

MAJOR GIFT CREATES \$500,000 ENDOWMENT FOR MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS PROGRAM

(January 19, 2007) – An anonymous donor has made a \$500,000 gift to the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore establishing a permanent endowment fund to benefit the programs of the Maryland Coastal Bays Foundation (MCBF) in perpetuity.

The primary purpose of the new endowment fund will be to provide funds on a permanent basis to reestablish the Maryland Coastal Bays Foundation's environmental education program. "We are extremely grateful for the opportunities this generous gift will make possible to rebuild educational programs for Maryland's 'forgotten bays,'" said Dave Blazer, executive director.

MCBF ran an outdoor environmental education program from 2001 - 2004. During that time over 8,000 students participated in marsh mucking, swam in the bays, caught fish and shrimp and most importantly, formed a strong attachment to nature and learned the best ways to protect and preserve it. The most important outcome of students' experience is that they left with a greater appreciation for their local environment. This gift aims to continue this work.



The Maryland Coastal Bays Foundation (MCBF) has established a \$500,000 endowment fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore (CFES) that was made possible by a gift from an anonymous donor. Pictured with a ceremonial check establishing the fund are: (l to r) Spicer Bell, CFES President; Todd Burbage, MCBF Board Vice-Chair; and Dave Blazer, MCBF Executive Director.

“This gift is extremely exciting and reminds us that cleaning up our Coastal Bays is a process, not a project.” Environmental education is just one step in that process. We need everyone who lives, works, or plays in the Coastal Bays watershed to get involved and support the progress that we have made over the past 10 years,” said Blazer.

The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore (CFES) currently has 380 charitable funds representing over \$63 million under management that benefit nonprofit organizations that serve the citizens of Maryland’s lower Eastern Shore. “We recognize the faith and trust the donor and the Maryland Coastal Bays Foundation have placed in the Community Foundation to effectively manage these assets so they will be available to benefit the environment in our region for all time,” said Spicer Bell, CFES president.

This is the first designated environmental endowment fund created at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore is the largest non-governmental source of support for nonprofit organizations in the Maryland lower shore counties of Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester.

Gifts to the Community Foundation, a public charity, create permanent endowment funds that steadily grow in value over time and produce income for grants to local charitable nonprofit organizations. In fiscal 2006 the Foundation made a total of 844 grants to the community representing \$2.6 million. For more information about the Community Foundation, please continue browsing this web site at www.cfes.org, or phone 410-742-9911.