

Fountain Coins - An Update

The Columbia Foundation received another **\$4000** from the fountains in the Mall in Columbia! This brings the total to **\$8400** that we have received in the last six months! **Keep up the giving, kids!**

Expanding Our Role **Building Stronger Non-Profits**

The Columbia Foundation helps to build stronger, more financially secure nonprofit organizations in a variety of ways. Recently, in partnership with the Association of Community Services (ACS) and the Horizon Foundation, we have sponsored workshops on obtaining grants. Board and staff members from over thirty-five organizations attended September's "Everything You Wanted to Know About Grant Writing But Were Afraid to Ask," led by grant writer Anne Barney. The workshop included a question-and-answer period with a panel of local grant making executives.

On March 13th and 22nd, Phyllis Utterback from The Horizon Foundation provided valuable information on "How to Begin with the End in Mind - Measuring Program Outcomes". "Budgeting: It's More than Just Some Numbers" will take place in May. Already the Foundation's Grant Review Committee has noticed an improvement in the quality of the grants they've received!

Save the Dates

2007 is a very special year! Not only is it Columbia's 40th anniversary, but The Columbia Foundation is hosting our 25th annual spring party! Whether you're a newcomer or one of the "old timers," you don't want to miss this event. Mark your calendar for **Thursday, May 3 from 5:45 to 8:30 p.m.** and be sure to watch your mail for the **special** invitation! Buy your tickets online [here!](#)

Columbia Foundation's Next Generation Initiative Committee kicks off with our first event on May 14th. The event will be held at Trapeze in Maple Lawn from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Howard County Executive Ken Ulman will be speaking about the importance of introducing our next generation to philanthropy and giving. For more information or to RSVP, email Candace Dodson Reed at cdodsonreed@columbiafoundation.org

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