

**The Women & Girls Fund honors**

*Robbin Hill*

**with the 2018 Sheryl V. Kerr Award**

ROBBIN FABER HILL was the first support person the Mid-Shore Community Foundation (MSCF) hired when it brought on paid staff in October 2001. The Hill family – Robbin, husband John, sons Patrick and Daniel

– had moved to Talbot County in 1998 from Robbin's native South Carolina, and she continued working in law offices. Her extensive work experience proved both attractive and valuable when she made the leap to the non-profit world.

Now referred to as “the Mid-Shore’s brain trust” by Mid-Shore Community Foundation President Buck Duncan, her years of acquired institutional knowledge and strong relationships built with donors and non-profit directors have been key in the foundation’s success connecting private resources with public needs to improve the quality of life. The tremendous time and energy Robbin’s devoted to her position as Senior Program and Scholarship Officer has supported MSCF’s growth in assets from \$12 million in 2001 to \$74 million today. Additionally, she can be deservedly proud of the growth in grants and programs from \$800,000 in 2001 to \$3.4 million in the last fiscal year.



While statistics are one way to gauge success, it is in daily interactions with local non-profits and fund advisors and her “loving kindness approach to life”, as past Women & Girls Fund Board President Beth Spurry says of Robbin, that have empowered her significant voice in the Mid-Shore’s non-profit world. She is well known, well liked, and well respected for her vision, integrity and compassion. Her quick smile and genuine laugh are trademarks. With her awareness of community needs and focus on creative strategies for filling those needs, when Robbin speaks, advisors listen!

Robbin works with the MSCF Grants Committee, donor-advised funds (Women & Girls Fund included), and Dorchester County’s George B. Todd Fund to oversee the distribution of funds to a lengthy list of non-profit agencies - from long-established agencies such as Character Counts! Mid-Shore and Mid-Shore Pro Bono to more than 40 grass efforts, including Chesapeake Culinary Center, CarePacks, Chestertown Flags for Heroes, and Empty Bowls.

Alice Ryan, founder of the Women & Girls Fund, MSCF Grants Committee chair, and dear friend, tells the following story, “While attending a meeting in Queen Anne’s County, Robbin was approached by a community leader from Sudlersville about the prospect of opening a Laundromat for its residents. The revelation that some Sudlersville students in the QAC Public School system were missing school because they didn’t have clean

clothes and were too embarrassed to go to school led community leaders to conduct a Laundromat feasibility study, identify an ideal location (donated by the Fire Department), and obtained proposals for needed equipment. That's all Robbin needed ... she got the Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Department to adopt the project, and then sold donors on the unique solution. They gave \$67,000 for equipment and made an extra grant for free tokens for families in need. That kind of visionary thinking, relationship building, and desire to improve the quality of life sums up Robbin's professional and personal missions."

This year, after the unexpected death of her sister and a good friend, Robbin was moved to take her personal philanthropic mission a step farther. To encourage her grown sons to develop their own legacy of giving, she established the UBU Fund to provide them with the ability to support organizations of importance to them in their own communities.

When told of the Sheryl V. Kerr Award, Robbin said, "I can't begin to tell you how proud I am. While I can't say that I love my job so much that I don't work a day in my life – I work lots of long days – I can tell you that those long days are still more rewarding than not, and the opportunity to connect the dots for the greater good is still the best job ever!"

Therefore, it is our great pleasure to recognize Robbin Hill and present her with the 2018 Sheryl V. Kerr Award.



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## About the Sheryl V. Kerr Award

Given in memory of Sheryl V. Kerr by the Grayce B. Kerr Fund, the Sheryl V. Kerr Award pays tribute to the impact Mrs. Kerr made across the country, and especially in Talbot County. A grant given to the Women & Girls Fund provides for an annual award recognizing individuals or programs of significance to women. The word that best sums up the Award's intention is "empowerment".



As an individual, Mrs. Kerr spoke up for women and believed in encouraging them to make a difference to their families and communities through work and community volunteerism. As Chair of the Grayce B. Kerr Fund, she focused on larger scale programs and projects that provided women with the skills and capabilities to improve their lives and the lives of those around them. And, it is that same mission that the Women & Girls Fund strives to accomplish through our grants and activities.

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# *Sheryl V. Kerr Award*

2016 Maria D'Arcy  
Estela Ramirez

2017 Cheryl Hughes