

June 2017

Dear Daisies

Happy Summer! We at the Women & Girls Fund are proud of our 2017 grants – especially the four Daisy Fund grants! Together, we're making a real difference in the lives of so many women and girls in the Mid-Shore region.

This mailing includes the Grants Luncheon program and the newsletter with a report on the luncheon and a feature on Daisy member Allison Marriott Prell.

We're planning a site visit to one of our Daisy Fund grant recipients for those of you who are available on

June 29th or 30th. Watch your email for updates. It's really interesting to see grant programs in action, so we hope you can join us.

Please send us news to include in the next newsletter. We'll be featuring another Daisy next time too!

Best wishes to all!

DAISY FUND MEMBER:

Allison Kendall Marriott Prell



Pictured here with my mother, Alice Ryan.

I am twenty-eight years old and live in Easton, Maryland with my husband. I was actually born in Easton, and spent the majority of my life here on the Shore, and I am so happy to be putting down my roots here. I was raised in a home that discussed and educated both my siblings and me about philanthropy. Growing up we frequently gave our time volunteering with different organizations, and as we have gotten older, we have begun to offer not only our physical support but our financial support as well.

Philanthropy and volunteer work have always been something I love to do. Over the past year, I have been working for the YMCA of the Chesapeake. I also served on the Women Build Committee for Habitat for Humanity Choptank. Our committee members, along with our volunteers, worked together to raise the funds AND helped build a brand new home for a family here in Easton. I have also served as a mentor with Talbot Mentors. In college, I worked with a group of ladies who ran an afterschool program for girls at the local middle school. There have been multiple years I have participated in the annual Polar Bear Plunge (in the

cold waters of the Chesapeake Bay in January!) to help support Special Olympics.

I have participated in other charity fundraising events too, including last year's Tour de Cure, riding my bike more than 30 miles in support of the American Diabetes Association. I've served on several non-profit boards, including Radcliffe Creek School in Chestertown and the Women & Girls Fund. It was through my time on the WGF board that I first got to experience the grant reading process. Grant reading is by far one of my favorite things I did through the Fund. We are given the opportunity to learn about wonderful organizations that are doing amazing things in our community, and we got to share our opinions on them. I have been a grant reader twice and both times I felt that I was given the opportunity to have an impact. There is nothing greater than reading about an organization and then getting the opportunity to go on a site visit and see it in action.

I will never forget in my second year my group and I were all in agreement that one particular organization

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didn't seem to really fit the Fund's mission. We thought it was doing great work, but that they may have needed to re-evaluate their grant request. After a few of my group members and I went on the site visit, we pushed for the organization to receive funding for their program. That same year (2016), thanks to my Daisy Fund, I was able to give that organization even more funding, helping them get closer to their need.

I received my Daisy Fund as a Christmas present a few years ago from my mother, and it has truly been a gift that keeps on giving. At the 2016 Grants Luncheon, thanks to the Daisy Funds, we were able to give a little bit more to some of the organizations that were selected to receive grants. And, it was so exciting to me to be the one to present the Daisy Funds' "bonus checks" -- afterwards, one of the women came up to me with tears in her eyes thanking me for the extra support. That same woman spoke to me again this year to thank me again for what I do as a

Daisy Fund member. This year, though, I did things a little differently - rather than giving some of my funds to each organization, I put everything toward one grant.

Last summer my father died of a heart attack, and though it's not been easy to get through that, I have had the support of family and friend to help me along the way. This year, one of the grant recipients was Camp New Dawn, part of Compass Regional Hospice. The camp is a 3-day, 2-night retreat for children and teens who are grieving the death of a loved one. I read their information and knew instantly this was something I wanted to support. It was something that related to my life, something I could really connect with. I wouldn't have known about the program if it wasn't for the Women & Girls Fund, and because of my Daisy Fund, I know I have done something to support them. I am looking forward to the opportunity to meet with the people at Compass Regional Hospice to hear how the camp is doing. There is no greater feeling than that of knowing what you do is helping others.

www.compassregionalhospice.org/campnewdawn

2017 Daisy Fund Grants

Compass Regional Hospice

“Camp New Dawn”

Destined to Rise Coalition

“Stepping Up Our Game”

Imagination Library of Talbot County

“Empowering Women, Raising Readers”

Tilghman Area Youth Association

“Alumni Leadership Program”



Board members, Daisy Fund donors, Daisy Fund member, and Grant Recipients

From left: Talli Oxnam, board president; Donna Cantor, board member and Daisy Fund donor (Tessa Hillenmeyer and Lauren Westrick); Ann Farley, Tilghman Area Youth Association executive director; Beth Spurry, board member and Daisy Fund donor (Olivia Keller); Cristy Morrell, Imagination Library of Talbot County director; Dorine Bowser-Fassett, Destined to Rise Coalition president; Heather Guerieri, Compass Regional Hospice executive director; Susan Wilford, board member and Daisy Fund donor (Lizzie Wilford); Anna Fichtner, board member and Daisy Fund donor (Annabelle Fichtner); Allie Prell, Daisy Fund member; and, Alice Ryan, board member, and Daisy Fund donor (Allie Prell).

Women & Girls Fund 15th Annual Grants & Awards Luncheon—April 24, 2017

It doesn't seem possible that this is our 15th year! Some of you weren't yet born when the Fund began! Others, like Allie Prell, have been with us every step of the way. No matter when you got involved, you're an important part of our mission "using the power of pooled resources to improve the lives of women and girls in the Mid-Shore."

Looking at the luncheon program enclosed with this newsletter, you can get a good idea of what happens at the luncheon. The event is held in a large banquet room (we had 209 guests this year!) that is always brightened with a colorful floral centerpiece on each table. Representatives from the non-profits receiving grants are seated among the guests who enjoy chatting with them and learning about their programs in more detail.

The program begins by recognizing local volunteers who've made significant contributions to the community. This year, Ellen Rajacich received the Women & Girls Fund Award for her 50+ years as a volunteer fitness class leader at the YMCA. Wow! She told the group to "Fight gravity, stand up tall!" And, Cheryl Hughes received the Sheryl V. Kerr Award for her efforts to raise money for cancer-related causes. In a few short years, she's organized fundraisers that have raised over \$300,000 - proving that one person can make a difference!

After the volunteer awards, it's time for the big event: the grants presentation. One by one, program recipients are called to the front while their organization and programs are described. Each one (there were 16 this year) receives a check for the program they'll hold in the coming year. It's very special to see all of them standing up front and enjoying enthusiastic applause from the audience.

But the best is saved for last - the Daisy Fund grants. These awards come from fully-funded Daisy Funds that have earned money earmarked for grants. Half of the Daisy

2017 Community Volunteer Awards



Pictured from left, Alice Ryan, founder; Cheryl Hughes, Grayce B. Kerr Award recipient; Ellen Rajacich, Women & Girls Fund Award recipient; and, Talli Oxnam, board president.

Funds are fully-funded and half are growing with pledged payment installments. It won't be long before all Daisies will be able to participate in selecting grants.

This year, four grants were given and they're truly the icing on the cake for the recipients. The non-profit representatives don't know until they arrive they'll be receiving an additional award, and it is incredibly meaningful to them to learn young ladies selected them for a grant.

At the end of the luncheon, the board president gives a report and shows a video telling the Fund's story. You can watch the video on our website: www.womenandgirlsfund.org. Check it out!

Applications for next year's grants are due November 1st – and the grant cycle will start all over again. In the next newsletter, we'll tell you how the applications are reviewed.

2017 Women & Girls Fund Grant Recipients



1ST ROW, FROM LEFT: Betsy McCown, Echo Hill Outdoor School director; Dorine Bowser-Fassett, Destined to Rise Coalition president; Heather Guerieri, Compass Regional Hospice executive director; Estela Ramirez, Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center program director; Elizabeth Devlin, Chesapeake College Foundation director of grants.

2ND ROW: Pamela O'Brien, Partners in Care, Eastern Shore director; Malica Dunnock Ladies of Nia president; Cristy Morrell, Imagination Library of Talbot County director; Beth Anne Langrell, For All Seasons executive director; Patrice Morrison, Rebuilding Together Caroline County president.

3RD ROW: Ann Farley, Tilghman Area Youth Association executive director; Jayne Fitzgerald, Talbot Partnership executive director; Natalie Costanzo, Talbot Mentors executive director; Bonnie Brown, Rising Above Disease director; Lindsey Buckless, Rebuilding Together Kent County director of fundraising; Bob Parks, Horizons Kent and Queen Anne's executive director.