

Foundation sponsors ShoreCAN Volunteer Center



Leaders from almost 40 nonprofit organizations participated in a series of lunch and learn training sessions in September to learn about the Foundation's new ShoreCAN Volunteer Center. The participants shared ideas on how to enhance opportunities that will ultimately increase the number of volunteers helping to build a better community on the Lower Eastern Shore.

Volunteering just got easier on the Lower Shore!

The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore is the new home of the ShoreCAN Volunteer Center which connects local nonprofit organizations who need volunteers with individuals in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties who are looking for volunteer opportunities.

The Foundation has taken on the responsibility for operating and promoting the volunteer center in order to increase volunteerism throughout the Lower Shore. The primary means of facilitating the connection between prospective volunteers and the needs of local nonprofit organizations is an interactive website that benefits both.

"This is an exciting time for volunteerism," said Spicer Bell, Foundation President. "Local volunteers are vitally important in building a better community. The new volunteer center will actively connect with people

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Nonprofits move into CFES Office Center

Five organizations have set-up shop in the Foundation's new Nonprofit Office Center in previously unoccupied space immediately adjacent to the Foundation offices in the East Park Professional Center. The Foundation bought the additional space earlier this year and made it available to local nonprofits.

The largest space is occupied by Women Supporting Women (WSW) which has an entrance adjacent to the Foundation's outdoor patio. "We are absolutely thrilled and excited to have this new office," said Sue Revelle, WSW Executive Director.

"This gives us new space, a new face and much more accessibility to the public," Revelle added. Visitors to the new WSW office have increased dramatically. "People are just coming out of the woodwork. Being next to the Community Foundation gives us a step-up and it's just very comfortable for our staff, our survivors and all of our visitors," Revelle said. "We just couldn't be happier."

Just around the corner from WSW is an entrance for four additional nonprofits that are now at home in the new center: Del-Mar-Va Council Boy Scouts of America; the Delmarva Water Transport Committee; the Maryland Mentoring Partnership; and Delmarva Low Impact Tourism Experiences (DLITE).



Everyone has lots of reasons to smile as Women Supporting Women (WSW) moves in to the Foundation's Nonprofit Office Center in early September. WSW is one of five nonprofits that now have offices in space immediately adjacent to the Community Foundation's offices. Pictured (l to r) are: Lisa Twilley, WSW Director of Volunteers and breast cancer survivor; Samantha Payne, WSW volunteer; and Sue Revelle, WSW Executive Director.

Foundation begins 2009 Annual Appeal

The Foundation has begun its Annual Appeal for 2009. The Annual Appeal is the only fund raising effort conducted each year to directly support the work of the Community Foundation.

Because of the generous support of the community during the past year the Foundation's grant programs distributed over \$3 million in support for nonprofit and faith-based programs. We also provided over \$180,000 in scholarships to area students, and 411 representatives of nonprofit organizations benefited from our professional development, technical mini grant and scholarship programs.

The Foundation also just recently launched the new ShoreCAN

Volunteer Center to connect people who care with organizations needing their help. ShoreCAN will provide another valuable resource for area nonprofits and volunteers. By connecting people who care with causes that matter, we continue our efforts to build the capacity of the nonprofit community in the region.

Without your support, the work of the Foundation would not be possible. Donations to the Annual Appeal help to assure the Lower Shore will have a strong Foundation for generations to come. Gifts to the Annual Appeal may be made by using the envelope inserted in this issue of the Pillar, or donate online at www.cfes.org.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Your support is more important than ever



Spicer Bell

The past year has presented some very special challenges. In response to the downturn in the economy, the Foundation has taken major steps to control costs and focus our grant making to provide for basic human needs and services that help those who have been most adversely impacted by the economy. The Foundation has also expanded our services and support for the nonprofit organizations in our region.

As we seek to meet a growing demand for Foundation grants and nonprofit services here on the Lower Shore, your support is more important than ever. Traditionally, the Foundation has been low key in our approach to seeking gifts for the annual fund.

This subtle approach has served us well in the past, but we all recognize that during these challenging economic times we need to be more direct in appealing for financial support. The Foundation does not engage in traditional fund raising events and activities so we are not competing with the hundreds of nonprofit organizations we provide with grants and services.

The annual appeal is the one time during the year we ask the community to make a direct gift to the Foundation. Quite honestly, without the support of our donors, the work we do at the Community Foundation would not be possible.

Please help us to assure that a strong Community Foundation is here to serve Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties for generations to come. We trust that you will consider the role the Foundation plays in the life of our community and the thousands of lives we are able to impact each year and support us as generously as you can.

Thank you for your generosity.

Please Join Us!

The 2009 Annual Meeting *of the* Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore

Friday, Nov. 6, 2009

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Fountains Conference Center, Salisbury

Reservations are \$25 per person or \$200 for a table of eight persons. Due to steadily increasing attendance each year, prospective attendees are encouraged to send in their reservations as early as possible.

You may register online at www.cfes.org.

In Memoriam Ann Fincher

The Foundation mourns the recent passing of Ann Fincher, of Salisbury, a longtime friend and supporter. Ann's late husband, Herb, was a founder of the Community Foundation and past board member. Ann and Herb Fincher established a donor advised fund in 1989 to support charitable causes in the community. After Herb's death, Ann established a Memorial Fund in his honor and created the Herb and Ann Fincher Scholarship Fund, which provides a \$6,000 scholarship award annually for a student in Wicomico County who pursues a course of study in math and engineering. Ann's caring and enthusiasm in supporting the Foundation and the community will be missed, but not forgotten.

BREAKING NEWS

Help Your Neighbor Fund begins second year

The success and generous support of the Foundation's Help Your Neighbor Fund during the past 12 months has encouraged CFES to continue the fund for another year. Because of your generosity, CFES has been able to provide \$25,500 to local community outreach organizations who have provided utility, food and prescription assistance for individuals, families and senior citizens.

Contributions raised are directed to local charitable and faith-based organizations that have a proven capacity to determine eligibility so that financial assistance reaches the neediest of families. During the past year literally hundreds of individuals on the Lower Shore have benefited from the fund.

Because of your help, the Foundation has been able to provide a safety net for some of our region's most vulnerable families and senior citizens. We plan on continuing the Help Your Neighbor Fund as long as there is money available.

Checks to support our local families and seniors in need should be sent to: Help Your Neighbor Fund, c/o The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, 1324 Belmont Ave., Suite 401, Salisbury, MD 21804, or donate online at www.cfes.org.

Fall Nonprofit Training Programs Underway

The Foundation started a new round of training programs in September to provide support for local nonprofit organizations. The fall training calendar offers more programs than ever before to give nonprofits the opportunity to network and develop skills to help make their programs more effective.

In September multiple sessions were held to introduce nonprofits to the Foundation's new ShoreCAN Volunteer Center and there was a workshop on Practical Web Strategy led by internationally known web strategist and author C. David Gammel.

Training and networking opportunities remaining on the fall schedule include:

- **Oct. 15th** - The New 990: How it has changed and what nonprofits need to do to ensure compliance.
- **Nov. 2nd** - Social Media 101: What you must know and do to create valuable outcomes.
- **Nov. 4th** - Grantwriting Academy: Develop strategies to become a better grant writer.
- **Nov. 10th** - Beefing Up Your Annual Appeal: Tips on making your annual fund raising campaign more successful.
- **Nov. 18th** - Planning and Launching a Volunteer Program: Learn how to recruit the right volunteer for the right job.
- **Dec. 9th** - Volunteer Training, Supervision and Retention: This workshop focuses on sustaining an effective volunteer program.

For more information or to register for any of the training opportunities listed above, visit "Event Registration" at www.cfes.org.

Donor Profile

Mary Gladys Jones

In making our community a better place, some people give of their time, others their talent, and still others their treasure. Mary Gladys Jones has dedicated her life to the children entrusted to her care, by giving all three.

"I like to be busy," says Mary Gladys Jones. And since receiving her certification to teach in 1938, she has stayed busy for 71 years making a significant difference in the lives of children in Wicomico County, not only as a teacher, but as a personal mentor and role model.

Mrs. Jones has always loved education. She even started elementary school in her hometown of Whalesville a year early at the age of five. By the time school officials found out she was too young, she was within a couple of weeks of completing first grade, so they let her stay.

She's been a believer in the paramount importance of education ever since. Mrs. Jones has dedicated her life to helping students, particularly students that needed extra help, work their way towards a better life with the opportunities only a good education will provide. During her career she also helped 17 student teachers from Salisbury University get off to a promising start as their mentor in the cooperating teacher program.

After earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Morgan State University in 1953 she went on to complete a Masters Equivalency with post graduate course work at Temple University, the University of Maryland, College Park, UMES, the University of Delaware and Salisbury State University.

She retired in 1981 after teaching 42 years for Public Schools in Worcester and Wicomico Counties, but she was just getting started. Wicomico County's Board of Education needed someone to take over their migrant education program and knew that Mary Gladys' talent for working with students with special needs was just the right fit. For five years she traveled between five schools and worked with small groups to make sure they got the individualized attention each child needed.

It was during this time that a community group in Fruitland purchased the building that formerly housed a three-room school known as the Fruitland Colored Elementary School. Mary Gladys' late husband, Hooper R. Jones, was the chairman of the community group.

Fruitland citizens supported the purchase in order to create a Fruitland Community Center where local elementary children could be tutored on afternoons after school and on Saturdays. Mary Gladys responded to the call and for the first 15 years was assisted in the tutoring sessions by another retired teacher, Mary B. Pinkett. In more recent years she has relied on the able assistance of Alexis Dashfield, who also has been the Center's director.

As of February 2010 Mary Gladys will have been teaching and mentoring students at the Fruitland Community Center for 25 years. During that time over 1,000 students have benefited from the after school

classes. Recently she has been helping students who are the grandchildren of the students she mentored when the Center was first opened.

The intervention of one-on-one mentoring can make all the difference, especially when children are just starting their elementary education. "Working one-on-one you get the best from students," Mary Gladys said. Some need special help with learning skills, for others it is a matter of simply learning how to behave so they can benefit from a traditional classroom education.

She has many success stories including students who went on to become engineers, nurses and teachers, a public school administrator and a young woman who is making her career in the US Coast Guard.

"I believe you must educate the whole child," she said. Her regimen for after school learning included not only an emphasis on a solid foundation of academic basics, but also cultural experiences, respecting authority, an insistence on good manners and overall character building.

"My motto has always been: Good, better, best. Never let it rest until the good becomes the better and the better becomes the best," she says. "I also never lost sight of the fact that you want children to be engaged in their studies. After we establish the basic rules of proper conduct, then we make learning fun."

Students at the Community Center are assisted with resources that include numerous library books, magazines, newspapers, a computer lab with internet access and many other educational supplies to enrich their after-school experience.

Of course funding for the Fruitland Community Center has always been an issue, and continues to be a challenge. Mary Gladys has provided personal financial support as much as possible. Last year it was financial support of Mary Gladys that helped to pay for the Center's director's job through the end of the school year.

In recent years the Community Foundation has provided significant support for the Center with strategic grants. Support has also been provided by some of the Foundation's donor-advised fund holders, who admire and respect the work Mary Gladys has undertaken at the Center.

But the need for funding is ever-growing. Currently the Center is scrambling to come up with the funds necessary to maintain the program through the fall, winter and spring.

Mary Gladys believes that as long as there are caring people in the community there will always be a way for the Center to keep fulfilling the need of future generations of young students for after school mentoring in Fruitland.

"It is like a second home to many of them," she explains. "I believe others will follow who will act as tireless advocates for the children. There will always be a need for a safe haven where our children can grow and learn after school."

At 90 years of age, Mary Gladys Jones is still giving her time, talent and treasure. Maybe giving is the real fountain of youth.



GRANT GUIDELINES

The Community Foundation invites qualified nonprofit organizations to apply for these grant programs.

- **Community Needs Grants:** Support charitable programs benefiting Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties. Deadlines are February 1 and August 1.
- **Technical Mini-grants:** Supports capacity building activities of local 501(c)3 nonprofits. Deadline July 20 and January 20.
- **Youth Foundation:** Grants to support local youth programs. Deadline March 5, 2010.

Copies of grant guidelines and application forms are available from the Foundation office or from our website at www.cfes.org.

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ABOUT OUR FOUNDATION

The Community Foundation is the only tax-exempt public foundation dedicated for all time to improving the quality of life in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties. By accepting, managing and investing gifts wisely, we act as a funding resource for both present and future generations.



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ShoreCAN / *continued from cover*

who want to volunteer and offer them meaningful opportunities to serve.”

To help launch the new Center and promote volunteerism, the Foundation is being assisted by Jonathan Fitzsimmons, a VISTA Volunteer and Salisbury University senior. Local nonprofit organizations are being introduced to the new ShoreCAN Volunteer Center through a series of training sessions at the Foundation.

A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for Wednesday, October 14th, at 1 p.m. at the Foundation's Eastern Shore Nonprofit Support Center. A dessert reception will immediately follow.

Individuals seeking volunteer opportunities and local nonprofit organizations seeking volunteers are encouraged to visit www.shorecan.org, or contact us by phone at 410-742-9911, or by email at shorecan@cfes.org.

Nonprofit Partners Meeting

Among the leaders representing local nonprofit organizations at the Foundation's 2009 Nonprofit Partners meeting September 10th, held at Dove Pointe in Salisbury were: (l to r) Marly Lynk, Habitat for Humanity; Brenda Malone, Lower Shore Enterprises; and Pat Vorus, Art Institute and Gallery. Nonprofit partners received a report on the Foundation's 2009 investment performance and updates on training and services planned during the next year.



Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce Business Expo

Gary Martin, CFES Chief Financial Officer, shares information about the Foundation with Beth Gismondi, of Gismondi Insurance Associates of West Ocean City, at the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce "Get Connected Business Expo" held at The



Fountains Conference Center in September. The Foundation was one of 50 exhibitors at the Expo which attracted business and community leaders from throughout the region.

