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## Giving Matters

### The Columbia Foundation E-newsletter

Fall 2009

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Dear Friends of The Columbia Foundation,

This time of year is often considered "the season of giving." In this issue of our enews, however, we're featuring those who find ways to give back year-round. I hope you enjoy these stories of everyday people making everyday contributions. It is their generosity of spirit that turns a group of strangers into a community of people connected to one another. We're fortunate that there are countless such stories throughout Howard County!

Be sure to read about a group of apartment complexes whose residents are making ongoing gifts of food and household supplies to the FISH Food Pantry. We also highlight an all-volunteer organization that started in 1977 with a \$1.00 a week "Dollars for Scholars" program to fund college scholarships for African American students.

One article describes the recent partnership between the Foundation and the Howard County Library. In helping to promote our 40th anniversary, the Library has compiled lists of books related to charitable giving and volunteering. I especially appreciate the list of children's books that describe simple, meaningful ways children can give. What a wonderful way the library is helping us in our mission of "inspiring life-long giving."

Despite this issue's focus on year-round generosity, I can't deny that "the season of giving" is indeed approaching. I know you'll soon be receiving many requests for your support and I hope The Columbia Foundation is on your list of organizations whose work is important to you. All gifts go to our endowment, the source of our grant budget each year. Please visit our web site at [www.columbiafoundation.org](http://www.columbiafoundation.org) if you would like to make a contribution through our secure on-line system. Or stop by and see us in our office!

On behalf of all those who benefit from your year-round generosity, I thank you and wish you a joyous holiday season.

Beverley Francis  
President and CEO  
[bfrancis@columbiafoundation.org](mailto:bfrancis@columbiafoundation.org)

*P.S. The Columbia Foundation is now on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!*

#### **40 Who Make a Difference**

Each of these individuals, families and businesses made a commitment to contribute at least \$10,000 over the next five years in conjunction with our 40th anniversary and recently completed five-year Strategic Plan.

The *40 Who Make a Difference* give - as do so many of our donors - to our community in a variety of ways; time, talent as well as financial support.

Ilana and Dave Bittner and  
HoCoMoJo Ventures  
Bernie Bradley  
Steve and Jackie Breeden  
Victor and Tina Broccolino  
Mike and Meg Croxson

Bernaldo and Constance  
Dancel  
Michael and Joanne Davis  
Steve and Miriam Dubin  
Michael and Karen Dwyer  
Joshua and Jessica  
Feldmark  
Dorothy Harris  
Bob and Bach Jeffrey  
Michael and Carolyn  
Kelemen  
Pat and Ellen Kennedy  
Margaret and Victor Kim  
Steven and Beverly Koren

Lundy Family  
Mary Margaret Moon  
Steven Sachs  
Mary Ann and Chuck  
Scully  
David and Robin Steele  
Barb Van Winkle  
W. R. Grace

**A Sincere Thank You to  
each of you!**

We still need at least 16  
more commitments to  
reach our goal of 40  
participants. If you would  
like to learn more about  
this opportunity, please  
call Beverley at 410-730-  
7840.

#### Community Awards

Congratulations to **Mike Davis** of Davis, Agnor, Rapaport & Skalny and TCF Leadership Council Co-Chair, for receiving the Award of Excellence from the Howard County Bar Association - for his leadership and professionalism in the legal community in the area of Elder Law, and his efforts to protect and promote the legal rights of the aging citizens of Howard County.

The **Howard County**

## 40 Years of Making a Difference

Two days before the end of 1969, James Rouse, Richard Anderson, William Finley, Mort Hoppenfeld and John Levering held The Columbia Foundation's first Board of Trustees meeting. Now, 40 years later, the Foundation is beginning a year-long celebration of the impact our organization has had on the Howard County community.

Our first grant was \$5,000 to the Association of Community Services in 1971. Since then, we have awarded over \$10 million to Howard County human services, cultural arts, educational and civic nonprofit organizations. We also have led or been involved in projects such as our three-year Parenting Initiative, the National Civic League All-American County Award and the Oakland Mills Revitalization Plan, to name just a few.

With the establishment of our new strategic plan, we expect our influence in the county to continue growing. But we wouldn't be where we are today without you! And so, we are hosting a series of events over the next year to say Thank You for your part in our 40 Years Making a Difference.

Click [here](#) to see the calendar of events from now until our next annual dinner in October 2010.

## Grants at Work

### Conexiones

Congratulations to Conexiones, one of our 2009 operational grant recipients for receiving the **2009 Governor's Hispanic Heritage Award for Non-Profit Organization of the Year!**

Each year, the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs and members of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives honor individuals and an organization from throughout the state that contribute to the welfare and progress of the Hispanic community.



The mission of Conexiones is to ensure that every Hispanic student in Howard County will complete high school and continue in productive and satisfying directions; and to develop partnerships with schools, community organizations, businesses, community leaders and parents to provide comprehensive programs to advance the leadership capabilities and educational achievement of Howard County Hispanic youth.

The Governor's award highlighted Conexiones' success with encouraging Hispanic students to remain in school and graduate. Representing 5.5% of the student body, Hispanic students have the

**Police Department** was recognized as a "Flagship Agency" by the National Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)! Flagship agencies are those recognized by CALEA as "model" organizations in law enforcement.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Family has notified Pal-Tech of their selection for the 2009 Assistant Secretary's Outstanding Contractor Award! Congratulations to TCF board member **Dorothy Harris**, Senior Vice President of Special Projects on Children, Youth, and Families.

Congratulations to **Mary Ann Scully**, Howard Bank President and CEO, and TCF Board Chair, for being among eight entrepreneurs honored at the Greater Baltimore Technology Council's TechNite.

St. John's Baptist Church has received the Community Action Council's 2009 Service Award. St. John's Baptist Church has made significant financial and volunteer contributions to CAC for the past ten years. Congratulations to our board member **Rev. Ostein Truitt**, Assistant Pastor of the Church.

The Columbia Bank has been awarded a 2009 silver medal by The Healthy Workplaces Program, recognizing Howard

highest drop-out rate of any ethnic group in the Howard County Public School System. One way Conexiones is working to halt this trend is by sponsoring Hispanic Youth Clubs in partnership with the school system and funded in part by Columbia Foundation grants.

Now in eight high schools and one middle school, these clubs raise awareness of Hispanic heritage and create a sense of community to foster engagement in school. In 2009, the Clubs hosted inspirational talks by Hispanic men and women in a variety of professions, such as an airline pilot, corporate executive, female engineer and a police officer. Through the Clubs, students took field trips to the Mexican Embassy, to historic American sites in Philadelphia and to the Gala Hispanic Theater in Washington, D.C.

Howard High School junior **Xaviera Rosado** is Vice President of the school's Youth Club known as "Los Leones," which translates to "The Lions" in honor of Howard's mascot. They meet every Wednesday for an hour after school to plan events, host guest speakers and encourage group discussions. "I feel that I've gained a lot of emotional support from the other students, especially in my academic life," she says, and credits her participation in the club with helping her raise her grade point average from 2.7 to 3.5. Many of the guest speakers are former club members who have gone on to college, and Xaviera is inspired by their successes. Her plans are to go either to culinary or business school after graduation.

Foundation grants also support the annual awards program Conexiones holds each May to recognize the academic achievements of Hispanic students, and to award scholarships. "Seeing their older siblings or cousins receiving awards at these events is a powerful example for younger students," says Conexiones President **Feli Sola-Carter**.

For more information about the important work Conexiones is doing, visit their website at [www.conexioneshc.org](http://www.conexioneshc.org). Tax-deductible donations can be made to Conexiones at P.O. 6997, Columbia, MD 21044.

*Photo: Conexiones student and Howard High School junior, Xaviera Rosado is Vice President of "Los Leones."*

## Donor Profile



### **Jessica and Joshua Feldmark**

You won't talk long with Jessica and Joshua Feldmark before hearing the words "community building." Both back up those words with their involvement in The Columbia Foundation and their work with the Howard County Government.

Jessica is Chief of Staff for County Executive Ken Ulman and Joshua is the County's Director of Environmental Sustainability. They met over ten years ago

while serving as AmeriCorps members in Volunteer Maryland,

County workplaces committed to improving employee health and well-being. Congratulations to our board members **John A. Scaldara, Jr.**, President and CEO, and **Annie Geiermann**, Senior Vice President of The Columbia Bank!

**Neighbor Ride** was named as one of 21 national recipients of the prestigious STAR Search Senior Transportation Award by The Beverly Foundation and acknowledged as one of the "best of the best" in terms of the enormous contribution it is making in the lives of older adults in America.

Should you know of any TCF partners who have 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 established between July 21, 2009 and November 16, 2009. These families and businesses join our growing list of over 250 funds in contributing to our community.

#### Donor-Advised Funds

David Becker Memorial Fund  
Margaret Berkeley Fund  
Gila Fridkis Bat Mitzvah Fund

**Make A Note Of It!**

Jessica at the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service and Joshua at the Department of Natural Resources. With a home in the Village of Wilde Lake where Joshua grew up ("I went from one side of the lake to the other," he says), they are among the "40 Who Make a Difference" who have made a five-year pledge to the Foundation as part of our 40th anniversary celebration.

"We really wanted to step up our commitment to supporting our community," Joshua explains, when asked why they had chosen to participate in the campaign. Both stressed that pooling their gift with the rest of the Foundation's assets will make it go that much further. "That's the power of a community foundation," says Jessica.

Three years ago, Candace Dodson-Reed asked Joshua to join "twentyfivefortyfive," the Foundation's "Next Generation" initiative, and he and Jessica have been involved ever since. He now serves as co-chair, and says that over the next few years, the 180-member group will focus especially on issues of importance to that age bracket. They also want to help Howard County's nonprofit organizations "tell their stories" to the public through social media, events and personal contact, which in turn will help strengthen those organizations' ability to build support throughout the community. Anyone with questions about twentyfivefortyfive can contact Joshua at [j.feldmark@verizon.net](mailto:j.feldmark@verizon.net).

Joshua and Jessica agree that being able to contribute to community-building through their careers as well as their charitable giving is important to them. We at The Columbia Foundation thank them for backing up their words with such generosity and effort!

*Photo: Jessica and Joshua Feldmark*

## Educational Endeavors

### Howard County Foundation for Black Educational and Cultural Achievement

Rachel Spivey received a college scholarship through the Howard County Foundation for Black Educational and Cultural Achievement (HCFBECA) in 2005. When asked what the award had meant to her, she responded, "*Attending Hampton University was a wonderful experience that helped shape me into the woman I have become today. I want to thank the Howard County Foundation for Black Educational and Cultural Achievement for supporting me and making it possible for me to attend Hampton. I will forever be grateful.*"



Since 1977, this small, all-volunteer organization has provided \$560,000 in college scholarships and other financial aid to over 400 African American students in Howard County. Founded by a group of concerned parents 32 years ago, HCFBECA awarded almost \$27,000 to 20 students at their annual ceremony held this

2010 Project Grant Application will be **available soon**. Stay tuned by visiting our [website](#). Please check the guidelines for eligibility.

### Visit Our Gallery!

The Columbia Foundation's office gallery is featuring *Mother-Daughter Reflections*, an exhibit of photographs by Baltimore photographer Rebecca Rothey and paintings by her late mother Ginny Baier until the end of the year.

Rebecca Rothey studied photography under Geoff Delaney at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland and does her own gelatin silver printing using traditional darkroom techniques. Her images are made in the tradition of French street photography and also include intimate studies of people, objects and cityscapes.

Click [here](#) to see pictures from the recent reception.

Please call the office at 410-730-7840 before stopping by.

### Holiday Guide to Giving

Do you, your family or your business want to give back to the community this holiday season? The Volunteer Center of Howard County has recently published their "Holiday Guide to Giving 2009" with a list of Howard County nonprofit and public agencies that

past May. The majority of the students received scholarships of \$1,500, and others were given \$650 to go towards the cost of purchasing course books.

President William Lewis has been with the organization since its founding, and his wife Mavis serves as Chair of the Campaign Committee. Along with the other board members, they raise funds every year, all of which are distributed as awards except for a very small amount for the organization's few administrative costs. Once a year, they arrange a trip to a show in New York City as a way to raise awareness of the organization as well as scholarship funds.

In earlier years, the Lewis' also were involved in taking dozens of students on overnight visits to colleges, including Washington University, a school that continues to have a close partnership with HCFBECA. Two students currently attend the University, and close to ten have graduated from there over the years, with help from the organization.

When HCFBECA first started, many donors participated through their "Dollars for Scholars" program, which asked only \$1.00 a week, a total of \$52.00. That program continues today, although many supporters make larger contributions in memory or in honor of family members or friends. One especially popular way to give is through their "Adopt a Student" program which requires a minimum gift of \$500. Those donors are recognized each year at the annual awards ceremony.

The Columbia Foundation has awarded HCFBECA with operating grants every year since 1990, and selected them as one of the organizations in the first agency endowment fund program launched in 1999. In 2001, The Howard County Executive and the Howard County Council selected HCFBECA as the Howard County Volunteer Community Organization of the Year and the Willis family chose them for the Casey Willis "Making a Difference" Award in 2002.

Thanks to two of the organization's Board members, Janice Lopez and Doug Handy, they now have their first web site: [www.hcfbeca.community.officelive.com](http://www.hcfbeca.community.officelive.com). They anticipate adding an online giving capability next year, but in the meantime, they welcome contributions at:

Howard County Foundation for Black Educational and Cultural Achievement  
P.O. Box 69  
Columbia, MD 21045

If you are interested in the "Adopt a Student" program or would like to get more involved with HCFBECA, please contact William Lewis at [williamlewis1@comcast.net](mailto:williamlewis1@comcast.net).

*Photo: Rachel Spivey, 2005 Scholarship recipient*

## Giving Outside the Box

### Local Food Drive

could use your help!

Click on the picture below to find out how...



### Stock Gifts

Please notify Foundation staff if you make a stock gift.

### 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](#).

### Join our list

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

It was late summer when Administrative Assistant and Assistant Controller Anne Howes of Orchard Development Corporation approached President Earl Armiger with an idea to promote giving in the community. While every year around the holidays the employees of Orchard Development contribute time and resources to an agreed-upon charitable cause, Anne thought the residents of the properties they manage could get involved as well.

Anne and Earl came up with a food drive, with Earl's condition that it benefit an organization in Howard County. "People don't realize how great the need is here," Earl explained. A call to The Columbia Foundation connected Anne and Orchard Development with FISH of Howard County, an all-volunteer organization that provides emergency assistance, including delivering five days' of food to those who call their food pantry.

Anne prepared a flier inviting residents in all of Orchard Development's Maryland properties, which included complexes in both Howard and Prince George's counties, to participate. The request was simple: drop off a can of food or other non-perishable items such as diapers or laundry detergent at the management offices or community rooms. Shortly after the call went out, residents at the Orchard Club Apartments, Orchard Crossing Apartments, Selborne House of Dorsey Hall, Patuxent Square and Selborne House of Laurel collected over 1,500 pounds of food! The drive continues, with FISH making weekly pick-ups.

FISH's Director Carroll Kitzmiller reports that they have been having trouble keeping their pantry stocked, as the number of Howard County families they are helping has been on the increase. "We have people coming in who have lost their jobs and never been in this kind of situation before," she says. "The need is there year-round, so having this start in September was perfect timing."

Earl credits Anne for her creative idea, and The Columbia Foundation for, as he put it, "fostering a culture of giving." In turn, we credit Orchard Development for providing an opportunity for people to give to those less fortunate. And, along with FISH, we extend a sincere thank you to the Orchard Development residents contributing to this worthwhile effort. As Beverly Francis has said, "It brings people together when they can see themselves as givers."

For more information on FISH of Howard County, visit their website at [www.fishhowardcounty.com](http://www.fishhowardcounty.com).

## Annual Dinner Wrap-up

On Wednesday October 21, over 250 friends of The Columbia Foundation attended our annual dinner. The Association of Community Services (ACS) and the Children's Chorus of the Peabody Institute of John Hopkins University were our featured grantees. Visit [TCF on Facebook](#) to see pictures and a short film of the Chorus' performance.

### The Casey Willis Making a Difference Award

Congratulations to Chase Brexton Health Services who received

this year's \$5,000 award for providing dental services to uninsured or under-insured Pre-K - 2nd graders in the county's Title 1 schools!

Prior to his death this past August, Dr. Eugene "Pebbles" Willis had presented the award at the Foundation dinner each year. This year, his son Dave, daughter Amy and brother John made the award in both his and Casey's honor.

#### **James W. Rouse Award**

Congratulations to Michael W. Davis for winning The James W. Rouse Award, an award that honors an individual whose commitment to The Columbia Foundation and to the community is extraordinary and inspiring!

Mike served on The Columbia Foundation's board for 13 years and still remains closely involved on our Development Committee and is Co-chair of our Leadership Council.

The dinner also featured recognition by County Executive Ken Ulman and a representative of Senator Barbara Mikulski's office presented a citation that Senator Mikulski had read on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Padraic Kennedy, long-time Columbia resident, former Foundation board chair and Co-chair of our Leadership Council gave us a fond look back on the many achievements of the Foundation over the past 40 years.

To learn more, click [here](#).

## **Expanding Our Role**

The Columbia Foundation's grants are just one way we help to build stronger nonprofit organizations in Howard County.

#### **Gavel Group**

In our last newsletter, we wrote about "First Fridays Forum," a roundtable that we and the Association of Community Services are sponsoring where executive directors and CEOs of nonprofit groups get together to discuss common issues. Now the ACS and The Columbia Foundation co-sponsor the "**Gavel Group**," a similar opportunity for Board Presidents/Chairs and the Board President/Chair-elects.

Meeting every other month, the Gavel Group will cover topics such as Board Recruitment, Budget Planning and Engaging New Board Members. If you are interested in attending, please contact ACS Executive Director Anne Towne at 410-715-9545 or [Anne.Towne@acshoco.org](mailto:Anne.Towne@acshoco.org).

#### **Nonprofit Resource Development Council**

Congratulations to President and CEO Beverley Francis who County Executive Ken Ulman appointed to the Nonprofit Resource Development Council. This 13-member group of nonprofit community leaders is co-chaired by Horizon Foundation President Richard Krieg and Association of Community Services Executive Director Anne Towne. Founded out of concern for the economic

well-being of the nonprofit sector, the Council will meet three times a year over the next three years. They will advise the County Council on strategies to make nonprofit organizations, which represent nearly 15% of the county's workforce, more resilient and streamlined to promote efficiency and sustainability.

### Thank You Howard County Library

The Howard County Public Library and the Friends of the Howard County Library are partnering with us to celebrate our 40th anniversary by promoting charitable giving and volunteering in Howard County.

The Library has prepared two lists of books related to "giving back" to the community, through charitable giving, volunteering and helping friends and family. One list includes books for teenagers and adults; the other has books appropriate for children in elementary and middle school. The lists are available at the Central branch and online at [www.hclibrary.org/friends](http://www.hclibrary.org/friends).

The Howard County Public Library is one of 25 Howard County nonprofit organizations with an agency endowment here at The Columbia Foundation. These endowments help provide organizations smaller than the Foundation with financial security and growth, without the administrative costs of managing the funds. The Library's endowment helps to fund initiatives such as Battle of the Books, Choose Civility, DEAR and Summer Reading Clubs.

The Library and its fundraising arm, Friends of the Howard County Library, developed the book lists to recognize the importance of the endowment program to the nonprofit community, and in turn, the importance of the nonprofit community to the quality of life in Howard County. Beverley Francis says the partnership is "a wonderful way to promote giving in our community, particularly by children."

For more information about the book lists, please call the Howard County Public Library at 410-313-7750 or visit the web site at [www.hclibrary.org/friends](http://www.hclibrary.org/friends).

Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mary Ann Scully  
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President and CEO, Beverley Francis  
Email: [bfrancis@columbiafoundation.org](mailto:bfrancis@columbiafoundation.org)

#### Questions or Comments?

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