

SOMERSET NONPROFITS RECEIVE MORE THAN \$17,000

Foundation awards Somerset Field of Interest and Community Needs grants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

Eight nonprofit organizations from Somerset County recently received a total of \$17,175 in grants from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

Six Somerset nonprofits received grants totaling \$7,000 from the Foundation's recent initiative for Somerset County youth. Funds for these grants originated from the Somerset County Field of Interest Fund at the Foundation, which was established in 1997 by Somerset attorney Tony Bruce and resident Marcella Smith. The Foundation, through a series of meetings with community leaders in Somerset County, decided to devote all grant money from the Fund this year to helping Somerset County Youth.

"Nonprofit organizations throughout the county are having a difficult time raising funds for worthwhile and needed programs," said David Michaud, the Foundation's President. "Needs are great in Somerset, as indeed they are throughout this region, and we are pleased and excited to be able to help fund these worthy programs."

Among the recipients of this special initiative:

The Family Services Office of the Somerset County Circuit Court received \$500 to provide sports opportunities to developmentally disabled youngsters in the county.

The City of Crisfield received \$3,250 to fund police-sponsored fishing trips, skating and bowling outings with Crisfield youth.

The New Psalmist Nondenominational Church of Westover received \$500 to purchase instruments for a musical education program for children in the Westover area.

The Somerset County Board of Education received \$1,750 to cover transportation costs for middle and high school students to attend the "Children of Children" exhibit at Salisbury University.

The Community Relief Program, Inc., of Crisfield received \$500 to help expand its youth anti-smoking program throughout the county.

Tawes Technology and Career Center in Westover received \$500 to provide student incentives for behavioral improvement.

The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore is a charitable foundation dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents of Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties by building charitable endowments, maximizing benefits to donors, making effective grants and providing leadership to address community needs.

The Foundation's Lower Shore Fund for Community Needs provided a \$9,000 grant to the Somerset Committee for the Homeless, which will help fund the purchase and renovation of a house to provide transitional housing for homeless families in the county. Somerset County currently is the only county in Maryland without such a facility.

The Foundation also facilitated a \$1,175 grant to the Lower Shore Chapter of the American Red Cross to provide water safety instruction to Crisfield area children next summer.

For more information, contact the Community Foundation at (410) 742-9911 .

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