



Grant Recipients 2003 – 2024
\$902,036 awarded to 112 non-profit organizations

2024 GRANT RECIPIENTS

18 grants totaling \$62,513 plus Daisy Fund grants of \$9,967

ACADEMY ART MUSEUM

\$1,000

Founded in 1958, the mission of the Academy Art Museum (AAM) is to promote the knowledge, practice, and appreciation of the arts and to enhance cultural life on the Eastern Shore by making available to everyone the Museum’s expanding collection, exhibitions, and broad spectrum of arts programs. This grant will support AAM’s Free Family Bus Trips, which launched in 2023 with two successful trips, one to Baltimore and one to Washington. The program provides under-resourced children and their families the opportunity to explore regional museums and cultural institutions they may not otherwise have the opportunity to visit. Bus transportation, museum admission, and lunch are provided for all participants. These free field trips offer an innovative way to serve the community and have tremendous potential for impact. www.academyartmuseum.org

BENEDICTINE SCHOOL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

\$4,889.73

“Bathroom Upgrades and Feminine Hygiene Product Access”

Founded over 60 years ago and based in the belief in the dignity of all people, Benedictine School’s mission is to help children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism achieve their greatest potential. Located in Ridgely, it is an accredited multi-functional year-round education and residential center for more than 150 children and adults with severe intellectual disabilities, multiple disabilities, and autism. The school offers a wide array of programs, including Functional Academics, Adult Services, Community Services and Training Center, and Rehabilitation Services. This grant will underwrite safety and accessibility upgrades to a women’s locker room used by students, supported adults, staff, community members, and guests. The renovation project also includes the installation of feminine hygiene product dispensers and disposal receptacles in the locker room and four other restrooms across the campus. www.benschool.org

COMMUNITY MEDIATION UPPER SHORE

\$2,000

“Making Peace Possible for Women and Girls”

Founded in 2002 by the Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office, Community Mediation Upper Shore’s mission is to build and provide community-based conflict resolution and peace building services at no cost. CMUS is committed to working together for sustainable peace and resilience in our community, where all will have the strategies, skills, and support to resolve conflicts at home, at school, and in the workplace. Trained volunteers mediate family conflicts, health and elder care, divorce and childcare issues, living situations, recovery from drug use, and loss or separation. Referrals are made through the courts, public schools, local management boards, community partners and others. Services are free to all. This grant will support CMUS operations that make it possible to provide mediation training and/or services to help women and girls resolve conflicts and build communication skills. www.cmusmediation.org

COMPASS REGIONAL HOSPICE

\$4,000

“Camp New Dawn Adult Retreat and Family Camp”

Compass is a fully licensed, independent, community-based nonprofit organization certified by Medicare and the state of Maryland, and accredited by the Joint Commission. Its mission is to provide comprehensive, professional and compassionate care and support to patients, caregivers and families who have found themselves facing a life-limiting diagnosis or loss. Since 1985, Compass has been allowing patients to spend their final months the way they choose, guiding loved ones after a life-limiting diagnosis, and showing individuals healthy ways to manage their grief. Today, the organization is a regional provider of hospice care, supportive care, and grief services in Caroline, Kent, and Queen Anne's counties. The Hope and Healing Center's wide variety of programs are designed for people of all ages who have experienced the death of a loved one. These programs, provided free of charge, are offered by social workers, grief counselors, a chaplain, and volunteers specially trained in the many facets and phases of grief. This grant will support Camp New Dawn's Adult Retreat and Family Camp, which is designed for all types of families. During the adult retreat, children and teens are simultaneously attending Camp New Dawn; a four-day, three-night grief retreat. It was discovered that the youth were developing new coping skills, but once they re-joined their families, the adults often struggled to incorporate these new skills and emotions. Through family camp, they learn to communicate and face their grief together.

www.compassregionalhospice.org

CRITCHLOW ADKINS CHILDREN'S CENTERS

\$3,166.80

"Tuition Assistance"

Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers' mission is to provide quality, financially accessible childcare for children ages 2-12 and their families in a nurturing, diverse, safe, and enriching environment. All five CACC's sites have the Maryland EXCELS Check Level 5 rating, are fully accredited, and have achieved these highest levels of excellence for over 30 years. Over the past five decades, CACC has remained committed to the vision of its founders who were concerned about the lack of available quality childcare for working families in Talbot County. The families receiving tuition assistance are families who struggle to afford the cost of quality, licensed daycare for their children. Data shows that quality early care programs help prepare children to be more successful in school both socially and cognitively. This grant will provide tuition assistance for single mothers who are working and/or going to school but still struggling financially to provide the best care and educational opportunity for their children in the Before- and After-School Care program. www.cacckids.org

FOR ALL SEASONS

\$3,746

"Bringing Girls and Women together with Color Me Closer Too"

For All Seasons was founded as a nonprofit in 1986 by a group of citizens – including the Fund's current president, Karen Kaludis – concerned about child victims of sexual assault. Today, For All Seasons is one of the Shore's largest outpatient mental health providers and is still the only Rape Crisis Center serving 22% of Maryland's geography, representing nearly 200,000 people. For All Seasons' team of nearly 100 professional staff members work in the Easton headquarters and out of satellite offices in each of the five Mid-Shore counties. This project harnesses the therapeutic power of art therapy to foster connection and bonding between caregivers and young women over shared experiences. Licensed Clinical Art Therapist Jane Gordon, LCPAT, ATR-BC will complete a second edition of her Color Me Closer branded interactive art therapy workbook, a tool designed for paired engagement that promotes introspection and intergenerational bonding. Jane will also facilitate a public workshop, providing an intimate and impactful experience for 25 pairs of women and girls. The women and girls can engage in further art exercises at home, where the lessons and bonds from the workshop are revisited and reinforced. This grant will cover the initial costs for the "Color Me Closer Too" workbook. www.forallseasonsinc.org

GIRLS ON THE RUN OF THE GREATER CHESAPEAKE

\$4,565

"Program Access for Girls"

Girls on the Run of the Greater Chesapeake (GOTRGC) started in Annapolis in the fall of 2005 with 25 girls. GOTRGC has served over 20,000 girls since its founding and serves approximately 2,200 girls per year. It has served teams in Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties since 2015, Caroline County in 2019, and

welcomed teams in Dorchester County in 2023. In addition to the Mid-Shore counties, it also serves Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Calvert counties and Baltimore City. GOTRGC provides girls in 3rd-8th grades with a positive, after-school youth development program that teaches social, emotional, and physical well-being at a critical time in their lives prior to adolescence. Participants learn to recognize their inner strength, increase their level of physical activity, imagine their possibilities, and confidently stand up for themselves and others through the innovative integration of fun physical activities, life-skills lessons, and impactful community projects. Running and other physical activities are used as a platform for teaching life skills and promoting positive social, emotional, and holistic health outcomes for girls. The curriculum includes lessons with the girl voice at the center, ensuring the program is both developmentally appropriate, and relevant and engaging for participants. During the 10-week program, the girls train for and complete a 5K race. This grant will fully underwrite registration fees for 26 Mid-Shore girls. www.gotrchesapeake.org

HAVEN MINISTRIES

\$5,000

“Homes of Hope Case Management and Client Education Program”

Haven Ministries has been assisting the poor in Queen Anne’s County for more than 20 years, and opened the Homes of Hope in July of 2022. These are two houses that sit adjacent to each other on a property in Stevensville, each with six double-bedded bedrooms where homeless women with children are provided longer-term housing (up to two years). The philosophy of Haven Ministries is that not only resources be provided to those in need but that training also be provided to help individuals to help themselves. Mothers participate in a year-long training program that utilizes the curriculum of a successful nation-wide program called "Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin-By World". Clients follow a comprehensive guide while interacting with each other to learn life skills, including but not limited to childcare, housekeeping, budgeting, "smart" shopping, preparing for job interviews, and seeking employment. Learning these skills enables the mothers to better address challenges related to living independent, sustainable lives while caring for their children. This grant will address the expense of the management and training necessary for case managers and curriculum. www.haven-ministries.org

IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF TALBOT COUNTY

\$5,000

“Babies Bonding with Books”

Imagination Library of Talbot County’s mission is to address the very important need to expose children birth to age 5 to literature and a vocabulary-rich environment by providing each child enrolled in the program with the gift of a new, age-appropriate, engaging book which is mailed to his or her home each month. As of the 23-24 school year, all of Talbot County's elementary schools are now Title 1 schools meaning that the poverty level is at least 40%. As the low-income level continues to grow in Talbot County, Imagination Library of Talbot County encourages all families, especially those who live at or below the poverty level, to enroll their children because every child should enter Kindergarten ready to learn how to read. Currently, 1,199 children are registered in the program - 76.6% of the eligible population! Because 90% of brain development occurs between birth and age 5, the first five years of life offer a critical window for learning. Preschool children who have limited exposure to books enter kindergarten a full 12 to 14 months behind their peers in terms of kindergarten readiness. By third grade, if they have not closed this gap, it becomes an achievement gap to continue throughout their schooling. This grant will fund the cost for 200 Talbot county young girls to receive 12 high-quality, age-appropriate books for one year.

www.imaginationlibrary.com

KENT ATTAINABLE HOUSING

\$2,740

“Outreach to Rock Hall Residents”

Kent Attainable Housing (KAH) is a nonprofit that was formed in April 2019 by three Kent County residents with a deep commitment to bettering the plight of the working poor among us who are stuck in the cycle of inter-generational poverty. The organization is attacking this problem by increasing the number of affordable homes in Kent County and preparing those with limited incomes to become financially secure homeowners with a major asset to pass on to their children. KAH has two primary programs: 1.

constructing and renovating affordable housing for first-time home ownership and 2. applicant financial literacy and support services. The biggest obstacle faced by their target population is establishing and maintaining sufficient credit history and credit rating to qualify for a mortgage. Up to now the community outreach efforts to recruit applicants and build houses has focused on Chestertown and Butlertown. This grant would help add Rock Hall as a third focus area within Kent county. Rock Hall is a diverse community. This grant will help finance a direct mailing to each household in Rock Hall to engage more applicants to the program, as well as educate the community about the need for affordable housing for our working poor and how community members can support these efforts through volunteering and financial support. www.kentattainablehousing.org

OPEN DOORS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

\$5,000

“High Quality Literacy Tutoring for Girls in Kent County and Area”

Open Doors Partners in Education strives to increase the literacy rate of struggling readers by providing tutoring, offering educational enrichment opportunities, and increasing community awareness of learning differences in Kent County and surrounding areas. It uses the Orton-Gillingham Approach, a multisensory, structured, sequential, diagnostic, and prescriptive way to teach literacy when reading, writing, and spelling does not come easily to individuals, such as those with dyslexia. Founded in 2020 for children in grades K-2, it quickly became apparent there were many outside that range who needed what Open Doors was providing, and the age range was expanded to include all ages. Tutoring is provided at no cost to Kent County Public school students and adults who live in Kent County who are falling behind in reading skills. Students enrolled in other schools and adults who live outside Kent County may also enroll in tutoring for a discounted cost. This grant will support the High Quality Literacy Tutoring for Girls in Kent County and Surrounding Community program through the purchase of Orton-Gillingham tutoring materials and program-related supplies to help address the issue of low and declining literacy rates in Kent County. www.opendoorsed.org

PARTNERS IN CARE MARYLAND

\$2,000

“Programs and Services to Empower Mid-Shore’s Older Women to Age in Place with Dignity and Respect”

Since 1993, Partners in Care (PIC) empowers seniors to lead vibrant lives within their communities while aging in their own homes. PIC plays a pivotal role in the lives of many older adults who encounter barriers when trying to access economic, social, and civic opportunities. Often, these individuals find themselves marginalized and underserved on multiple fronts. 80% of PIC’s members are women and 69% are low-income. Its programs are designed to empower these underserved older adults, including those in rural areas with limited service options. PIC serves as a safety net, bridging critical gaps through our comprehensive programs and services.

This project helps to meet the non-medical needs of senior women in Talbot and Caroline Counties with door-to-door essential transportation, home handyman services, personalized support and advocacy, and social programs to engage and connect seniors. Through their volunteer-powered time-bank model of service delivery, any services provided by volunteers count towards accessing similar services for themselves, allowing everyone to participate in an exchange of their time, regardless of their budget. The grant will support Partners in Care’s outreach to find 21 new volunteers to meet the needs of Talbot and Caroline senior women living independently in the community. www.partnersincare.org/locations/mid-shore/

PINE STREET COMMITTEE

\$4,000

“Summer STEM for Girls”

Pine Street Committee’s mission is to work in partnership with Cambridge’s diverse community to provide underserved youth and adults with education, health and wellness, work skills, and cultural enrichment programs. It oversees a community center, The Cambridge Empowerment Center, that offers social and recreational opportunities for the entire community, regardless of age. Pine Street Committee runs a free, after-school enrichment program for children aged 5 to 13 to learn, play, and socialize after school. In the

summer it provides a nine-week summer learning and mentoring program to help children maintain or improve their academics, especially in science, math, and technology - - areas of learning still affected by the loss of school time during the pandemic. This is especially true for girls living at or below the poverty level who have less exposure to STEM subjects and activities and therefore fall behind in reading and vocabulary as well. "Summer STEM for Girls" can take up to 20 girls to participate in small group lessons that will meet twice weekly for nine weeks and culminate with a field trip to the Science Center. The lessons will use STEM kits, for example: "building a robot", as well as other teaching materials to learn about science and math subjects. This grant will underwrite program costs, including materials and supplies, STEM kits, and field trip. www.cambridgeempowermentcenter.org

TALBOT COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

\$6,000

"Retreat for child victims of sexual abuse and non-offending caregiver"

The mission of the volunteer board of Talbot Community Connections (TCC) is to raise and distribute funds to enhance the Talbot County Department of Social Services' (TCDSS) capacity to respond directly to problems of safety and well-being of all Talbot County residents. Its funds help individuals stay in the community, and families stay united in their homes. More than half the funds raised by Talbot Community Connections support the TCCAC, which provides a multi-disciplinary response to allegations of child abuse, and ensures that victims of child sexual abuse or assault and their non-offending caregivers have access to support services in a safe, culturally respectful environment in a child-focused setting. This grant will underwrite a retreat for 25 women and girls that will focus on re-establishing trust and communication between each set of caregiver and victim with the goal of improving support from the caregiver to the child. To be held at a secure location, both caregivers and victims can feel safe sharing feelings and participating in activities. Research demonstrates that parent/caregiver support is essential to reducing trauma and improving outcomes for victims and family members. The hope is for the families to recover, and rebuild resilience and well-being. www.talbotcommunityconnections.org

TALBOT HOSPICE

\$5,000

"H.E.A.R.T.S. - "Helping Empty Arms Recover Through Sharing"

Talbot Hospice has provided compassionate hospice services, integrated hospice into our lives and educated our community about hospice for more than four decades. Today, the organization's Eleanor A. Koons Hospice House and Clark-Guthrie Center provide a range of home-based and inpatient hospice and end-of-life services for our citizens. Perinatal and/or infant loss and grief are recognized as traumatic life events. The Mid-Shore region has little to no services or opportunities for this type of support. The H.E.A.R.T.S. infant and perinatal loss program meets this need by providing group support for anyone who has lost any pregnancy or an infant up to the first year of life. Guided by members of the Bereavement Team at Talbot Hospice, participants share their stories and are given the emotional support they need to help them deal with their grief both individually and through shared experiences within this unique community. The goal of the program is to support every person who has experienced this kind of loss with facilitated support and peers to support them, wherever they are on their emotional journey. This grant will provide funding for targeted outreach, such as informational program materials for display in medical offices, to identify and offer help to those who have experienced perinatal or infant loss. www.talbothospice.com

TALBOT INTERFAITH SHELTER

\$1,405.47

Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS) is dedicated to ending homelessness in Maryland's Mid-Shore by providing Shelter, Stability, Support, and a path to Success for families and individuals in need. The S4 Program helps men, women, and children to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency. This year, TIS is celebrating 15 years since the organization was founded and 14 years since first opening its doors to those in need in our community. TIS has the capacity to serve five families in the family shelter. The singles shelter, which opened in 2022, can house up to 5 men and 5 women, and the Transitional Housing Program can support up to 15 families. Currently, between the family shelters and Transitional Housing apartments, there are 54

guests, of whom 24 are children ranging from 18 months to 14 years and 6 are Seniors, 3 of them women. Due in part to a series of recessions, high housing costs, and a shortage of affordable housing, older adults are now the fastest growing segment of America's homeless population. This grant will help supplement the additional costs needed to support the senior women at TIS. Providing these items helps to provide our seniors with dignity and safety that ultimately leads to their well-being. www.talbotinterfaithshelter.org

TILGHMAN AREA YOUTH ASSOCIATION

\$1,000

"Building Strong Leaders"

The Tilghman Area Youth Association (TAYA) mission is to enrich the lives of Tilghman youth, by connecting them to each other, their families, and their community. TAYA brings needed educational and social services to the island, and works with residents and other nonprofits to improve the quality of life. Started in 2003, under the auspices of the St. Michaels Community Center, TAYA has sponsored several important programs, including Tilghman After School Kids (TASK). TASK extends the learning day at Tilghman Elementary School, offering a safe, nurturing environment afterschool program for students each weekday. It offers different creative enrichment classes each day as well as time for exercise, homework, and nutritious snacks. An ongoing challenge is recruiting and retaining qualified staff. TASK has found that by educating and empowering young women, often "graduates" of the program, they not only develop skills to run a high-quality program, but it encourages these young women leaders to pursue their goals, while working in a meaningful capacity that supports not only themselves, and their families, but the organization and community as well. This grant will support costs associated with increasing employee training and professional development opportunities.

www.tilghmanyouth.org

YMCA OF THE CHESAPEAKE

\$2,000

"LiveSTRONG at the YMCA"

The YMCA of the Chesapeake is the largest Human Service organization on the Eastern Shore; strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility for 165 years. Across the Shore, the YMCA engages 45,000 members and their families, regardless of age, income, or background, to nurture the potential of children and teens, improves the Shore's health and wellbeing, and provides opportunities to give back and support neighbors. The YMCA of the Chesapeake operates facilities in Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Talbot, Queen Anne's, Worcester, and Wicomico Counties in Maryland and on Chincoteague Island in Virginia. LiveSTRONG is a 12-week, small-group physical activity and well-being program for people affected by cancer. Each class is comprised of 6-12 participants that meet twice a week for 90-minutes each session. Throughout the program, participants work on cardiovascular conditioning, strength training, balance, and flexibility exercises. The program has shown to help survivors meet or exceed the recommended amount of physical activity, increase their cardio endurance, and improve their quality of life as well as decrease their cancer-related fatigue. LiveSTRONG creates a welcoming community in which cancer survivors can diminish the severity of therapy side effects, develop supportive relationships, and improve their quality of life. Not just a fitness program, LiveSTRONG is a lifeline for those with chronic illnesses. This grant will support female participants in the program.

www.ymcachesapeake.org

2023 GRANT RECIPIENTS

17 grants totaling \$57,221 plus Daisy Fund grants of \$6,993

BENEDICTINE SCHOOL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

\$4,900

"Accessibility Upgrades for Group Home"

Founded more than 60 years ago and based in the belief in the dignity of all people, Benedictine School's mission is to help children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieve

their greatest potential. Located in Ridgely, it is an accredited multi-functional year-round education and residential center for children ages 6 through 21 and adults with severe intellectual disabilities, multiple disabilities, and autism. The Adult Services Residential Program provides professionally staffed residential support for 68 adults, ages 21 or older, in 18 group homes located in Annapolis and in Caroline and Talbot Counties. Community living gives residents the opportunity to be independent, while still receiving the support they need. Homes are staffed on a 24-hour basis, with Direct Support staff in each house encouraging individuals to learn new skills, develop meaningful relationships, and actively participate in their communities. This grant will provide the funding for necessary repairs and renovations to a group home in Caroline County that houses four women and is staffed by five women. www.benschool.org

COMMUNITY MEDIATION UPPER SHORE

\$3,750

"Family Conflict Resolution"

Founded in 2002 by the Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office, Community Mediation Upper Shore (CMUS) provides community-based conflict resolution and peacebuilding services at no cost in Kent and Queen Anne's Counties. Committed to working in the community for sustainable peace and resilience, CMUS teaches strategies and skills to resolve conflict. Conflicts that benefit from mediation include family conflicts, health and elder care, divorce and childcare issues, living situations, recovery from drug or other use disorders, loss and or separation. The organization uses trained volunteers to execute the work and train community participants. Referrals are made through the courts, public schools, local management boards, community partners and others. Services are free to all. This grant will provide mediation training and/or services to 115 girls to help them to resolve conflict, build communication skills, and create peace in their communities. <https://www.cmusmediation.org/>

COMPASS REGIONAL HOSPICE

\$2,500

"Grief Support for Women and Girls"

Founded in 1985, Compass Regional Hospice offers individuals, families, and the community "Care on your terms" through comprehensive, professional, and compassionate end-of-life and grief support. Compass is a fully licensed and accredited hospice offering a residential and general inpatient center in Centreville, home hospice, and a palliative care program. The Compass Hope and Healing Center offers a wide range of grief services and counseling for people of all ages who have experienced the death of a loved one. This grant will support two of the Healing Center's grief programs, Camp New Dawn, a four-day retreat for children and families that helps campers through the grieving process and learn healthy coping skills, and Camp Reflections for teenagers who have previously attended Camp New Dawn. www.compassregionalhospice.org

CRITCHLOW ADKINS CHILDREN'S CENTERS

\$1,450

"Building Brighter Futures"

Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers' mission is to provide quality, financially accessible childcare for children ages 2 - 12 and their families in a nurturing, diverse, safe, and enriching environment. All five CACC's sites have the Maryland EXCELS Check Level 5 rating, are fully accredited, and have achieved these highest levels of excellence for over 30 years. Over the past five decades, CACC has remained committed to the vision of its founders who were concerned about the lack of available quality childcare for working families in Talbot County. The families receiving tuition assistance are families who struggle to afford the cost of quality, licensed daycare for their children. Data shows that quality early care programs help prepare children to be more successful in school both socially and cognitively. This grant will provide tuition assistance for single mothers who are working and/or going to school but still struggling financially to enable them to provide the best care and educational opportunity for their children in the Before- and After-School Care program. www.cacckids.org

FOUNDATION OF H.O.P.E.

\$5,000

"Economic Development and Empowerment Program"

Foundation of H.O.P.E. helps young girls lead productive lives in their communities by providing cultural, social, and educational and leadership development. Conceived, created, and led by an

Economic Development professional, the program focuses on personal empowerment and financial and economic development education for girls. The program teaches girls to be viable contributors to the future workforce. It covers topics including self-esteem, bullying, using technology and social media, workforce development, economic and community development, entrepreneurship, financial literacy and more. Girls in the program learn how to respect themselves and others. With an understanding that hard work pays off, girls in the program plan ahead to succeed and become community leaders. The grant supports full program participation for 30 girls.

<https://www.foundationofhopemaryland.org/>

GIRL SCOUTS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

\$1,600

"Mental Health Programming"

The mission of Girl Scouts is to build girls of confidence, courage and character who make the world a better place. Founded in 1962, Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay serves approximately 4,300 girls in grades K-12 on the Delmarva Peninsula. The Girl Scout Leadership Experience is based on four program pillars: STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), Outdoors, Life Skills, and Entrepreneurship. Post-covid, three areas critical to girls' success are of primary concern: supporting girls' mental health, mitigating learning loss, and helping girls reflect the values of justice and fairness. This grant will support virtual, age-appropriate Mental Well-Being programming for 200 girls who belong to Mid-Shore troops. www.gsrb.org

IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF TALBOT COUNTY

\$2,500

"Early Literacy Lifts"

Imagination Library of Talbot County's mission is to address the very important need to expose children birth to age 5 to a literature and vocabulary rich environment by providing each child enrolled in the program with the gift of a new, age-appropriate, engaging book which is mailed to his or her home each month. Low-income parents may not have the resources to help prepare their children for kindergarten, and access to these books prepares preschoolers for kindergarten and improves their chances for a successful academic career and future. Because 90% of brain development occurs between birth and age 5, the first five years of life offer a critical window for learning. Preschool children who have limited exposure to books enter kindergarten a full 12 to 14 months behind their peers in terms of kindergarten readiness. By third grade, if they have not closed this gap, it becomes an achievement gap to continue throughout their schooling. 50% of kindergartners enrolled in Talbot County Public schools come from low-income households. Only 29% of Talbot County kindergartners living in poverty were fully school-ready. Making sure there are books in the home not only helps prepare a child for school and but also offers opportunities for loving experiences between a parent and child. With this grant, 100 girls living in poverty will receive 12 books for one year to contribute to their own personal forever library.

www.imaginationlibrary.com

KENT ATTAINABLE HOUSING

\$2,680

"Future Homeowners Program"

Kent Attainable Housing (KAH) is a nonprofit that was formed in April 2019 by three Kent County residents with a deep commitment to bettering the plight of the working poor among us who are stuck in the cycle of inter-generational poverty. The organization is attacking this problem by increasing the number of affordable homes in Kent County and preparing those with limited incomes to become financially secure homeowners with a major asset to pass on to their children. KAH has two primary programs: 1. constructing and renovating affordable housing for first-time home ownership and 2. applicant financial literacy and support services. The biggest obstacle faced by their target population is establishing and maintaining sufficient credit history and credit rating to qualify for a mortgage. This grant helps to provide, via data tracking, a method to monitor applicant credit progress. The detailed tracking of milestone achievements of applicants will provide many of them with positive feedback that will spur them to further achievements in the program. Milestone achievements include: completing initial assessment of credit; completing credit, money management and budgeting classes; obtaining first-time homeowner class certificate of completion; designing an individual plan for reducing debt and demonstrating adherence to that plan; and increasing credit

score by 50 points. The program manager, with the assistance of volunteers, will track this progress. The grant will also support the cost of volunteer training. www.kentattainablehousing.org

MID-SHORE COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

\$2,750

"Food Pantry Program"

The mission of the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence (MSCFV) is to create healthy opportunities to break the cycle of domestic violence through intervention and prevention by providing shelter, counseling, and advocacy services for victims of domestic violence. In fiscal year 2021, MSCFV, which operates in all five Mid-Shore counties, served 397 victims of domestic violence and their 587 children. Services spanned from hotline services, legal services, emergency shelter, longer term transitional housing, ongoing case management, mental health services, credit counseling, basic living needs, transportation, interpretation and translation services, pet safety, support groups, abuser intervention programming, community outreach, and awareness. Access to nutritious food is critical for those in crisis, and often difficult to obtain. The MSCFV Pantry Program offers full food pantries that stock diverse food and toiletries at each of its county offices to meet the growing need of necessities for victims and their children and reduce this worry so they can focus on the longer-term issues of addressing mental health challenges, improving their financial foundation and credit, and developing a safe, violence-free future for themselves and their children. This grant will support the purchase items for the pantries. Additionally, the grant will support the purchase of grocery store gift cards, which provides victims the freedom to choose what they want. www.msfcv.org

NEW BEGINNINGS YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

\$5,000

"Who Am I Program"

New Beginnings Youth and Family Services' mission is to provide a safe, nurturing, and structured environment for children in under-resourced communities. Their commitment is to provide free afterschool and summer career, educational, recreational, and cultural experiences to children and their families who reside in Altair, Parkside Village, and other affordable housing units along the Greenwood Avenue corridor in Cambridge. Many of their participants are raised in single-family household by single mothers. The "Who Am I" program addresses low self-esteem to help the girls, ages 6-14, and their caretakers, who often also have low self-esteem, increase their confidence and self-awareness. The course has a set of journals that encourage the girls to express themselves and reiterates their lessons. Each journal is supported by a series of activities and field trips. Building confidence improves communication and problem-solving skills that transfer to better interactions at school, at home and in the community. As a result of this program, participants should increase positive conversations, self-advocacy, and good decision-making. This grant will help underwrite the cost of the program for six months. www.newbeginningsyouth.wixsite.com

ONE MISSION CAMBRIDGE

\$2,000

"Food Pantry Program"

One Mission Cambridge is a coalition of Christian Churches serving together at a mission center located at 614 Race Street, Cambridge. One Mission offers a food pantry, monthly community dinners, and individual and group counseling services. The food pantry centralizes the collection and distribution of food rather than separate pantries at the various churches. This system encourages relationship building and reduces food waste, since the food is pre-packaged instead of selected by clients. Since its opening in June 2022 on Race Street in downtown Cambridge, within walking distance of low-income neighborhoods and bus stops, it has served more than 340 individuals with over 850 household members positively impacted. The need for the purchase of feminine hygiene products for the Pantry is a critical need as the products, which are necessary for many women and girls to work or attend school as well as community programs, are expensive and considered a luxury to many of their clients. This grant funds the purchase of a variety of feminine hygiene products, including tampons, pads, adult incontinence items, soap, body wash, and wipes. www.onemissioncambridge.org

OPEN DOORS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION**\$5,000***"High Quality Literacy Tutoring for Girls in Kent County Area"*

Open Doors Partners in Education strives to increase the literacy rate of struggling readers by providing tutoring, offering educational enrichment opportunities, and increasing community awareness of learning differences in Kent County and surrounding areas. It uses the Orton-Gillingham Approach, a multisensory, structured, sequential, diagnostic, and prescriptive way to teach literacy when reading, writing, and spelling does not come easily to individuals, such as those with dyslexia. Founded in 2020 for children in grades K-2, it quickly became apparent there were many outside that range who needed what Open Doors was providing, and the age range was expanded to include all ages. Currently students range from ages 4-34. Tutoring is provided at no cost to Kent County Public school students and adults who live in Kent County who are falling behind in reading skills. Students enrolled in other schools and adults who live outside Kent County may also enroll in tutoring for a discounted cost. This grant will support the High Quality Literacy Tutoring for Girls in Kent County and Surrounding Community program through the purchase of Orton-Gillingham tutoring materials and program-related supplies to help address the issue of low and declining literacy rates in Kent County. www.opendoorsed.org

PINE STREET COMMITTEE**\$5,750***"Girls in Focus Tutoring Program"*

The Pine Street Committee's mission is to work in partnership with the diverse community of Cambridge to provide the underserved youth and adult population with education, health and wellness, work skills, and cultural enrichment programs. With the Cambridge Empowerment Center, they operate community programs meeting an extensive variety of needs. Their "Girls in Focus" program is a summer enrichment program aimed at helping girls catch up with academic and other learning that suffered during COVID, when many girls were tasked with helping care for younger siblings and may have missed out on supportive learning activities. The summer program offers girls tutoring in math and reading, STEM lessons, music and art. Reading and math improvement outcomes are measured and tracked. Family outreach and support wraps services around participating girls. This grant will provide the 7-week "Girls in Focus" learning and enrichment program for 15 girls in Cambridge this summer.

<https://www.cambridgeempowermentcenter.org/>

RADCLIFFE CREEK SCHOOL**\$2,000***"Girls Empowerment Group"*

Founded in 1995, Radcliffe Creek School's mission is to empower children in a dynamic environment that celebrates unique learning. The school's educational program provides an inclusive environment in which faculty and staff work to ensure all students, grades K-8, succeed by recognizing and celebrating their extraordinary individual talents and by identifying and remediating those areas in which they struggle. Students benefit from the five pillars that compose the Radcliffe Way: Growth Mindset; Care and Connection; Personalized Experience; Multi-Sensory Instruction; and Genuine Feedback. Radcliffe believes that as each student develops a positive belief about oneself, he or she can engage in the learning process and become a more self-regulated and independent learner. One of RCS's goals is to prepare children for high school and to provide them with tools and teach them skills for that chapter and beyond. To address the unique social pressures and emotional challenges that neurodivergent girls experience, two Girls Empowerment Groups were formed for girls K-5 and 6-8. In their cohorts and in joint meetings, girls learn personal skills such as how to engage in self-reflection, regulate their emotions and nurture positive self-talk as well as age-appropriate practical life skills like problem solving, relationship development, money management and social skills. This grant will support field trips, an etiquette dinner, outside speakers, and other resources to enhance and expand the Girls Empowerment Groups. www.radcliffecreekschool.org

TALBOT COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**\$2,741***"Children's Advocacy Center Teen Group"*

Talbot Community Connections (TCC) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to raise and distribute funds to enhance the Talbot County Department of Social Services capacity to respond

directly to problems of safety and well-being to all Talbot County residents. Typically, at least half of TCC's funds is distributed to the Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center. At its core the Children's Advocacy Center brings together all the agency professionals involved in a child abuse case and facilitates the investigation and prosecution of the case, while ensuring that the needs of the child victim come first. The Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center works as a multidisciplinary team to ensure the children are not re-victimized by the system designed to protect them. This grant will support the Children's Advocacy Center Life Skills Teen Girls Group. The life skills group is an activity/therapy to provide important information, help the girls connect, and keep the girls in touch with supportive peers. Group therapy provides an environment for the girls to learn more about themselves while interacting with other victims with similar experiences, and to see that they are not alone in their struggles.

TALBOT INTERFAITH SHELTER

\$3,400

"Parenting Skill Classes"

Talbot Interfaith Shelter is dedicated to ending homelessness on Maryland's Mid-Shore by providing Shelter, Stability, Support and a path to Success (S4) for families and individuals in need. Since 2008, the organization has provided temporary shelter and long-term supportive housing to hundreds of people including families with infants and children of all ages. Hundreds of volunteers have assisted their trained staff to provide ongoing support for families in transition. TIS is committed to providing parent guests the right tools for raising their families. Parenting classes, taught by facilitators from Talbot County Department of Social Services, are an important component of the S4 program. They provide tools for self-care, communication, and nurture bonds to help mothers/caregivers build stronger relationships with their children as well as personal and family resilience during what is one of the most stressful times in their lives – housing insecurity. This grant will support a ten-week series of parenting classes for women and their children. <https://talbotinterfaithshelter.org/>

TILGHMAN AREA YOUTH ASSOCIATION

\$4,200

"Just for Girls Program"

Tilghman Area Youth Association (TAYA) enriches the lives of Tilghman area youth by connecting them to each other, their families, and their community. It offers enrichment and community programs that provide educational and need-based opportunities for youth and their families, many of whom lives below the poverty line. During COVID-19 restrictions, TAYA pivoted to offer monthly take-home enrichment kits, in lieu of the Tilghman After School Kids (TASK) program, funding Care Packs, and home essentials, and coordinating the Maryland Mobile Food Truck visits to Tilghman, since the island is 12 miles away from services. TAYA directly benefits the entire school population of ninety- four students, approximately 250 family members, and teachers and staff of Tilghman Elementary School. It offers high-quality enrichment activities designed to support student learning and development and set students up to be successful adults who contribute to their own communities. This grant will underwrite 25 4th and 5th grade girls in the "Just for Girls" program, which focuses on building self-esteem, self-respect, healthy habits, community service, building positive relationships, and conflict resolution, all while learning to enjoy each other's company, through small self-led discussions. This is the only such program for young girls on Tilghman Island. www.tilghmanyouth.org

2022 GRANT RECIPIENTS

12 grants totaling \$50,432 plus Daisy Fund grants of \$6,303

Aaron's Place
"Mommy & Me"
\$2,500

Founded in 2014 as a food ministry, Aaron's Place's mission is to help meet basic human needs of impoverished people, affirming individuals' dignity while addressing the root problems that perpetuate the cycle of poverty. It has grown to distribute more than 1 million pounds of food annually and assist

more than 600 families monthly. Services include GED and ESL classes for children and adults, rental and utility assistance, furniture needs, and senior feeding and assistance. Aaron's Place is also addressing the needs of mothers by providing basic baby supplies and personal grooming items. "Mommy and Me" also provides mothers with mentors, parenting assistance, food preparation techniques, and financial literacy training, all of which will help new mothers learn to care for their children. This grant will support the expenses of the "Mommy and Me" program.

CASA of Caroline
"Volunteer Recruitment and Training"
\$5,000

CASA of Caroline, Inc. was founded in 2003. Its mission is to provide screened and trained volunteer advocates for all abused and neglected children who are in the Caroline County Foster Care System through no fault of their own. Volunteers meet at least monthly with the children they serve and make recommendations to the Caroline County Courts regarding what is considered to be in the child's best interest. In FY 2019-20, CASA of Caroline served 23 children designated as Children in Need of Assistance (CINA) by the Caroline County Court. Thirty hours of pre-service training was provided for each of three new volunteers who were sworn in on June 10, 2020. This grant will support on-going program needs for volunteer training and recruitment.

Compass Regional Hospice
"Hospice Services for Women"
\$5,000

Since 1985, Compass has been offering comprehensive, professional, and compassionate care and support to patients, caregivers, and families facing a life-limiting diagnosis or loss. It operates a residential and general inpatient hospice center in Centreville and is designated by the Health Care Commission (MHCC) as the hospice provider for Queen Anne's, Kent, and Caroline counties. It also offers a wide array of grief programs and resources. At Compass, no one is ever turned away for the inability to pay. This grant will provide financial support for hospice care provided to women unable to help cover costs not covered by Medicaid, Medicare, or private insurance.

Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers
"Tuition Assistance"
\$3,000

Founded in 1970, Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers (CACC) is a non-profit, licensed, educationally

children, ages 2-12 from preschool through 5th grade offering before- and after-school care and summer camp programs. Its mission is to provide financially accessible childcare in a nurturing, diverse, safe, and enriching environment. This grant will provide 18 weeks of tuition assistance for single working mothers who receive Maryland Child Care Scholarships and/or tuition assistance, and still struggle to afford care.

For All Seasons
“Calming Corner Therapy Kits”
\$6,432

For All Seasons, Inc. is the largest licensed behavioral health and rape crisis center serving men, women, children, and families in the five rural counties of Maryland’s Mid-Shore without regard to one’s ability to pay. The agency offers an array of mental health services including psychiatry, psychotherapy, support groups, school-based mental health, neurofeedback and medication management – and a range of rape crisis services including 24/7/365 hotlines in Spanish and English, 24/7/365 response to Emergency Departments, case management, advocacy, court & medical accompaniment and emergency food and shelter for victims of sexual assault. For therapy clients, “calming corners” refers to the creation of a “comforting” corner of an office with a number of items that can produce a calming sensorimotor response in clients impacted by trauma, such as weighted blankets, age-appropriate fidget devices, eye masks, sensory calming tools, and noise canceling headphones. This grant will purchase 43 kits.

Haven Ministries
“Case Management Services”
\$2,500

Haven Ministries has been assisting the poor in Queen Anne’s County for more than eighteen years, beginning with a cold weather homeless shelter and now also offering Our Daily Thread Thrift Shop, emergency food pantries, housing assistance program, the Hope Warehouse with job training, and a street outreach program. It is the only emergency shelter in Queen Anne’s County, and is open to men, women, and children. During the most recent shelter season, Haven Ministries assisted 105 people with 44 children. Case management services connect clients to area resources and helps move them to safe and affordable housing, which is a difficult task due to the lack of affordable housing in Queen Anne’s County. This grant will pay for a portion of the case managers’ salaries for current housing assistance programs: homeless shelter, resource center, and the upcoming housing assistance program when the transitional housing homes are completed.

Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne’s
“Social-Emotional Learning Project”
\$5,000

Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne’s is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides high quality academic support, meaningful enrichment, and social/emotional support to elementary and middle school children living in underserved communities. Its transformative summer learning program provides access to technology, cultural enrichment, arts, wellness opportunities, and healthy food. Designed to avoid the “summer slide”, the six-week program for Pre-K through 8th grade students meets at The Gunston School and Kent School. This grant will support the “Social-Emotional Learning Project Ruler Program” that helps students recognize, understand, label, express, and regulate their emotions.

Kent Attainable Housing
“Enhancement of Economic Security and Self-sufficiency”
\$4,100

Located in rural Kent County, Kent Attainable Housing seeks to break the generational cycle of poverty by building or renovating affordable houses and partnering with low income, working families to prepare and buy a home. In 2021, they worked with 54 applicants comprising 45 families of which 93% Black

and 75% were headed by single working mothers. They completed more than 276 hours of financial

literacy, home ownership classes, and one-on-one counseling, which increased self-sufficiency, self-image, confidence, and self-respect. This grant will support the creation of a series of in-house multi-pronged financial skills classes for female applicants to learn about budgeting and credit while developing emotional support through a peer-to-peer group.

Minorities in Aquaculture
“Internship Program for High School and College Women of Color”
\$2,500

Founded in October 2020, MIA seeks to address the lack of diversity and inclusion in aquaculture, which is a male dominated industry. MIA is a way to bridge the gap between minorities and sustainable seafood by creating a supportive space for professional growth while actively changing the current demographics in aquaculture. Through academic and industry partnerships, MIA will identify girls and young women interested in science, primarily sustainable aquaculture, and offer paid internships with partner aquaculture organizations to eliminate any financial barriers that might impede their academic or professional progress. This grant will help provide support for the internships.

Talbot Community Connections
“Talbot County Children’s Advocacy Center”
\$5,000

Talbot Community Connections (TCC) was founded in 2001 with the mission of raising and distributing funds to enhance the Talbot County Department of Social Services’ (TCDSS) capacity to respond directly to problems of safety and well-being of county residents. TCC provides critical support for the Talbot County Children’s Advocacy Center (TCCAC), which has been fully accredited since 2007. Last year TCCAC, which supports children in Talbot, Dorchester, Caroline, Kent, and Queen Anne’s Counties, provided services to 160 victims of child sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and neglect and their families. The Mid-Shore Victim Services Program, administered by the Talbot County DSS, develops and implements strategies specifically intended to aid child victims of sexual abuse/assault, severe physical abuse or neglect. This includes group therapy for child victims and non-offending family members with a diverse network of therapeutic resources and healing modalities, including alternative therapies, to help them work through and heal from complex trauma. This grant will underwrite the cost of a series of art, equine, and music therapies sessions and supplies for virtual art therapy for women and girls.

Talbot Hospice
“Community-supported Care Program”
\$5,000

Since 1981, Talbot Hospice has evolved from a volunteer run hospice to a fully licensed medical hospice with 75 staff and 175 volunteers. It offers comprehensive care in homes, nursing facilities, at Hospice House, and partners with the local hospital to serve hospice patients who cannot leave the acute care setting. It is the only residential hospice program in Talbot County. In 2020-21, 326 patients received hospice care, registered nurses and hospice home aides made more than 4,500 visits in homes and facilities for hospice care and homemaking and daily living tasks. More than half of the patients at Hospice House were women and 61% of them received free or subsidized room and board through the Community Supported Care program. This grant will help cover the cost of meals and personal care items for women who need the Hospice House to pass in a dignified and peaceful way.

Tilghman Area Youth Association
“Just for Girls”
\$4,400

Tilghman Area Youth Association (TAYA) seeks to enrich the lives of Tilghman area youth by connecting them to each other, their families, and their community. The Tilghman After School Kids (TASK) program directly benefits the entire Tilghman Elementary School population, which includes 97 children,

250 family members, more than 15 teachers and staff members, and the Tilghman community. It provides

a range of high-quality enrichment activities designed to support student learning and development. Leaders have noticed increased bullying among 4th and 5th grade girls, hygiene issues, and a lack of overall health education. To address these critical issues, TASK has developed a 12-week program for 4th and 5th grade girls - “Just for Girls” – to focus on building self-esteem, developing conflict resolution skills, and creating healthy relationships. Additionally, girls will hear from experts on how to deal with bullying behavior and take care of and respect their bodies. This grant will underwrite the “Just for Girls” program.

2021 GRANT RECIPIENTS

12 grants totaling \$49,318 plus Daisy Fund Grants of \$5,867

CASA of Caroline, Inc.

“Program Needs”

\$2,500

CASA of Caroline, founded in September 2003, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the best interest of children, victims of abuse or neglect, who through no fault of their come to the attention of the Circuit Court of Caroline County. Assigned CASA Volunteer Advocates, the rights of the children in need of assistance (CINAs) are addressed with the children, foster parents, natural parents, teachers, medical professionals, social workers, and others involved in the lives of the children. With the knowledge gained by the Advocates, they submit twice-yearly reports to the court and the judge relies on the assessments to protect the best interests of the children. In 2019-20, volunteer advocates represented 23 children in foster care. This grant will support CASA of Caroline’s professional level on-going training opportunities for its volunteers, board members, and staff. www.carolinecasa.org

Compass Regional Hospice

“Grief Services for Women and Children”

\$4,000

Compass Regional Hospice, located in Centreville, is a fully licensed, accredited, independent, community-based non-profit organization certified by Medicare and the State of Maryland. Established in 1985, Compass Regional Hospice is now the sole provider of in-home (including services at nursing homes and assisted living facilities), residential and in-patient hospice care for residents of Queen Anne’s, Kent, and Caroline Counties. They also offer palliative care for individuals who are transitioning to the next level of care or are not yet ready for hospice. Its mission is “to provide the highest quality hospice care and grief counseling services for patients and families ... while maintaining a fiscally sound and progressive organization led by compassionate, committed, caring, and trustworthy professionals and volunteers.” During 2020, The Hope and Healing Center, which offers a variety of counseling services, developed zoom groups and telehealth virtual settings to provide critically needed one-on-one care and support groups. This grant will support grief and counseling services offered by three programs offered through The Hope and Healing Center: Camp New Dawn, HALOS (Healing After a Loved Ones Suicide), and RASP (Reconciling After a Substance Passing.) www.compassregionalhospice.org

Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers

“Tuition Scholarship Fund”

\$4,528

Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers (CACC) is a non-profit, educationally based childcare center that is licensed and accredited through the Maryland State Department of Education with the highest rating of EXCELS Check-Level 5. Their mission is to provide financially accessible childcare in a nurturing, diverse, safe, and enriching environment. Founded in 1970 as Easton Day Care Center, Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers has grown to include five sites located throughout Talbot County and serves more than 440 annually (non-Covid), ages 2-12 in preschool, K-5th grade before-and after-school care, and summer camp programs. Since its founding, CACC has served four generations of families from varying socio-economic backgrounds. Since 1970, more than \$2.75 million in tuition scholarships have been awarded to CACC families. This grant will support single mothers of CACC students who are working hard to maintain stability for their families. The affordability, along with the high-quality learning environment, will provide a tremendous emotional benefit to each of these women. www.cacckids.org

For All Seasons, Inc.

“Targeting Anxiety in Teenage Girls”

\$7,050

For All Seasons, Inc. is the largest licensed and CARF accredited behavioral health and rape crisis center serving men, women, children, and families in the five county Mid-Shore region. It accepts clients without regard to their ability to pay. Founded in 1986, the agency offers an array of mental health services including, psychiatry, psychotherapy, support groups, school-based mental health, neurofeedback, medication management, case management, and a range of rape crisis services including 24/7/365 multilingual telephone hotlines. Headquartered in Easton, it has satellite offices in Denton, Cambridge, Stevensville, Tilghman, and Chestertown. Since the onset of Covid-19, there has been a surge in demand for mental health services from all demographic groups and FAS has undertaken a number of strategies to address community needs, including public information sessions over Facebook Live, presentations to community groups via Zoom and other online platforms, outreach efforts such as advertising billboards radio, print, and digital ads, and one-on-one outreach to community partners. Clinicians have provided telehealth and in-person services. This year, FAS is adding a new initiative to address anxiety in teenage girls through a direct campaign aimed at girls and their caregivers. The goal is to raise awareness of the common symptoms of anxiety in girls, offer strategies to address anxiety, determine the need for and how to access professional help for anxiety. The multi-pronged program will include a campaign webpage to share articles and information about how to access mental health services, targeted campaign messaging on rack cards and online ads on Facebook, Spotify, YouTube and Instagram. Additionally, a five-week campaign, that could reach 10,000 Mid-Shore girls and caregivers, is strategically planned for November-December 2021, including a Facebook Talk with For All Seasons' chief executive officer and chief clinical director. This grant will support "Targeting Anxiety in Teenage Girls." www.forallseasonsinc.org

Kent Attainable Housing

"Mentoring First-time Homeowners"

\$10,000

Kent Attainable Housing is working to break the cycle of poverty by building or renovating affordable houses and partnering with low income, working families to prepare them home ownership. There is a large pool of families who live or work in Kent County that earn less than 50% of the Kent County median income. A recent survey by the Kent County Local Management Board determined 600 Kent County children live in poverty, and data shows children suffer stress when their housing is not secure. Currently working with 24 low income working families (majority in their 30's and 75% headed by single mothers), Kent Attainable Housing is the only public or private entity in Kent County providing end-to-end services for its clients: designing and constructing homes, renovating available homes, providing financial and homeowner classes, and mentoring families through the transition to first-time home ownership. This grant will provide funds for consultant services to provide mentoring to applicant families through the multi-step process of budgeting, improving and maintaining credit, attending classes, and the myriad of steps necessary to become a successful homeowner. www.kentattainablehousing.org

Ladies of Nia

"Tomorrow's H.O.P.E. Mentoring Program"

\$1,100

Ladies of Nia (Nia in African means "Purpose" or having a goal) is a volunteer organization comprised of a "group of friends who are united in sisterhood for the restoration of our communities, especially children, teens and women of color." Their goal is to educate our communities by increasing awareness in regard to the importance of education, healthcare, and properly managing personal finances. The mentors are all professional, family-oriented women who have some connection with Caroline County from their own youth, and who still desire to be a presence there and be role models for young girls growing up facing difficult challenges. Tomorrow's H.O.P.E. Mentoring Program connects middle school students with positive and professional role models who will support them in setting and achieving educational goals through high school and beyond, while encouraging them to become effective leaders. Started in the 2009-10 school year, the Ladies of Nia partnered with Lockerman Middle School in Denton to offer its mentoring program to girls in grades 6-8. In 2014, their first mentees graduated from high school and from 2015-19, twelve more mentees graduated. In 2020, during Covid-19, there were eleven participants in the Caroline County Public Schools. The typical twice-monthly in-person sessions became monthly zoom calls, which was problematic for girls without personal laptops and tablets. This grant will underwrite the cost of eleven tablets for the purpose of supporting these critical mentor-mentee relationships. www.ladiesofnia.org

Mac, Inc.

"Empowering Women Caregivers in Dorchester County"

\$5,000

MAC Inc is the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) serving over 4,800 seniors annually in the four Lower Eastern Shore Counties, which includes Dorchester. Founded in 1972, its mission is to provide programs and services in three broad categories, Information and Empowerment, Nutrition and Wellness, and Long Term Services, that preserve

dignity, health, and independence for an aging population. It is a one-stop source of information and assistance for family members, caregivers, disabled adults, and seniors, which helps them navigate through the maze of long-term care services and links them with local and state programs. Services also include an Aging and Disability Resource Center and Life Bridges, an Alzheimer's program. Women comprise 60% of the caregivers for Alzheimer's and other dementia patients, and many of them are family or unpaid care providers. Through the Life Bridges program, MAC has developed a multi-pronged initiative to address the various needs of women caregivers: Savvy Caregiver class; Life Bridges Support Group for non-paid female caregivers; and, PEARLS, a personalized one-on-one counseling service for age 60 and older. This grant will support the Life Bridges program for Women Caregivers in Dorchester County. www.macinc.org

Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence

"Food Pantry Program"

\$2,000

The mission of Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence (MSCFV) is to create healthy opportunities to break the cycle of domestic violence through intervention and prevention for victims and abusers; and by changing society's attitudes and systems that permit and promote such violence against women, men, and families. For 40 years, MSCFV has served as the central access point for assistance on domestic violence in the Mid-Shore region. Services span from crisis-focused hotline, legal services, and emergency shelter to counseling, education, economic empowerment programs, and longer-term transitional housing. In March 2020, in preparation for serving clients during the quarantine, MSCFV developed a chat feature on its website that provided victims trapped at home with their abuser a way to seek help without speaking out loud. They also partnered with more than 90 local businesses to share their contact information through stickers on to-go containers, flyers, posters, billboards, and social media sites to make sure victims knew they remained open to help. During 2020, MSCFV provided services to 440 victims of domestic violence (96% female) and their 687 children. Increasingly, clients' greatest needs are for daily necessities such as food, toiletries, pet food, school supplies, and every day living items. This grant supports the Food Pantry Program, available at all five locations, to ensure victims of family violence and their children have access to healthy nourishment throughout their time with MSCFV. www.msfcv.org

Partners in Care/Community for Life Talbot and Caroline Counties

"Community for Life Scholarship Fund"

\$1,700

Partners in Care (PIC), established in Anne Arundel County in 1993, opened sites in Talbot County in 2009 and Caroline County in 2013. On November 1, 2020, it merged with Community for Life Talbot County (CFL) and expanded that program into Caroline County, combining their paid and scholarship-funded ride and handman services with PIC's no-fee time exchange services to provide seamless service to adults over 60 in Talbot and Caroline Counties. Programs and services contribute to seniors' safety and well-being, helping them to age in their homes and remain actively involved in their communities through transportation, home repair, and meaningful social engagement. The focus is on an aging population that cannot afford essential services. The Maryland Department of Aging 2017-2021 State Plan on Aging projects that in Maryland the 60+ population will increase by 40%, with those ages 80-84 being the fastest growing age group. In Caroline and Talbot, those numbers are expected to increase by 48% and 32% respectively. This grant will help support two 60% scholarships to two low-income female CFL members so that they may receive CFL services free of charge or at reduced rates as CFL merges with Partners in Care. www.partnersincare.org

Pickering Creek Audubon Center

"Trailblazing Women & Girls"

\$2,600

Pickering Creek Audubon Center (PCAC) is dedicated to conserving natural habitats on Maryland's Eastern Shore by engaging and empowering the community through exploration, education, and stewardship. PCAC serves people of all ages and backgrounds, annually making over 12,000 program contacts in the community, at schools and on its 400+ acres. During Covid-19, new virtual programming has reached homes across the US. PCAC serves as an outdoor lab for Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot County Public Schools environmental science curriculum. It is committed to connecting children with the outdoors and making nature more accessible to all. Pickering Creek plans to launch the Trailblazing Women & Girls program from May-November 2021 for ten girls 9-15 years of age, many of whom have limited outdoor experience, and a female mentor in their lives. The program will include Girls' Day Outside, guided nature exploration activities, and self-guided adventure kits that will develop confidence, skills, and interest in nature. This grant will underwrite the cost for five girls and their female mentors. www.pickering.audubon.org

Pine Street Committee, Inc.

"Educational Tutors for Girls"

\$3,840

Pine Street Committee (PSC) oversees The Empowerment Center in Cambridge, which offers a children's after-school program, summer camp, food distribution for families, and senior activities. Its mission is "to be an ongoing resource for children and adults in the community, to improve their lives, help them grow and reach their dreams." In September 2020, PSC opened a learning lab to help students with online learning. Five tutors and a retired teacher worked with 25 children in grades K-8 helping them with their schoolwork. All of the students, many from single-parent homes, live below the poverty level and some have no access to Wi-Fi or a person at home to help them. For the coming school year, PSC plans to identify 10-12 at-risk girls, ages 5-13, for an 8-week learning program with two tutors (college-bound or current college students) who will provide individual or small group tutoring four days a week to assist with online learning, school assignments follow-up, skill development, and playing learning games. This grant will underwrite the stipend for two tutors for the girls' program. www.cambridgeempowermentcenter.com

Talbot Community Connections
"Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center"

\$5,000

Talbot Community Connections (TCC) raises and distributes funds to enhance the Talbot County Department of Social Services' (TCDSS) capacity to respond directly to problems of safety and well-being of county residents. In addition to raising funds to help families in crisis, the unemployed and working poor, and disabled and frail elderly, TCC provides support that sustains critical services for child victims of sexual abuse and their families served by the Child Advocacy Center (TCCAC). TCCAC, which is fully accredited by the National Children's Alliance, offers a friendly environment where abused children can receive services from Child Protective Services, Law Enforcement, Legal Representatives, and Medical Staff who investigate abuse allegations and share information in a manner sensitive to the needs of young victims. In 2019, 168 children and their family members were served through the TCCAC victim advocacy program, with 97 being new cases. Of the new cases, 62 were females. TCCAC anticipates it will serve between 100-125 female children and caregivers in 2021-22. Physical abuse, neglect, and childhood sexual abuse can have a prolonged and profound impact on survivors' mental and physical health, including post-traumatic stress, feeling of guilt, eating disorders, and depression. In addition to the traditional mental health counseling services TCCAC currently provides to victims and families, they plan to expand therapeutic services to include art therapy, equine therapy, mindfulness, and yoga, which can aid in the healing process. This grant will underwrite costs associated with providing alternative therapies and healing modalities. www.talbotcommunityconnections.org

2020 GRANT RECIPIENTS

15 grants totaling \$51,176 plus Daisy Fund grants of \$5,337

The following is a description of each of the 2020 grants, approved March 4, 2020. In light of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Board of Directors voted at its April 4, 2020 meeting to give this year's grant recipients the option to use the awards for their greatest needs.

Community Mediation Upper Shore, Inc. (CMUS)
"Conflict Resolution & Arts for Teens & Tots (CRAFT-T)"

\$5,996

For 16 years, the mission of Community Mediation of the Upper Shore has been to address community and individual disagreements providing free mediation services to all communities throughout Kent and Queen Anne's Counties. Last year, 580 individuals were directly served through facilitation, mediation and conflict awareness programs, with a ripple effect within their families and throughout Kent and QA Counties. CMUS programs include: Family reunification mediation for incarcerated parents at the Kent Co. Detention Center; 15-week "Gettin' Ahead" workshops for community members in poverty; facilitation meetings for parents/guardians of QAC public school students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that requires a team approach to receiving supportive services; and, in partnership with Kent and QAC Family Courts, child-access mediation services to parents or guardians who cannot afford a paid mediator. As part of the "Gettin' Ahead" program, CMUS built a strong relationship with the Baywood Village subsidized housing community located in Fairlee, Kent County, 7.5 miles from any grocery, food pantry, or town. This grant will support the CRAFT-T program, developed in partnership with the Kent County Arts Council, to bring arts and conflict management skills to children in Baywood Village. The program will run from late June through the end of August providing breakfast and lunch daily along with crafts, art projects, dramatizations, and music. www.cmusmediation.org

Compass Regional Hospice

"Memory Bears"

\$1,000

Compass Regional Hospice, located in Centreville, is a fully licensed, accredited, independent, community-based non-profit organization certified by Medicare and the State of Maryland. Established in 1985, Compass Regional Hospice is now the sole provider of in-home (including services at nursing homes and assisted living facilities), residential and in-patient hospice care for residents of Queen Anne's, Kent, and Caroline Counties. Its mission is "to provide the highest quality hospice care and grief counseling services for patients and families ... while maintaining a fiscally sound and progressive organization led by compassionate, committed, caring, and trustworthy professionals and volunteers." In 2018, over 600 patients received quality hospice and pre-hospice care and grief services were provided to more than 1,000 residents in their service area. They provided 796 face-to-face counseling sessions for individuals, 8-week support groups for 52 clients, monthly drop-in support groups for 43 clients, family counseling for 16 families, and school-based counseling for 125 students. Additionally, the bereavement camp, Camp New Dawn, hosted 93 campers and 8 families, and Remembrance Events and therapeutic workshops served 230 participants. Compass Regional Hospice has observed that sometimes the smallest things have the biggest impact – after the death of a beloved family member, the sight of the deceased's favorite item or article of clothing can trigger a flood of memories and can contribute to a healthy grieving process. In 2019, Compass volunteers began making "Memory Bears," hand-stitched teddy bears made out of the deceased hospice patient's favorite item of clothing. Each family that participates in the program brings an article of clothing that has meaning to them, which is then turned into a treasured keepsake. In 2019, 229 Memory Bears were made, and it is anticipated 300 will be made in 2020. This grant will underwrite the cost of supplies for making the bears and advertising to recruit new volunteers to join the Memory Bears sewing circle. www.compassregionalhospice.org

Delmarva Community Services, Inc.

"Academy Street Women and Children's Home"

\$5,000

Delmarva Community Services, Inc. was established in 1974 to address the needs of adult individuals with disabilities. Today, DCS is a multi-service non-profit agency whose mission is to help people who wish to maintain dignity and independence within their community on the Delmarva Peninsula. Programs have expanded and DCS now offers an extensive list of services for the entire community including: Delmarva Works vocational program; public transit services in four counties for MTA; Area Agency on Aging, which prepares and delivers 300 meals daily in Dorchester and Talbot Counties; Respite Care Program; Adult Medical Day Care for Dorchester and Talbot Counties to serve medically frail individuals; and, Community Action, which operates the Delmarva Community Action Center providing a food pantry, transitional home for men, foreclosure assistance, income tax preparation, rental assistance, and housing rehabilitation. DCS recently renovated a five-bedroom house in Hurlock with the goal of providing transitional housing for women and children. Under its 2GEN Initiative, DCS will use a whole family approach to assure that mothers and families receive the necessary services to successfully achieve positive outcomes, leading them to sustaining permanent housing. This grant will support the Academy Street Women and Children's Home. www.dcsdct.org

For All Seasons, Inc.

"Dare to Lead / Brené Brown"

\$2,500

For All Seasons (FAS) was founded in 1986 by a group of social work students concerned about child sexual assault in Easton. Today, 34 years later, FAS is the largest licensed Behavioral Health and Rape Crisis Center serving all five Mid-Shore Counties with offices in Easton, Denton, Cambridge, Chestertown, Stevensville, and Tilghman, accepting clients of all ethnic groups, ages, races, and levels of ability or disability regardless of their ability to pay. For All Seasons provides community-based psychiatry, psychotherapy, group therapy, and case management. The Rape Crisis Center, with its 24-hour bi-lingual hotline, offers a continuum of services to support and treat victims of rape and sexual assault. In 2019, the For All Seasons Center for Learning opened, offering training workshops, seminars and lectures to schools, community groups, and other providers. Among the 2020/21 programs will be two Dr. Brené Brown "Dare to Lead" training sessions, led by FAS's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Clinical Officer who have attended the *Dare to Lead* facilitator workshop. *Dare to Lead* focuses on courage, vulnerability, shame, and empathy; the workshops will teach four skill sets of courage: "Rumbling with Vulnerability, Living into Our Values, Braving Trust, and Learning to Rise." This grant will help underwrite one of

the workshops, open first to women affiliated with local non-profits and civic organizations.
www.forallseasonsinc.org

Girls on the Run of the Greater Chesapeake

“Access for All Girls”

\$1,500

Established in Annapolis in 2005, Girls on the Run of the Greater Chesapeake (GOTRGC) reaches close to 1,800 girls a year at over 130 sites in Baltimore City and five Maryland counties, including Queen Anne’s and Talbot Counties. The after-school program brings together teams of 8-15 girls to meet twice a week during 10-week spring and fall seasons. The professionally developed curriculum encourages positive emotional, social, mental, and physical development. Girls learn different tools and techniques to help work through challenging situations they may encounter in adolescence. Lessons are integrated with training for an end-of-season community 5K run in which all girls participate and learn the very tangible lesson of setting goals and overcoming challenges. Research by The Women’s Sports Foundation shows physical activity is a fundamental solution to the serious and unique health and social problems faced by all girls. Regular participation in physical activity promotes the development of a positive body image, confidence, and self-esteem and has proven to improve academic performance and career success. Girls also participate in a Community Impact Project that each team develops and completes during the season, demonstrating they can be agents for positive change in their communities. This grant will underwrite the enrollment fee for ten Mid-Shore girls. www.gotrchesapeake.org

Greater New Hope Church & Ministries

“Fitness in Action Girls”

\$3,000

New Hope Church & Ministries (GNHC&M) was established in Caroline County in the 1940s and is now permanently located in Preston. In 2012, its building and ministries were expanded to meet the needs of its growing congregation. As a community meeting place for all ages, GNHC&M offers the following non-sectarian programs: Fitness in Action, SHARE Community Pantry, Cub Scout Pack 226, Man Up, and Sister to Sister. Fitness in Action (FIA) is a six-month fitness, healthy lifestyle, mental health education, and mentoring program for girls ages 12-18. Maryland ranks 13th in the nation for the highest obesity rate among children ages 10-17, and within that group, African American girls have the greatest percentage of obesity. FIA’s curriculum is based on the “Eat Healthy Be Active” initiative that teaches girls healthy weight isn’t about short term dietary changes; with a goal to lose 3% body weight and improve blood pressure rates, participants learn healthy eating skills and increase their physical activity (30 minutes/day) while building self-esteem and mental stability through mentoring. FIA anticipates serving 30-50 girls in 2020, and this grant will underwrite the program expenses. www.newhopemd.org

Haven Ministries

“Case Management Services”

\$2,500

Haven Ministries, Inc. is a nonprofit organization formed fifteen years ago to assist the poor within Queen Anne’s County. Since then it has grown to include: a long-term cold weather shelter (October-April) with extensive case management services; a Resource Center with educational programming and financial assistance; an emergency food pantry and thrift store; Shelter transportation services; Hope Warehouse, which sells used furniture, appliances, and building supplies; Job training; Art for Your Home that provides artwork to clients donated by local artists; and, Street Outreach Program that sends staff out into the community to help individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis. Open to men, women, and children, Haven Ministries provided 211 nights of service to 38 people (26 adults and 12 children) during the 2018-19 shelter season. Case management is critical to the smooth delivery of services to Haven Ministries’ fragile clients, and this grant will cover a portion of a Housing Assistance Program case manager’s salary. www.haven-ministries.org

Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne’s

“Horizons Social-Emotional Resources for Children of Poverty”

\$2,800

Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne’s provides academic support and meaningful enrichment to underprivileged elementary and middle school children. For young people from low-income families facing limited access to things

like technology, cultural enrichment, the arts, regular exercise, and healthy food, Horizons closes gaps of opportunity that begin at a young age. Horizons is different because it delivers high quality academic, enrichment, and social/emotional support to students by building lasting, long-term relationships and partnerships between students, teachers, families, and communities. The six-week program, located at The Gunston School, Kent School, and Washington College, is often described as “six weeks of happiness.” It serves students from Pre-K – 8th grade. Skilled and nurturing educational professionals in small classes utilize hands-on teaching methods focusing on reading, writing, and math. Students also learn to swim and participate in activities that foster creativity, confidence, citizenship, and wellness. In 2019, Horizons enrolled 183 students (57% female), all of whom met the Federal poverty requirements to receive the Free and Reduced Meal program. It is anticipated 195 students will enroll this summer. Many of the students struggle with the challenges of poverty and trauma, and last year a licensed clinical social worker was hired to support their social-emotional needs. This support resulted in a reported increase of the students’ academic progress, indicating the positive difference the social worker had on the effectiveness of the summer learning program. This grant will support the full-time social worker’s salary plus resource materials for Horizons’ 2020 program. www.horizonskentqueenannes.org

Maryland Community for Life – Talbot
“Community for Life Scholarship Program”
\$2,880

The Mission of Maryland Community for Life – Talbot (CFL-Talbot) is to offer innovative options for positive, safe, healthy aging for Talbot County seniors who wish to live independently in their own home through personalized, affordable, non-medical support and services. CFL-Talbot is a membership fee-based program providing in-county transportation, monthly home maintenance, home safety assessments, fraud prevention, information and referral services, telephone chat service, and monthly social and educational programs. Until 2035, 10,000 baby boomers will turn 65 every day; in Maryland, 72% of the seniors living alone are female. The Scholarship Fund makes it possible for senior women in Talbot County to age in place with dignity and independence as long as safely possible. This grant will underwrite the annual membership fee for five new scholarship female members. www.mdcommunityforlifetalbot.org

Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence
“Food Pantry Program”
\$1,500

The mission of Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence (MSCFV) is to create healthy opportunities to break the cycle of domestic violence through intervention and prevention for victims and abusers; and by changing society’s attitudes and systems that permit and promote such violence against women, men, and families. MSCFV provides services that span from crisis-focused hotline, legal services, and emergency shelter to counseling, education, economic empowerment programs, and longer-term transitional housing. According to the Maryland Uniform Crime Report and data on the percent of victims that do not report family violence, more than 1,000 reported and unreported domestically-related crimes occur each year in the five Mid-Shore counties. Between July 2018 and June 2019, MSCFV served 531 victims of family violence and their 824 children; some of the services provided were 479 hotline calls, 638 crisis counseling sessions and 4,462 non-crisis counseling services, and 6,527 follow up services. This grant supports the Food Pantry Program, available at all five locations, to ensure victims of family violence and their children have access to healthy nourishment throughout their time with MSCFV. www.msfcv.org

MidShore Meals til Monday
“School Backpack Program”
\$7,000

Located in Dorchester County, MidShore Meals til Monday (MtM) is a year-round “backpack” organization sending home weekend food for food insecure children attending Dorchester County Public Schools, including various summer schools and programs. Founded in 2017, MtM has grown from serving 25 students at Vienna Elementary to providing food for nearly 500 students at four elementary, one middle, and one high school. Backpack meals include a nutritious breakfast, lunch, beverage, piece of fresh fruit, healthy snack, and an incentive item such as a pencil or stickers. Every three months, backpacks include dental supplies and, in cold winter months, include warm hats and gloves. MtM’s mission statement summarizes its objective: “Working to end childhood hunger on the Mid Shore and beyond.” In order to do so, MtM purchases food from the Maryland Food Bank and other sources, such as warehouse clubs. In Dorchester County, all students qualify for federally funded, school provided breakfast and lunch. MtM bridges the gap over the weekends for almost half of the 1,000 food-

insecure children attending DCPS. This grant will be used for the purchase of food for the School Backpack Program. www.midshoremealstilmonday.org

Soroptimist International of Talbot County, Maryland

“Dream It, Be It; Career Support for Girls”

\$1,500

Soroptimist International (SI) is a global volunteer movement working to transform the lives of women and girls. SI is made up of over 75,000 clubs in 122 countries – Soroptimist International of the Americas was formed in 1921 and currently has about 120,000 members. The local club, Soroptimist International of Talbot County (SITC), was chartered in 1964 and since that time has taken on projects to educate, empower, and enable opportunities for women and girls. Advancing girls’ access to education and training is now widely accepted as a human right and development imperative. In 2012-13, SIA conducted extensive research that identified emerging issues in the adolescent girl world and how best to use Soroptimist members’ time and talent to meet the needs of girls in their communities. Research found the challenges faced by girls include violence, body-image related issues, peer pressure, and dropping out of school. And, it showed that a quality education and knowledge of available opportunities were important in helping girls achieve their dreams. With the results of their research, SIA developed the Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls program. The seven sessions are: Discovering Your Dreams; Exploring Careers; Creating Achievable Goals; Rising Above Obstacles; Turning Failure into Success; Balancing Your Stress; and Putting Dreams into Action. Skills developed during the program can be applied to any goal girls identify throughout their education and careers. Presented in Talbot and Dorchester Counties for the first time last year, SITC plans to repeat the program this year estimating they will serve 15-30 9th grade girls. This grant will support the costs of the 2020 program. www.talbotsoroptimist.org

Talbot Interfaith Shelter

“S4: Shelter – Stability – Support - Success”

\$5,000

Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS) was founded eleven years ago to serve homeless families and individuals in the Mid-Shore region. In 2014, a permanent shelter was opened, and ten transitional apartments have subsequently been added. TIS typically serves 50 people a year, from newborns to senior citizens. TIS is the only local shelter that serves families with children. As of 2019, there were 17 homeless children in Talbot County Public Schools, indicating approximately 65-70 families without access to stable housing. Additionally, there are 40-50 individual men and women experiencing homelessness. Rural areas face unique challenges for the homeless as services tend to be very spread out and public transportation is unreliable. On top of not knowing where to find service providers or having easy access to them, efforts are further complicated by the fact that each agency needs different paperwork, identification, and other information. In response to these challenges, TIS has developed the S4 (Shelter, Stability, Support, Success) program - a long-term, comprehensive program to create sustainable change in guests’ lives. As they move through the steps of S4, guests are connected to relevant social services, taught how to save and plan a budget, and given access to mental health counseling and addiction treatment. Those without a high school degree are required to complete GED classes. Other classes include life skills, nutritious cooking on a budget, parenting, and anger management. TIS has partnered with local agencies, including For All Seasons, St. Vincent du Paul, and Chesapeake College, for this program. When certain criteria have been met (budget, savings, emotional, mental, and physical stability,) guests move into rent-subsidized transitional housing where they continue to receive case management. It typically takes three years to graduate from S4, but smaller successes are celebrated along the way. This grant will support the S4 program. www.talbotinterfaithshelter.org

Talbot Mentors

“One-on-One Mentoring Support for Girls Aged 6-18”

\$5,000

For 22 years, Talbot Mentors (TM) has continuously matched underserved girls and boys ages 6-13 from Talbot County with caring adult volunteers for long-term one-on-one mentoring relationships, at no cost to the youth. Since inception, TM has supported over 700 Talbot County youth. Talbot County Public School guidance counselors and teachers identify and refer girls and boys to TM throughout the school year. A majority of mentees live with single mothers on an income below the poverty line, with African American and Latino children being disproportionately impacted by poverty. Through consistent support, guidance, coaching and role modeling, the volunteer mentors instill values and standards, help their mentees succeed in their personal and professional lives, and increase their quality of life expectations. Statistics show young people who have a mentor in their early lives

are 55% more likely to attend college and 78% more likely to volunteer in their community. Mentors and mentees meet for at least two hours each week for a year – and 45% of matches have continued for more than three years. Mentors and mentees do a variety of activities together, including reading and homework help, sports, visiting new places, cooking, learning job skills, eating out, and just talking. Currently, there are 44 girl mentees (46% of all mentees) matched with a local woman as mentor. During 2020, it is anticipated another 15-20 girls will be matched. This grant will support the One-on-One Mentoring Support for Girls, including mentor recruitment expenses, background checks, and mentor training. www.talbotmentors.org

Tilghman Area Youth Association

“Girls and STEM”

\$4,000

Tilghman Area Youth Association (TAYA) provides community programs that bring needed educational and social services to the island and works with residents and other island non-profits to improve their quality of life. Founded in 2003, the organization sponsors and funds community and school events, monthly cultural assemblies at Tilghman Elementary School, the school yearbook, and the Tilghman After School Kids (TASK) program. More than 100 children and their families directly benefit from these programs. TASK runs 34 weeks a year and extends the learning day by two hours offering creative enrichment classes, exercise time, homework time (including personalized tutoring), and a healthy meal. In the past two years, TASK offered “Master Builders”, which was a hit with the students, and program leaders recognized girls were particularly enthusiastic about the engineering curriculum. As a result, this year, a STEM class was added with the hopes of further engaging young girls. Building on the success of the STEM program, next year it will have a year-long math class, year-long engineering class, two sessions of marine science, and other hands-on science classes. This grant will underwrite the cost of supplies and materials and help support the instructors’ fees. www.tilghmanyouth.org

2019 GRANT RECIPIENTS

17 grants totaling \$48,749 plus Daisy Fund grants of \$4,454

ANCHOR POINT \$5,000

“Routine-Based Interviews”

Anchor Point, Inc., located in Cambridge, began working in partnership with the Dorchester Board of Education in 2015 to provide school readiness services to families in poverty. Using the Maryland Department of Education’s “Ready at Five” curriculum and “Family Engagement Framework,” the Anchor Point team uses five strategies to assess and increase family well-being: Home Visits to establish a positive relationship and understand unique family challenges; Lesson Coaching using the Ready at Five curriculum that includes family skill development and child play sessions; Routine-Based Interviews to gather information about a family’s functioning within the context of their daily activities and identify family concerns, needs, and priorities; Supportive Services such as supplemental food, school clothing and supplies; and, Parent Networking for deeper engagement and social connections enabling parents to meet and learn from each other. This grant will support the Routine-Based Interview process, which requires a trained facilitator and assistant, mentoring sessions, and educational supplies. www.anchorpointMD.org

DESTINED TO RISE COALITION \$2,100

“Stepping Up Our Game”

Founded in 2013, Destined to Rise Coalition promotes community service, leadership development, and educational philanthropy. Its mission is to empower teen girls to create personal goals, develop civic responsibility, and gain leadership skills. The Girls Empowerment and Mentoring Program (GEMS) offers a mentoring relationship between professional women and high school students to teach participants leadership skills, self-esteem enhancing strategies, conflict resolution, and the negative effects of bullying. Monthly meetings offer workshops on topics such as social and business etiquette and effective public speaking. For four years, Destined to Rise has hosted a summit for Mid-Shore girls, “Stepping Up Our Game.” The daylong event is both fun and educational providing practical advice on topics such as study skills, conflict resolution skills, and finding a balance between school, sports, and social activities. In 2019, the summit will include elementary school-aged girls and a new “Girls Village” to explore STEM careers. This grant will support the costs of the “Stepping Up Our Game” summit.

FORALLSEASONS \$2,500

“Blanket, Bear & Book Project”

Founded in 1986, For All Seasons is the leading licensed behavioral health and rape crisis center serving the five Mid-Shore counties without regard to one's ability to pay. Services are available every day of the year to over 2,300 men, women, children, and families at offices in each of the five counties and at schools in Caroline, Dorchester, and Kent counties. The families include mothers whose problems, often opioid related, have caused them to end up in jail. The TAMAR (trauma, addictions, mental health, and recovery) project helps the women deal with trauma, addictions, and mental health issues.. Their children are at high risk for lifelong problems of attachment disturbance, insecurity, anxiety, and depression. As part of TAMAR, For All Seasons has created a test project "Blanket, Bear and Book" to help the mothers in the Dorchester County Detention Center and their children. Each incarcerated mother will receive a book to read over the phone with her child, who receives a copy of the same book, a cozy blanket, and stuffed bear to provide comfort. Mothers will also receive prepaid telephone calling cards (if needed) to help establish a regular reading time and a way to connect with their children, even from a distance. This grant will support more than 30 mothers and children identified as mother-child pairs for this potentially positive and powerful program. www.forallseasonsinc.org

HORIZONS OF KENT AND QUEEN ANNE'S \$2,500

"Part-time Social Worker"

Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne's serves as an enrichment program to encourage a diverse group of students whose families are at or below the national poverty level to realize their full potential. The goal is to reduce the academic achievement gap between impoverished and middle-class public school children that can occur over the summer. Horizons Summer six-week program provides a safe and caring environment with hands-on learning activities and individualized support to meet specific needs. In 2018, 192 students (53% female, 47% male) participated in the Horizons Summer Program, and this coming summer, hopes to expand enrollment to 215 students. Despite the strong and consistent program, last year's summer learning results were lower than previous years. The need to provide more support for children struggling with the challenges of poverty and trauma, which distract from academic achievement, will be addressed by the addition of a part-time social worker to work with small groups to empower students with positive problem-solving skills and methods to reduce stress and anxiety. This grant will support the hiring of a part-time social worker at the Gunston School, Kent School, and Washington College program sites. www.horizonskentandqueenannes.org

MARYLAND COMMUNITY FOR LIFE – TALBOT \$3,450

"Scholarship Fund"

The mission of Maryland Community for Life – Talbot (formerly Talbot Village Connections) is to offer innovative options for positive, safe, healthy aging for Talbot County seniors who wish to live independently in their own homes through personalized, affordable, non-medical support and services. This includes in-county transportation, safety assessments, monthly home maintenance, fraud prevention, telephone chat service, and monthly social and educational programs. With the "Silver Tsunami" of baby boomers turning 65 - - 10,000 a day until 2035 - - one statistic shows approximately 72% of seniors living alone in Maryland are female. A Scholarship Fund has been established for senior women so that they may age in place with dignity and independence, for as long as safely possible. This grant will provide one-year Scholarship Memberships for three low-income women in Talbot County. www.talbotvillageconnections.com

MID-SHORE COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE \$1,000

"Food Pantry Program"

The mission of the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence is to create healthy opportunities to break the cycle of domestic violence through intervention and prevention by providing shelter, counseling, and advocacy services for victims and abusers. Between July 1, 2016 and June 20, 2017, MSCFV served 387 victims of family violence and their 503 children. Services spanned from crisis-focused hotline, legal services, and emergency shelter to counseling, education, economic empowerment programs, and longer term transitional housing. Statistics show 97% of family violence victims are women with a mean age of 39, 70% are Caucasian, less than 50% are employed, and more than 25% have no income of their own. Access to nutritious food is critical for those in crisis, and often difficult to obtain. To address this need, MSCFV has established food pantries at its five offices, one in each county served. This grant will support the purchase of food items for the pantries. www.msfcv.org

MIDSHORE MEALS TIL MONDAY \$3,000

“Weekend Backpacks for Mace’s Lane Middle School”

MidShore Meals til Monday (MtM), founded in 2017 to help 25 students at Vienna Elementary, is a twelve-month backpack program that currently addresses the needs of food-insecure school children (approximately 20% of the county’s students) at four elementary schools in Dorchester County -- Vienna, Choptank, Sandy Hill, and Maple. Their mission statement summarizes their objective, “Working to end childhood hunger on the Mid-Shore and beyond.” Personnel at the individual schools identify the children in need and, for privacy concerns, provide only the number of students for whom “backpack bags” are to be prepared. Weekend meals include nutritious breakfasts, lunches, and snack items, including a piece of fresh fruit, and an incentive treat, such as a pencil or stickers. After being approved as a Maryland Food Bank partner in 2018, MtM again expanded to provide food for children attending summer schools, camps, and other programs at six local community organizations. Outreach efforts to families and community members include “Food Give-ways”, food distributions from the Maryland Food Bank, and the use of volunteers, mostly elderly African-American women who are grandmothers and great grandmothers of children attending Vienna Elementary School. This grant will support MtM’s next expansion to Maces Lane Middle School in order to provide weekend meals to 100 or more critically food-insecure children.

www.midshoremealstiltonday.org

MID-SHORE PRO BONO \$4,000

“Child Advocacy Project”

Mid-Shore Pro Bono (MSPB), founded in 2005, was the first pro bono legal services group in Maryland, and remains the only pro bono legal services provider on the Eastern Shore. Known as a walk-in agency for people looking for help, offices are located in Easton, Chestertown, Salisbury, and, soon, in Cambridge. MSPB is committed to strengthening local communities by providing access to the legal system through programs such as free Legal Clinics and its “5 Core Projects:” Family Law Project, Elder Law Project, Economic Stability Project, and Vulnerable Population Assistance Project. MSPB has launched a new “Child Advocacy Project,” part of its core Family Law Project, which will focus on Third-Party Custody cases. A third-party custody case is filed when grandparents, aunts/uncles, other family members, or neighbors seek to gain legal custody of a minor child whose parents are unable to care for them, often the result of opioid addiction. Obtaining third-party custody is highly complex and often contested, but is critical to being able to get proper court documents in order to make decisions and care for the children. This grant will support the initial costs of the new project. www.midshoreprobono.org

MID-SHORE RESTORING HOPE IN WOMEN \$3,000

“Fed Up Rally”

In 2013, Mid-Shore Restoring HOPE in Women (HOPE) was created as an answer to the call for help in the fight against the rising opioid crisis. This organization helps women and girls find their way to rehab and works across the Mid-Shore to educate the public about the dangers, trauma, and disease of opioid addiction. It fosters cross-sector collaborations among various drug and alcohol programs in the area to reach victims of addiction and advocate for resources to help in the fight. Since 2016 in Caroline County and 2018 in Talbot, HOPE has hosted “Fed Up” rallies to raise awareness about the opioid crisis as part of the national Overdose Awareness Day. The crowd size has grown dramatically each year - - more than 300 in 2018 - - to learn about addiction, recovery, resources, and to share their own stories. Local organizations participating in the rallies include county mental health agencies, and law enforcement. Additionally, health departments provide Narcan training at the rallies. This grant will fund the 2019 “Fed Up” Rallies in Caroline and Talbot Counties. www.restoringhopeinwomen.com

NEW BEGINNINGS YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES \$2,445

“Girls in Science”

Founded in 2001, New Beginnings Youth and Family Services is located in the Bay Country Apartment complex in Cambridge, and serves families who reside in two low-income apartment complexes, Bay Country and Parkside. Free afterschool and summer programs on a wide range of topics from academic and recreational to financial literacy and career development are offered for school-age children (K-7th grade) Monday through Thursday twelve months a year. Upper middle school and high school girls are able to volunteer and earn hours toward graduation. Paid staff positions are available to female residents, equipping them to enter the competitive workplace with marketable skills. With an eye on the future, and in conjunction with Girls Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay, New Beginnings will offer “Girls in Science” that is all about science, chemistry, and engineering. The goal is for girls, often hesitant to take science courses, to develop group problem solving skills, communication skills, and build confidence. This grant will support the cost to register 15 New Beginnings girls in “Girls in Science.”

REALSLOW RECOVERY \$2,000

“The Gratitude House”

Realslow Recovery, LLC opened The Gratitude House for Women in June 2018 to provide safe, affordable and supportive housing for women to live and grow in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse. Certified by the Maryland Certification of Recovery Residences, the house combines the latest in substance-abuse recovery research and evidence-based practices. Centrally located in Easton, the house is within walking distance to everything in town, and functions like a family with group meals, chore assignments and group activities. Founders Sara and Michael Rissolo and their staff have a combined 50+ years in long-term recovery. In its first year, 15 women received safe housing and recovery support. It often takes women who move into recovery houses some time to find a job and establish healthy living habits. Therefore, a scholarship fund has been created that will cover the modest rent required for residency at The Gratitude House for two – five weeks to make it possible for freshly sober women to move on with their lives. This grant will support the scholarship fund. www.thegratitudehouse.info

REBUILDING TOGETHER CAROLINE COUNTY \$1,000

“Critical Home Repairs and Accessibility Modifications”

The Caroline County affiliate of Rebuilding Together operates year-round and is an entirely volunteer run organization providing free services to qualified low-income homeowners - elderly, disabled, veterans and families with children - who face needed but unaffordable home repairs or improvements to keep them living in their homes in comfort and safety. Since its founding in 2007, volunteers have given 22,325 hours and completed 217 home repair or modification projects, including specialized mobile home repairs. In addition, the affiliate operates the West Denton Depot that sells building materials, architectural items, appliances, and a variety of household items to help fund organization’s building projects. This grant will support the cost of materials or necessary independent contractors to make dwelling repairs or improvements for women homeowners.

www.rebuildingtogethercaroline.org

RISINGABOVE DISEASE \$2,000

“Capt. Joe Kettinger Scholarship Fund”

Rising Above Disease (RAD) serves women in recovery from addictions by providing a safe, secure living environment, bolstered by healthy routines, individualized recovery plans, and opportunities to develop skills to become productive community members. RAD has provided housing and guidance for 51 women since opening its doors in 2016. Volunteer staff members schedule medical, dental, and mental health services, as well as arrange classes to promote recovery, such as art therapy, relapse prevention, and financial planning. Applicants must pass a urinalysis, agree to house rules, have a strong desire to recover, and pay for the first month’s rent. Too often, addictions have resulted in the loss of financial stability and independence, and to address this RAD created the Capt. Joe Kettinger Scholarship Fund to provide temporary rental assistance for the modest rent RAD charges its residents. In 2017-2018, rental assistance was provided to 17 local women. This grant will support the scholarship fund. www.risingabovedisease.com

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF TALBOT COUNTY \$1,800

“Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls”

Soroptimist International of Talbot County is a new program to the Women & Girls Fund this year. Soroptimist International includes some 120,000 members in 21 countries around the globe. The local chapter was chartered in 1964, and consists of business and professional women who look to improve the lives of women and girls in Talbot County. Funding will support their new *Dream It Be It* program for 7th grade girls. It is an eight-week afterschool program to explore girls’ dreams and careers, create achievable goals, rise above obstacles, turn failure into success, balance stress and put their dreams into action. Soroptimist members provide the hands-on training themselves. While 7th grade girls aren’t expected to know what they want to do in their adult lives, the skills they develop in the program can be applied at any stage of their education and careers. www.talbotsoroptimist.org

TALBOT COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS \$2,000

“Addressing Secondary Traumatic Stress for multi-disciplinary staff of Children’s Advocacy Centers”

Talbot Community Connections (TCC) purpose is to raise and distribute funds to enhance the Talbot County Department of Social Services’ (TCDSS) capacity to respond directly to problems of safety and wellbeing of county residents. Since 2001, it has raised more than \$250,000 and provided assistance to approximately 2,500 county residents in need. The funds support a number of TCDSS programs, including the Parent Education

Program, Empower Me personal safety program, Foster Care, and the annual Senior Summit. Additionally, TCC provides support for child victims of sexual abuse and their families served by the Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), located at UM Shore Regional Medical Center in Easton. In 2017, 58 children and their families were served through CAC. Statistics show that staff in trauma-exposed work environments can experience physical, cognitive, emotional, and spiritual "Secondary Traumatic Stress," part of the cost of caring for others in emotional pain. This grant will help fund a staff support program to provide a holistic and comprehensive approach to address work-related trauma exposure for the Multi-Disciplinary Team of child protective services workers, family advocates, law enforcement, and medical team. www.talbotcommunityconnections.com

TALBOT INTERFAITH SHELTER \$2,500

"Easton's Promise Child Care Fund"

Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS) was founded 10 years ago to provide temporary shelter to homeless men, women and children and raise awareness of homelessness in the community. TIS opened a permanent shelter in 2014 in downtown Easton, and now also supports formerly homeless families in eight transitional apartments. Today, TIS serves some 50 people each year, including many families with children. One of the most difficult challenges that homeless mothers face is finding safe, reliable childcare for their children so they can go find a job and work. This grant will support short-term assistance for childcare for single mothers of children under 12 to make it possible to go to interviews, enter the workforce and eventually, become self-sufficient. www.talbotinterfaithshelter.org

TILGHMAN AREA YOUTH ASSOCIATION \$4,000

"Building Community Leaders"

The aim of Tilghman Area Youth Association (TAYA) is to enrich the lives of Tilghman area youth by connecting them to each other, their families, and their community. Founded in 2003, the organization sponsors Tilghman After School Kids (TASK) program. TASK extends the learning day at Tilghman Elementary School by offering creative enrichment classes, exercise time, homework time (including personalized tutoring), and a healthy meal. In the past two years, TASK has added afterschool programming on half-days of school, new classes, like yoga and cooking, and a once weekly program for middle school students. Enrollment has increased, and with it the need for skilled instructional assistants and volunteers. Recruiting and training staff has been an ongoing challenge given Tilghman's remote location, and TAYA has found the best way to attract qualified employees is to offer young women in-depth training and mentoring to develop necessary skills to run the program. With that in mind, two fellowships have been established to support an Afterschool Director and Assistant Afterschool Director, the Cornwell and Simison Fellows. This grant will help to underwrite these fellowships for the upcoming school year. www.tayamd.org

2018 GRANT RECIPIENTS

13 grants totaling \$42,846 plus Daisy Fund grants of \$3,150

COMPASS REGIONAL HOSPICE \$5,000

"Hope and Healing Center"

Compass Regional Hospice, located in Centreville and providing services in Queen Anne's and Kent, offers "care on your terms" with comprehensive, professional, and compassionate end-of-life care. Since 1985, it has grown from an all-volunteer organization into a state-of-the-art organization recognized for its excellence. In addition to patient care, Compass Regional Hospice offers a wide variety of grief and counseling services for people of all ages. Some of the support programs offered through the Hope and Healing Center are: RASP (Reconciling After a Substance Passing); HALOS (Healing after a Loved One's Suicide); and, Camp New Dawn, a bereavement overnight camp for children, teens, and families. In 2016-17, over 800 persons participated in the Hope and Healing programs, of which more than 80% of the participants were women and girls. This grant will support the Hope and Healing Center. www.compassregionalhospice.org

DESTINED TO RISE COALITION \$5,500

"Stepping Up Our Game"

Founded in 2013, the Destined to Rise Coalition promotes community service, youth development, and educational philanthropy. Its mission is to empower teen girls to create personal goals, understand civic responsibility, and develop leadership skills. The Girls Empowerment and Mentoring Program (GEMS) offers a mentoring relationship between professional women and high school student that encourages positive behavior, healthy life choices, and post-secondary school opportunities. Each year, Destined to Rise hosts a summit for Mid-Shore girls, "Stepping Up Our Game." The daylong event is both fun and educational providing practical advice on topics such as developing

study skills, learning conflict resolution skills, and finding a balance between school, sports, and social activities. This grant will support the costs of the “Stepping Up Our Game” summit.

ECHO HILL OUTDOOR SCHOOL \$3,600

“Summer Leadership Program”

Established in 1972, Echo Hill Outdoor School empowers young people to be responsible and aware stewards of the natural environment, active learners, and compassionate individuals. The staff is dedicated to educating and mentoring youth of all backgrounds by offering experiential courses that enable participants to gain skills in individual and group dynamics, develop leadership skills, and learn about natural sciences all while having fun. Currently, 150 public and private schools and other organizations (Mid-Shore and beyond) participate in the school’s successful and highly regarded programs. This grant will support the Leadership Workshop, a three-day residential leadership program for promising Mid-Shore middle school girls. www.ehos.org

FOR ALL SEASONS \$3,000

“CARESS self-care staff workshop”

Founded in 1986, For All Seasons is the only licensed behavioral health and rape crisis center serving the five Mid-Shore counties without regard to one’s ability to pay. With a staff of 61, For All Seasons provides services, including fully bi-lingual support, every day of the year to over 2,200 men, women, children, and families at offices in each of the five counties and at schools in Caroline, Dorchester, and Kent counties. This year, For All Seasons is building on Project Purple’s efforts surrounding opioids and addictions. Recognizing that health care workers and clinical professionals are impacted by the behaviors and struggles of their clients, For All Seasons will be offering a professional workshop, CARESS (Get Centered – Communicate Alternatively – Release Endorphins – Self-Soothe). Developed by the Ferentz Institute, the self-care training program will provide practitioners with specific strategies to treat the cycle of self-destructive behaviors. Additionally, participants will follow a guided meditation session offered by Ebb Tide Wellness to promote self-care mindfulness techniques practitioners can use in every day life. This grant will support the CARESS professional workshop. www.forallseasonsinc.org

HORIZONS OF KENT AND QUEEN ANNE’S \$1,200

“Part-time School Psychologist”

Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne’s serves as an enrichment program to encourage a diverse group of students whose families are below the national poverty level to realize their full potential. The goal is to reduce the academic achievement gap between impoverished and well-to-do public school children or “summer slide” – the academic loss that low-income children suffer when school is out. Horizons offers a 6-week program providing targeted academic support in reading and math, Red Cross certified swim lessons, weekly field trips, and enrichment in art, music, health, and library science. At its Gunston School site this summer, Horizons expects to enroll 72 students from three public elementary schools in Queen Anne’s County. Many of those children require individual psychological counseling, and this grant will fund a part-time school psychologist. www.horizonskentandqueenannes.org

KENT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES \$2,800

“National Children’s Alliance Leadership Conference”

The Kent County Department of Social Service Child Advocacy Center program assists in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to sexual assault victims in the State of Maryland by coordinating services for victims of child sexual and/or severe physical abuse from first response through the criminal justice system in order to ensure a successful prosecution. This year’s grant will pay for staff to attend The National Children’s Alliance Leadership Conference in Washington, DC where they will receive training in leadership, continuing ed, have networking opportunities and exposure to innovative programs and ideas for Child Advocacy Center leaders.

MID SHORE COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE \$2,000

“Education and Empowerment Support Groups”

The mission of the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence is to create healthy opportunities to break the cycle of domestic violence through intervention and prevention by providing shelter, counseling, service and advocacy for victims and abusers. This grant, pooled with other community resources, will support the professional facilitation of organized and targeted support groups for victims of domestic violence in the five counties. It is estimated that a total of 350 women and their families will be reached through this program. www.msfcv.org

MID-SHORE RESTORING HOPE IN WOMEN \$2,000

“Fed Up Rally”

In 2013, Mid-Shore Restoring Hope in Women was created as an answer to the call for help in the fight against the rising opioid crisis. This organization helps women and girls find their way to rehab, works across the counties to educate the public about the dangers, trauma, and disease of opioid addiction, and fosters cross-sector collaborations amongst the various drug and alcohol programs in the area to reach victims of addiction and advocate for resources to help in the fight. The organization will host their “Fed-Up Rally” in Caroline County in August, which is a national observance to bring attention to the issue of addiction, and reduce the stigma associated with it, while encouraging those in positions of influence and power to increase access to treatment and recovery services.

PICKERING CREEK AUDUBON CENTER \$3,000

“Camp Like a Girl”

Since 1981 Pickering Creek Audubon Society has been dedicated to community-based conservation of natural resources through environmental education and outreach. This year we are making a grant to their new program “Camp Like A Girl”, which will engage underserved and at-risk middle school girls in an all-female nature exploration program. Two female educators will meet with girls after school from March until May, culminating in and overnight camping adventure at Pickering Creek. The goal is to increase confidence, interest in science, daring, and adventurous exploration, all while teaching about the environment and the joy of the outdoors.

www.pickeringcreek.audubon.org

RISING ABOVE DISEASE \$3,000

“Capt. Joe Kettinger Scholarship Fund”

Established in 2016, Rising Above Disease (RAD) serves women in recovery from addictions by providing a safe, secure living environment, bolstered by healthy routines, individualized recovery plans, and opportunities to develop skills to become productive community members. In its first year, RAD worked with more than 26 women. Volunteer staff members schedule medical, dental, and mental health services. Additionally, they arrange appropriate recovery discussion groups and identify useful programs, such as grief counseling, art therapy, healthy living skills, relapse prevention, financial planning, and resume writing. Addiction robs individuals of many basic human necessities, often making it impossible to meet the modest rent RAD charges its clients. To support newly sober women as they emerge into a new way of life, the Capt. Joe Kettinger Scholarship Fund was established to provide temporary rental assistance. This grant will support the scholarship fund. www.risingabovedisease.com

ST. MARTIN’S MINISTRIES \$4,870

“Equine Therapy program with Talbot Special Riders”

The St. Martin’s Ministries provides four key services in the Mid-Shore: a food pantry, a thrift store, homelessness reduction services, and a two-year transitional residence for homeless families and individuals at St. Martin’s House. They are receiving funds for an exciting program that will provide a therapeutic riding experience at Timber Grove Farm. Equine therapy is a well-documented modality for victims of all types of trauma from abuse to combat. Through this program St. Martin’s House residents and their children will explore issues of trust, learn self-sufficiency and responsibility, grow in their communication skills and emotional regulation, build problem solving skills, and create bonds with each other and the horses. www.stmartinsministries.org

TALBOT MENTORS \$2,500

“Send Our Girls to Summer Camp”

Founded in 2007, Talbot Mentors’ mission seeks to ensure at-risk youth in Talbot County have the opportunity to mature into engaged and productive members of their communities. Through consistent support, guidance, coaching, and role modeling, volunteer adult mentors strive to instill values and standards that will prepare mentees for success in their personal and professional lives. Talbot Mentors has reached over 350 children since the program’s inception. In 2017, 110 youth were in mentoring relationships. In addition to one-on-one mentoring services, many other enrichment programs are offered through partnerships with local organizations. And, for the 15th year, financial assistance will be offered to provide day or residential summer camp experiences, which for some mentees, is the first time to be away from home. This grant will support “Send Our Girls to Camp.”

www.talbotmentors.org

TILGHMAN AREA YOUTH ASSOCIATION \$4,376

“Be True to Yourself. Be YOU.”

The Tilghman Area Youth Association (TAYA) mission is to provide community programs that unite Tilghman youth to self, family, and community. Started in 2003, the organization sponsors Tilghman After School Kids (TASK) program. TASK extends the learning day at Tilghman Elementary School with creative enrichment classes, exercise time, homework time, and a nutritious dinner. TAYA also offers personalized tutoring to students in grades K through 12. A new program, created in response to Talbot Goes Purple, focuses on K – 5th graders to help them develop positive self-esteem, model kind and empathetic behavior toward others, and address remaining strong in

the face of peer pressure. With over 60% of Tilghman youth participating in TASK, it's no surprise some graduates, now young adults, have returned to Tilghman Island and taken on leadership positions. This grant will help fund salaries for three young women leaders who serve as Afterschool Coordinator, Assistant Afterschool Coordinator, and Instructional Assistant.

2017 GRANT RECIPIENTS
16 grants totaling \$43,259

CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION \$200

“Tools of the Trade” awareness and outreach campaign around the participation of women in trade professions and to support women in Chesapeake College’s workforce development programs. www.chesapeake.edu

CHESAPEAKE MULTICULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER \$2,250
“ESL Computer Literacy Training”

The mission of the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center is “to empower people from different cultures to become successful and engaged members of our community by coordinating services and informational programs”. Their objectives are to become a trusted and central source of information to the immigrant community and to service providers; and to create positive community awareness of the current and potential impact of immigrants in the community. Since November 2012, CMRC has provided services to over 1,800 non-English speaking members of our community, involving 3,000 separate requests for information and referrals. In addition, the organization in partnership with Talbot County Public Schools provides an afterschool program for 90 Easton Elementary School students, and helps to promote an evening parenting programs that is incorporated within Chesapeake College’s ESL program. This grant will support ChesMRC’s new 12-week ESL Computer Literacy Training program for mothers of children in the afterschool program. www.chesmrc.org

COMPASS REGIONAL HOSPICE \$4,000
“Camp New Dawn”

Compass Regional Hospice has offers “care on your terms” through comprehensive, professional, and compassionate end-of-life care and grief support to Queen Anne’s County residents. Since 1985, it has grown from an all-volunteer organization into a state-of-the-art organization recognized for its excellence. Their Hope and Healing Center provides grief programs for every age, and in 2015-16, more than 750 people (80% women and girls) received services. One, to be supported with this grant, is Camp New Dawn, a summer retreat at Camp Pecometh in Centreville for children, teens, and families who are grieving a loss. In 2016, 101 campers, 7 families, and 134 specially trained volunteers had fun, built friendships, and learned healthy ways to express their grief. www.compassregionalhospice.org

DESTINED TO RISE \$2,500
“Stepping Up Our Game”

Founded in 2013, the Destined To Rise Coalition promotes community service, youth development, and educational philanthropy. Its mission is to empower teen girls to create personal goals, understand civic responsibility, and develop leadership skills. The Girl’s Empowerment and Mentoring Program (GEMS) offers a mentoring relationship between professional women and high school students to encourage positive behavior, healthy life choices, conflict resolution skills, and post-secondary school opportunities. This grant will help fund the “Stepping Up Our Game” Summit, filled with practical advice on developing effective study skills and finding balance between academics, sports and social activities. More than 100 middle and high school girls are expected to attend the daylong summit.

ECHO HILL OUTDOOR SCHOOL \$3,600
“Summer Leadership Workshop”

Echo Hill Outdoor School was established in 1972 to provide young people with an “interdisciplinary, residential outdoor education program that cultivates curiosity about nature, the environment, our fellow human beings, and ourselves.” The staff is dedicated to educating youth of all backgrounds to become active, responsible stewards of the natural environment in which they live. Currently 150 public and private schools and other organizations from the mid-Atlantic region participate in the school’s very successful, highly regarded programs. Previously, the Women & Girls Fund supported the “Summer Leadership Workshop” and is doing so again this year. Promising middle school girls from the 5 Mid-Shore counties will take part in a 3-day residential leadership training program

that offers an in-depth exploration of social skills and responsibilities, cultivates awareness, understanding and appreciation of nature, thereby learning about self-reliance, and team-building skills and strategies. www.ehos.org

FOR ALL SEASONS \$3,125

“Comfort Kits”

The For All Seasons (FAS) mission is to provide quality mental health services and rape crisis support to the Mid-Shore. Founded in 1986, their primary goal is to ensure access to mental health and crisis response services for everyone on the Mid-Shore, regardless of their ability to pay. Currently FAS serves 2,144 people from every race, class, gender, and ethnicity, including people with disabilities. An increase in crimes like rape and sexual assault have increased, and FAS serves as a first responder to individuals and families who are victims of these crimes providing crisis support or mental health services. Bilingual mental health workers and advocates are on duty every day of the year. For those in need of emergency transportation, housing, and food (primarily women and children), FAS has created “comfort kits” filled with personal hygiene items, clean underwear, and clothing to meet the most personal pressing needs. This grant will help fund the costs of “comfort kits” for needy female victims. www.forallseasonsinc.org

HORIZONS OF KENT AND QUEEN ANNE’S \$1,000

“Summer Enrichment Program”

Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne’s serves as an enrichment program to encourage a diverse group of students whose families are below the national poverty level to realize their full potential. The goal is to reduce the academic achievement gap between impoverished and well-to-do public school children or “summer slide” – the academic loss that low-income children suffer when school is out. Horizons offers a 6-week program to approximately 60 children, providing targeted academic support in reading and math, Red Cross certified swim lessons, weekly field trips, and enrichment in art, music, health and library science. Many of the children require individual psychological counseling, and this grant will help fund a part-time school psychologist for the Queen Anne’s site at The Gunston School. www.horizonskentandqueenannes.org

IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF TALBOT COUNTY \$2,000

“Empowering Women, Raising Readers”

The Imagination Library of Talbot County(ILTC), an affiliate of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, believes all Talbot County children, regardless of their circumstances, should have quality books of their own. It promotes early literacy by providing free books to children from birth to age 5. All pre-school children qualify for this program, and once registered, they receive a new, engaging, age-appropriate book mailed directly to their homes once a month at no cost to their families. Currently, there are over 1,130 children, from birth to 5, registered in the program. The benefits of reading are many, from the connection made between child and caregiver from reading aloud, to improved word recognition, object identification, and listening comprehension. By improving the reading readiness of children entering kindergarten, ILTC aims to close the readiness gap children from low socioeconomic backgrounds face, ultimately giving them a solid foundation leading to a successful education and future. This grant will support “Empowering Women, Raising Readers” funding the cost of books for 80 newborn girls expected to be enrolled in the 2017 Women and Infant Children (WIC) program in Talbot County. www.imaginationlibraryoftalbotcounty.org

THE LADIES OF NIA \$3,500

“Tomorrow’s H.O.P.E. Mentoring Program”

Ladies of Nia (Nia in African means “Purpose” or having a goal) is a volunteer organization comprised of a “group of friends who are united in sisterhood for the restoration of our communities”, especially children, teens and women of color. Through service and outreach, they want to be agents of change and bring “hope and light” to those who need support. The mentors are all professional, family-oriented women who have some connection with Caroline County from their own youth, and who still desire to be a presence there and be role models for young girls growing up facing difficult challenges. “Tomorrow’s H.O.P.E. Mentoring Program” connects middle to high school students in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot counties with positive role models who will support them in setting and achieving educational goals, while encouraging them to become effective leaders who are accountable and responsible. For the 2016-2017 school year, 18 girls are enrolled. They receive monthly tutoring and stay in contact with their mentors throughout the month through phone calls, texts, and social networks. This grant will support the costs of the mentoring program. www.ladiesofnia.org

PARTNERS IN CARE \$1,500

“Ride Partners”

Partners in Care Maryland is a community non-profit providing supportive services to help older adults remain independent in their own homes. They work to build a sense of community and security for people using the concept of time-exchange. Volunteers provide essential services, such as transportation or handyman service, and

earn “credit in the bank” which they may use to receive help when they need it. This concept encourages people to accept help knowing that they may pay it back. Everyone is valued for his or her own contribution; everyone is part of the solution. It is “parity rather than charity”. The Ride Partners program transports Caroline and Talbot participants to medical appointments at facilities locally and as far away as Baltimore and Washington, DC. In the last year, 300 participating Shore residents received more than 1,200 services, of which 1,172 were volunteer-provided rides. This grant will help fund “member care” services, specifically to coordinate the Ride Partners program for women. www.partnersincare.org

REBUILDING TOGETHER, CAROLINE COUNTY \$2,000

“Critical Home Repairs and Accessibility Modifications”

The Caroline County affiliate of Rebuilding Together is an entirely volunteer organization that provides free services to low-income elderly, disabled, veterans and families with children who face needed but unaffordable home repairs or improvements to keep them living in their homes in comfort and safety. Since their founding in 2007, volunteers have completed 187 home repair or modification projects for families, many of them headed by single women, and referred applicants to other agencies for help when appropriate. In addition, this affiliate operates the West Denton Depot where used building materials, architectural items, appliances and a variety of household items are sold, the income being used for the organization’s building projects. The Depot serves to re-purpose and re-cycle materials that might otherwise go into landfills, and to provide very inexpensive goods to families that can use them. This grant will support the cost of materials or independent contractors as may be needed to make necessary dwelling repairs. www.rebuildingtogethercaroline.org

REBUILDING TOGETHER, KENT COUNTY \$1,500

“Kent County Rehabilitation Project”

The Kent County affiliate of Rebuilding Together has as its mission to work in partnership with local community volunteers to provide home repairs, accessibility modifications, and links to community resources to keep low-income homeowners living independently in a safe, dry, and warm home. They collaborate with at least eleven other community organizations and agencies, such as Kent County Social Services, the Health Department, Inter-Faith Housing, Washington College, and others, as well as many local businesses. Since June 2004, Rebuilding Together Kent County has completed over 140 jobs. Currently, they have 18 projects on the waiting list, 10 of which are for women and families. This grant will go directly toward materials and rental equipment costs as part of the “Kent County Rehabilitation Project”. www.rebuildingtogetherkcmd.org

RISING ABOVE DISEASE \$2,800

“Scholarship Fund”

Rising Above Disease (RAD) is a new organization dedicated to assisting and encouraging women on their journey in recovery from addiction. A recovery house, located in Easton, provides a safe, clean, warm place to shelter and guide clients. Resources for meeting basic human needs and classes on parenting, business skills, women’s health, and other pertinent topics are available to the women. Volunteers will work with clients to arrange medical, dental, and mental health services. Every effort will be made to help clients determine their strengths and prepare for employment and position them too successfully integrate back into society. The house can serve a maximum of 6 women at a time, and every resident must pay rent – for some that is an insurmountable issue. To address this need, RAD has established a Scholarship Fund to provide short-term, emergency rent. This grant will support the Scholarship Fund. www.risingabovedisease.com

TALBOT MENTORS \$3,900

“Send Our Girls to Camp”

Founded in 2007, Talbot Mentors’ mission seeks to ensure all young people in Talbot County have the opportunity to mature into engaged and productive members of their communities. Through consistent support, guidance, coaching, and role modeling, volunteer mentors strive to instill values and standards that will prepare mentees for success in their personal and professional lives. In addition to one-on-one mentoring services, Talbot Mentors provides enrichment programs, including Partners in Art, College/Trade Scholarships, Tutoring, Career Advice and Training, and support group for kids with incarcerated parents. In 2016, over 80 pairs of mentors/mentees were matched, and, by the end of 2017, Talbot Mentors projects it will support 120 students, with 50 being girls. Last year Talbot Mentors made it possible for 47 low-income students to go to summer camp. This year, the goal is to increase to 70, with 30 being girls. This grant will support the “Send our Girls to Camp” program. www.talbotmentor.org

TALBOT PARTNERSHIP \$2,500

“Prevention Messages in the Community”

Now in its 25th year, Talbot Partnership’s mission encourages the community to recognize problems and offer solutions related to alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse by implementing policies promoting early intervention

programs and building a culture that favors a healthy, safe and drug-free community. Recognized for programs such as “Teen Court”, “Check Yourself Talbot”, “First Night Talbot”, “Guiding Good Choices”, and “Safe Homes”, Talbot Partnership is a community coalition with a membership base of more than 80 organizations and individuals. Women and girls are the fastest growing segment of the population impacted by the damages of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse, representing a generally unrecognized serious issue for women and girls of Talbot County. This grant will support the cost of creating 2 public service announcements - “Prevention Messages in the Community” - to be broadcast to 30,000 community members through Comcast’s lineup of family-oriented channels. www.talbotpartnership.org

TILGHMAN AREA YOUTH ASSOCIATION \$4,360
“Alumnae Leadership Program”

Tilghman Area Youth Association (TAYA) has been operating the Tilghman After School Kids Program (TASK) since 2003. The program, held at Tilghman Elementary School, offers more than 70 Tilghman students time to unwind and exercise, 30-minute homework session, different creative enrichment classes, healthy snack and warm nutritious dinner. TAYA “alumnae”, several in college pursuing teaching careers, have returned to volunteer with the younger children. In recognition of this, TAYA will offer the Alumnae Leadership program to young women giving the chance for leadership positions within TAYA so they can grow personally and professionally, gain leadership ability, make a living wage, and be good role models in the community. This grant will support an Afterschool Coordinator, Assistant Afterschool Coordinator, and Instructional Assistant. www.tilghmantaya.com

2016 GRANT RECIPIENTS
13 grants totaling \$34,231

Chesapeake College Foundation - \$1,200

Since its founding in 1965, and now serving almost 11,000 students, Chesapeake College has grown its campus, programs, partnerships, and community services to become a pillar of education and economic development in the 5-county region. In addition to its Associate degrees, the college also offers learning through career training programs targeted to indemand industries in the area. The paralegal program, the only one in the Mid-Shore, awards a paralegal studies AAS degree and a paralegal studies certificate. There are currently 21 students enrolled, 20 of whom are women, primarily single mothers and older non-traditional students seeking greater earning potential. The College and Mid-Shore Pro Bono are partnering to implement a college-based legal services clinic staffed by paralegal students to facilitate more accessible Cooperative Work Experiences and help MSPB expand its capacity to serve more clients. The hands-on work experience will help students achieve the program’s student learning outcomes, build confidence, and improve their ability to secure employment or transfer to a 4-year program. This grant will support the Chesapeake College - Mid-Shore Pro Bono Legal Services Clinic. www.chesapeake.edu

Church Hill Elementary School - \$2,000

In an effort to build physical, mental, social, and emotional health of the students at Church Hill Elementary School, the school started the CHES Jump Rope Club in 2009. With the help of teachers and parent volunteers, the “Early Starters”, 127 students (89 girls), meet every other Friday morning before school to learn jump roping skills and tricks through team building activities. The program has expanded to include Girls on the Run™, Ultimate Frisbee, and Power Pouncers, an advanced jump roping team. Through the exciting, engaging Early Starters program, the students are building self-esteem, long-term health, and positive relationships with teammates and adults. This grant will support the purchase of jump ropes, long jump ropes, instructional videos, and gym mats. <http://qacps.schoolwires.net/Domain/113>

Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers - \$1,500

Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers (CACC) is a non-profit, educationally based childcare center that is licensed and accredited through the Maryland State Department of Education. Their mission is to provide access to quality, affordable childcare in a nurturing, diverse, safe and enriching program. Since 1970, beginning as Easton Day Care Center, CACC has grown to 5 sites throughout Talbot County, serving more than 400 children annually ages 2-12. For the 2015-16 school year, CACC is introducing the G.A.L.S. program (Girls Also Like STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program, an after school club for 30 girls in grades K-5. The STEM activities, which will be presented in grade-appropriate groups, will teach math and science skills in addition to encouraging organization skills and teamwork to help build self-esteem and critical life skills. G.A.L.S. will meet weekly for 12 weeks at the Cordova site. This grant will provide funding for special computer software to enhance the STEM program. www.cacckids.org

Destined to Rise - \$2,500

Founded in 2013, the Destined To Rise Coalition promotes community service, youth development, and educational philanthropy. Its mission is to empower teen girls to create personal goals, understand civic responsibility, and develop leadership skills. The Girl's Empowerment and Mentoring Program (GEMS) offers a mentoring relationship between professional women and high school students to encourage positive behavior, healthy life choices, conflict resolution skills, and post-secondary school opportunities. This grant will help to fund the "Stepping Up Our Game" Summit, which seeks to reinforce the importance of healthy lifestyles, academic achievement and personal growth through workshops addressing topics such as the negative images of females in "Hip Hop" music and "Getting Serious About School" with practical advice on developing effective study skills and finding balance between academics, sports and social activities.

Dock Street Foundation - \$1,000

The Dock Street Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life in Talbot County and on the Eastern Shore. Since 2007, it has provided support through direct donations and matching challenge grants to 27 local non-profit organizations. From April 29 - June 19, 2016, the Dock Street Foundation, in collaboration with the Academy Arts Museum, the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, and others, will present a collection of artwork by Ruth Starr Rose (1887-1965), at the Waterfowl Building in Easton. Rose resided at Hope House in Tunis Mills and painted scenes of life near her home in the historically black towns of Unionville and Copperville. Her paintings, prints, and notes document the lives of African American families revealing a rare representation of black life in the early 1900s. Rose saw her art as a form of political activism, portraying the nobility of black families in her community and the common connections during the Jim Crow era. The Women & Girls Fund finds it most fitting to support this exhibition from funds given to the Honor Someone Special campaign, which through donations from friends and donors, honors special women across our region.

www.dockstreetfoundation.org

For All Seasons Behavioral Health & Rape Crisis Center - \$5,979

For All Seasons (FAS) offers easily accessible behavioral health services for individuals, families, and groups in each of the five Mid-Shore counties. The Rape Crisis Center provides a 24-hour telephone hotline in both English and Spanish. Since 2013, FAS has been working with Hispanic/Latino families and built strong relationships in the community. Currently, a Hispanic womens group meets weekly at a local church. Initially geared toward advocacy and education surrounding sexual assault and domestic violence, the group has grown to seek out information and education on broader issues. The women have asked for a 2nd group for pregnant women, and FAS has recognized the need for a 3rd group for women with teenage children. These 2 new Hispanic/Latino Parenting Groups will be open to clients of For All Seasons and Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center. FAS has also partnered with First Wesleyan Church and the Queen Anne CARE Center to support the mothers. This grant will provide funds for group facilitators, an interpreter, outreach and program materials, and award-winning One Circle Foundation Spanish language curricula to equip vulnerable Hispanic/Latino mothers with parenting skills so that their families thrive in our community.

www.forallseasonsinc.org

Greater New Hope Church and Ministries - \$2,500

Greater New Hope Church and Ministries, located in Preston, addresses the special needs of teenage girls through its "Sister to Sister" mentoring program that seeks to increase interest in higher education, develop cultural awareness and community activism, and develop positive life skills. The program serves more than 75 women and girls in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties. Sister to Sister matches adult women with the young women in a group setting. They work on a broad array of topics, including building self-esteem, sex and sexuality, healthy eating, scholarship essay writing, job interview skills, and dressing for success. The mentors organize workshops, team building activities, community service projects, and community trips. This grant will support Sister to Sister's activities for the coming year. www.newhopemd.org

Habitat for Humanity Choptank - \$3,500

Since its inception in 1992, Habitat for Humanity Choptank's affordable home ownership program has been delivering on its mission of "working in partnership with God and all people to transform communities and the lives of qualifying families through the construction of simple, decent and affordable homes." In that time,

Habitat Choptank has built or renovated 67 homes in Talbot and Dorchester Counties. The stringent qualification process requires that applicants must live in Dorchester or Talbot and document the ability to repay a 0% interest Habitat mortgage or low-interest equivalent. Applicants, typically single females, must be willing to work with a volunteer coach who oversees a family's completion of 300-400 hours of sweat equity, savings of \$4,500 for settlement costs, resolution of outstanding debts, and completion of education seminars to develop important life skills for home ownership. *Women Build* is Habitat's program to empower and engage women from all walks of life who want to learn construction skills, build stronger families, and impact communities. A single-family house lot at 59 Pleasant Alley was donated by a female property owner making it a special build site for the next *Women Build* house. This grant will support the construction costs of the new *Women Build* house. www.habitatchoptank.org

Imagination Library of Talbot County - \$2,500

The Imagination Library of Talbot County, an affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, believes all Talbot County children, regardless of their circumstances, should have quality books of their own. It promotes early literacy by providing free books to children from birth to age 5. All pre-school children qualify for this program, and once registered, they receive a new, engaging, age-appropriate book mailed directly to their homes once a month at no cost to their families. Currently, there are 189 mothers and 597 children, from birth to 5, participating in the Women, Infants, and Children Program of Talbot County. The benefits of reading are many, from the connection made between child and caregiver from reading aloud, to the improved word recognition, object identification, and listening comprehension. By improving the reading readiness of children entering kindergarten, the Imagination Library of Talbot County aims to close the readiness gap children from low socioeconomic backgrounds face, ultimately giving them a solid foundation leading to a successful education and future. This grant will support "Empowering Women, Raising Readers" funding the cost of books for the 100 newborn girls projected to be enrolled in the 2016 WIC program.

www.imaginationlibraryoftalbotcounty.org

Ladies of Nia - \$2,500

Ladies of Nia (NIA in African means "Purpose" or having a goal) is a volunteer organization comprised of a "group of friends who are united in sisterhood for the restoration of our communities", especially children, teens and women of color. Through service and outreach, they want to be agents of change and bring "hope and light" to those who need support. The mentors are all professional women, family oriented, who have some connection with Caroline County from their own youth, and who desire to still be a presence there and be role models for young girls growing up facing difficult challenges. "Tomorrow's H.O.P.E. Mentoring Program" connects middle school students in Caroline and Dorchester counties (as they progress through high school) with positive role models who will support them in setting and achieving educational goals, while encouraging them to become effective leaders who are accountable and responsible. This grant will support the mentoring program and a day trip to New York City. www.ladiesofnia.org

Mid-Shore Community Mediation Center - \$1,000

Mid Shore Community Mediation Center (MSCMC) has been providing no-cost mediation, facilitation and conflict management education for Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties since 2005 focusing on the neediest members of the community. MSCMC works with over 20 agencies and organizations in these three counties including the Departments of Juvenile Services and school guidance offices and teen and drug courts. Now in its 3rd year, the Parenting Plan Mediation Project offers mediation between parents, and sometimes grandparents or others, pertaining to the care, living situation, and decision making to serve the best interest of children whose families are in transition. The Project's most important aspect is that a productive, collaborative, less adversarial conversation is established between 2 or more people responsible for a child's care and well-being, which can lay a critical foundation for the child's future. Last year, over 300 parenting plan mediation sessions were conducted in Talbot, Caroline, and Dorchester counties. In the coming year, it is anticipated 115 women (mothers and grandmothers) and 125 girls will benefit from the program. This grant will support specialized mediator training. www.midshoremmediation.org

Mid-Shore Regional Council/Talbot County Extension Office - \$6,553

The Mid-Shore Regional Council, made up of 40 state, county, and municipal leaders, operates as a cooperative regional planning and development agency for Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties. The University of

Maryland Extension (UME) is recognized locally for providing accessible, unbiased expert knowledge people can use to improve their economic stability; its program areas include agriculture and natural resources, 4H youth development, and family and consumer sciences. The Mid-Shore Regional Council and Talbot County Extension Office have had a strong partnership for the past 12 years with a focus on agriculture profitability, agriculture marketing, and agriculture entrepreneurship. The USDA Census of Agriculture reports women are now the largest minority group in the agricultural sector. In Maryland, 32% of all farms have women as the principal operators and, over the next 20 years, it is estimated 70% of all farmland will change hands - with women possibly owning as much as 75% of all the land transferred. "Annie's Project" is a national program designed to empower women in agriculture to manage information and learn about agriculture in a relaxed local network. It focuses on farm management and empowers women in overall farm decision-making. The topics for 6 evening sessions cover the 5 areas of agricultural risk management: financial, human resources, legal, marketing, and production. This grant will fund "Annie's Project's" 2016 costs for a part-time coordinator, facility rental, meals, and class materials and supplies. www.extension.umd.edu/annies-project

Tilghman Area Youth Association - \$1,500

Tilghman Area Youth Association (TAYA), formed in 2011, operates as the Tilghman After School Kids Program (TASK). The program, held at Tilghman Elementary School, offers Tilghman students a snack, time to unwind and exercise, 30-minute homework session, math and science tutoring, and an enrichment component, all with adults who hold certificates or special training in their fields of expertise. The volunteers and TES teachers offer enrichment classes in such things as woodworking, "Just for Girls", Bay-Wise gardening, Spanish and French, stock market games, and dance. During the past year, 21 instructional hours were provided to 17 students. The program's goal is to help students learn the value of persistence, gain confidence as learners, develop habits of success, and improve academically. Beyond the after school program, TAYA provides cultural arts assemblies at TES and offers community events to make connections with family and community. This grant will support the expansion of the "Just for Girls" enrichment component, adding community service and leadership training. www.tilghmantaya.com

2015 GRANT RECIPIENTS

11 grants totaling \$38,969

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake - \$2,000 "Sister Power"

Since 1986 Big Brother Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake has been matching caring adults with children ages 6-17 on the Eastern Shore to provide additional attention and the positive influence of a caring adult. The "Sister Power" initiative, currently in place on the lower Eastern Shore, was created to address the needs of local parents, mentors, and others who support girls on the cusp of adolescence, who have been asking for resources and guidance on how to navigate this time of great change. The initiative is expanding to the Mid-Shore, specifically Kent and Queen Anne's counties, to provide information and resources related to physical, mental, and emotional changes associated with adolescence and the transition to womanhood. Big Brothers Big Sisters will present one-day informational workshops, open to a diverse population, for up to 50 girls ages 11-17. This grant will provide 100 resource bags for the program. www.biglittle.org

Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center - \$6,680 "English as Second Language Activities"

The mission of the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center (CMRC) is "to empower people from different cultures to become successful and engaged members of our community by coordinating services and informational programs." Their objectives are to become a trusted and central source of information to the immigrant community and to service providers; and to create positive community awareness of the current and potential impact of immigrants in the community. Since November 2012, CMRC has provided service to over 650 non-English speaking members of our community, and has worked closely with over 100 Hispanic families with children in Easton Elementary. CMRC offers an afterschool program for up to 120 elementary students, which includes an integrated ESL component to assist parents with "Parenting for Academic Success" curriculum. Last year, with a grant from the Women & Girls Fund and in partnership with the Girls Scouts of America, CRMC began a Girl Scout troop - and a Cub Scout pack followed shortly thereafter. This year, a two-part grant is being awarded to CMRC: \$1,680 to provide ESL educators and child-care providers for 60 1-hour sessions; and, \$5,000 to their programs that support women and girls in the community. The overall goal is to create a strong network of parents who are prepared to participate, promote, organize, and volunteer with their children's extra-curricular programs. www.chesmrc.org

Corsica River Mental Health Servicex/Crossroads Community - \$2,000

“Summer Enrichment Program”

Crossroads Community Inc. (CCI) was founded in 1983 and now reaches all five Mid-Shore counties, providing psychiatric rehabilitative services that help people recover from severe and persistent mental illness. Corsica River Mental Health Services, Inc. (CRMHS), founded in 2009, is a private, non-profit mental health clinic providing psychiatric treatment and therapy to residents of Queen Anne’s County and surrounding areas. Included in the services they offer are various public school based programs. Disruptive behaviors and low self-esteem, which often accompany poor mental health, put academic achievement at risk. School based programs can mitigate the risk during the year, but progress is often undermined when attention is not given to these problems during the summer. CRMHS and CCI have developed a Children and Adolescent Summer Enrichment Program, using professional staff from both organizations, that will engage middle school youth and their parents in an eight-week enrichment program designed to be fun while addressing issues of self-esteem, constructive vs. disruptive behaviors and positive peer interaction. Separate sessions designed for parents are required; an estimated 80% will be single mothers or grandmothers. This grant will be used to support transportation expenses for the Summer Enrichment Program. www.ccinonline.com

Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers - \$3,400

G.A.L.S. Program

Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers (CACC) is a non-profit, educationally based childcare center that is licensed and accredited through the Maryland State Department of Education.

Their mission is to provide access to quality, affordable childcare in a nurturing, diverse, safe and enriching program. Since 1970, beginning as Easton Day Care Center, CACC has grown to 5 sites throughout Talbot County, serving more than 400 children annually ages 2-12.

For the 2015-16 school year, CACC is introducing the G.A.L.S. program (Girls Also Like STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program, an after school club for 30 girls in grades K-5. The STEM activities, which will be presented in grade-appropriate groups, will teach math and science skills in addition to encouraging organization skills and teamwork to help build self-esteem and critical life skills. G.A.L.S. will meet weekly for 12 weeks at the Cordova site. This grant will provide funding for pilot program. www.cackkids.org

Destined to Rise Coalition - \$2,000

“Stepping Up Our Game”

Founded in 2013, the Destined To Rise Coalition promotes community service, youth development, and educational philanthropy. Its mission is to empower teen girls to create personal goals, understand civic responsibility, and develop leadership skills. The Girl’s Empowerment and Mentoring Program (GEMS) offers a mentoring relation between professional women and high school students to encourage positive behavior, healthy life choices, conflict resolution skills, and post-secondary school opportunities. This grant will help to fund the “Stepping Up Our Game” Summit, which seeks to reinforce the importance of healthy lifestyles, academic achievement and personal growth through workshops addressing topics such as the negative images of females in “Hip Hop” music and “Getting Serious About School” with practical advice on developing effective study skills and finding balance between academics, sports and social activities.

Echo Hill Outdoor School - \$3,400

Summer Leadership Program

Echo Hill Outdoor School was established in 1972 to provide young people with an “interdisciplinary, residential outdoor education program that cultivates curiosity about nature, the environment, our fellow human beings, and ourselves.” The staff is dedicated to educating youth of all backgrounds to become active, responsible stewards of the natural environment in which they live. Currently 150 public and private schools and other organizations from the mid-Atlantic region participate in the school’s very successful, highly regarded programs. Last year, the “Summer Leadership Workshop” successfully engaged promising middle school girls in a 3-day residential leadership-training program. This grant will support room, board, instruction and transportation costs for the 2015 “Summer Leadership Workshop” for two girls from each county on the Mid-Shore. Once again, participants will be engaged in an in-depth exploration of social skills and responsibilities, cultivate awareness, understanding and appreciation of nature, thereby gaining self-reliance, team-building skills and strategies. www.ehos.org

Imagination Library of Talbot County \$3,750

“Empowering Women, Raising Readers”

The Imagination Library of Talbot County, an affiliate of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, believes all Talbot County children, regardless of their circumstances, should have quality books of their own. It promotes early literacy by providing free books to children birth to age 5. All pre-school children qualify for this program, and once registered, they receive a new, engaging, age-appropriate book mailed directly to their homes once a month at no cost to their families. Currently, there are 187 mothers and 578 children, birth to 5, participating in the Women, Infants, and Children Program of Talbot County. The benefits of reading are many, from the connection made

between child and caregiver from reading aloud, to the improved word recognition, object identification, and listening comprehension. By improving the reading readiness of children entering kindergarten, the Imagination Library of Talbot County aims to close the readiness gap children from low socioeconomic backgrounds face, ultimately giving them a solid foundation leading to a successful education and future. This grant will fund the cost of books for the 100 newborn girls projected to be enrolled in the 2015 WIC program. www.imaginationlibraryoftalbotcounty.org

Ladies of Nia - \$3,000

“Tomorrow’s H.O.P.E. Mentoring Program”

Ladies of Nia (NIA in African means “Purpose” or having a goal) is a volunteer organization comprised of a “group of friends who are united in sisterhood for the restoration of our communities”, especially children, teens and women of color. Through service and outreach, they want to be agents of change and bring “hope and light” to those who need support. The mentors are all professional women, family oriented, who have some connection with Caroline County from their own youth, and who desire to still be a presence there and be role models for young girls growing up facing difficult challenges. “Tomorrow’s H.O.P.E. Mentoring Program” connects middle school students in Caroline and Dorchester counties (as they progress through high school) with positive role models who will support them in setting and achieving educational goals, while encouraging them to become effective leaders who are accountable and responsible. This grant will support the mentoring program. www.ladiesofnia.org

Queen Anne’s County Child Abuse Responses & Evaluation (CARE) Center - \$5,989

“Self-help Resources for Child Sexual Abuse Victims/Survivors”

The Queen Anne’s County Child Abuse Response & Evaluation (CARE) Center is the child advocacy center of Queen Anne’s County, and benefits all child sexual abuse victims in Queen Anne’s County, including underserved populations. A multidisciplinary partnership between Queen Anne’s County Department of Social Services, Maryland State Police, Queen Anne’s County Office of the Sheriff, Centreville Police Department, Queen Anne’s County State’s Attorney’s Office, and the Mid-Shore Medical Program, its primary goal is to coordinate a response to allegations of serious child abuse that supports the child and non-offending family members through the process of investigation and prosecution while ensuring appropriate services are in place for the child to heal and move forward. This is a two-part grant that, first, will enable the CARE Center to provide a variety of invaluable self-help resources for child sexual abuse victims and their non-offending family members, including books, booklets, hand-outs, toys and other resources, and, second, provide funds for their unmet needs.

Queen Anne’s County Board of Education/Judy Center Partnership of QAC - \$3,750

“Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library”

The Judy Center’s mission is to provide comprehensive services for families of young children in Queen Anne’s County with the express purpose of impacting school readiness and to support parents in becoming their child’s first and most important teachers. The Queen Anne’s County Judy Center opened in 2001, and is presently located at Sudlersville Elementary (SES) to support the county’s Title 1 school with the lowest student achievement and highest ESL population. A new affiliate of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, the Judy Center plans to enroll approximately 240 children from birth to 4 years to receive the age-appropriate books mailed directly to homes from Penguin Publisher. Building a family library is a critical way to support language literacy and development. The enrolled children will receive the *Little Engine That Could* shortly, and begin to receive a book each month until their 5th birthday. The last book each child receives is *Kindergarten Here I Come*. In addition to the monthly books, the Judy Center will offer family literacy events to enhance parents reading books delivered to their children. This grant will support the cost of the books. www.qacps.k12.md.us/judy

Rebuilding Together, Caroline County, MD - \$3,000

“Critical Home Repairs and Accessibility Modifications”

The Caroline County affiliate of Rebuilding Together is an entirely volunteer organization that provides free services to low-income elderly, disabled, veterans and families with children who face needed but unaffordable home repairs or improvements to keep them living in their homes in comfort and safety. Since their founding in 2007, volunteers have given 9,493 hours and completed 155 home repair or modification projects for families, many of them headed by single women, and referred applicants to other agencies for help when appropriate. In addition, this affiliate operates the West Denton Depot where used building materials, architectural items, appliances and a variety of household items are sold, the income being used for the organization’s building projects. The Depot serves to re-purpose and re-cycle materials that might otherwise go into landfills, and to provide very inexpensive goods to families that can use them. This grant will go toward a building project(s) for one or more female clients. www.rebuildingtogethercaroline.org

2014 GRANT RECIPIENTS

16 grants totaling \$38,950

Carpe Diem Arts Outreach Fund - \$3,500

Offering art-based enrichment programs in Talbot County

Carpe Diem Arts Outreach Fund was established in 2010 with the goal of providing increased access to affordable, high quality, and culturally diverse arts programs in Talbot County schools and communities, such as after school enrichment, artist residencies, and community arts projects. This year, Carpe Diem will begin a new initiative, “Rebuilding Lives: Positive Art Intervention in Corrections” to bring arts programming to the Talbot County Department of Corrections to develop positive self-expression, problem-solving, teamwork, and task completion skills. This grant will help fund the artistic workshops, African drumming, songwriting, performance, storytelling, and mural arts programs for women incarcerated in the Talbot County Detention Center.

www.carpediemarts.org

Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center - \$2,000

Providing services for immigrant elementary school children in Talbot County

The mission of the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center is “to empower people from different cultures to become successful and engaged members of our community by coordinating services and informational programs”. Their objectives are to become a trusted and central source of information to the immigrant community and to service providers; and to create positive community awareness of the current and potential impact of immigrants in the community. Since November 2012, CMRC has provided service to over 200 non-English speaking members of our community, involving 300 separate requests for information and referral. This grant will support two programs: a multicultural Girl Scouts program for children from non-English-speaking families; and, a program to provide childcare so mothers can attend evening English as Second Language classes.

Chestertown RiverArts - \$1,250

Supporting arts in Kent County through education and events

Chestertown RiverArts has a mission to engage the Kent County community in the creation, appreciation, and support of the arts through education, events, and exhibitions. Their vision is to inspire and foster creativity as a positive and sustainable force that enriches the community and establishes the region as a premier arts destination. RiverArts provides arts education for children and adults, as well as numerous community arts events, including Art in the Park, Art in Bloom, and Paint the Town. In response to Kent County’s low performance on Maryland’s Common Core Standards testing, RiverArts and Garfield Center for the Arts have initiated a partnership with Garnett Elementary School to engage students in quarterly community projects that are designed to enhance creative thinking, problem solving, and communication skills – important to student engagement and mastery of academic learning and student success. This grant will support the “Engaging Students in Community Based Learning” program for all students in grades 3 through 5 at Garnett Elementary School for the 2014-2015 school year. www.chestertownriverarts.org

Community Mediation Upper Shore - \$2,000

Offering mediation services in Kent and Queen Anne’s Counties

Community Mediation Upper Shore (CMUS) is currently the only mediation service providing free, accessible conflict resolution services through mediation, education and training throughout Kent and Queen Anne’s Counties. Their “Changing Families Project” is designed to serve no- and low-income families seeking divorce or needing to make plans about their children and marital property issues. Their objectives are to help parents make financial agreements that allow both households to continue at roughly equal standards of living; and to help children avoid dramatic behavioral changes as their family shifts around them that would affect their well being and success in school. The project allows for multiple collaborations among non-profit organizations: between CMUS and Mid-Shore Pro Bono, which provides free access to attorneys; and, with Mid-Shore Community Mediation Center, which provides volunteer training. This grant will support the “Changing Families Project”, that benefits women and girls within their family structure. www.cmusmediation.org

Echo Hill Outdoor School - \$2,800


Offering a interdisciplinary, residential outdoor education to students from 150 elementary and middle school public and private schools across the Mid-Shore and the Mid-Atlantic states.

Echo Hill Outdoor School was established in 1972 to provide young people with an “interdisciplinary, residential outdoor education program that cultivates curiosity about nature, the environment, our fellow human beings and ourselves”. The staff is dedicated to educating youth of all backgrounds to become active, responsible stewards of the natural environment in which they live. Currently 150 public and private schools and other organizations from the mid-Atlantic region participate in the school’s very successful, highly regarded programs. In the summer of 2014, they will implement the “Summer Leadership Workshop” for a 3-day residential leadership-training program for 12 promising middle school girls from Talbot County public schools. The students will be

engaged in an in-depth exploration of social skills and responsibilities, cultivate awareness, understanding, and appreciation of nature, thereby gaining self-reliance, team-building skills, and strategies. This grant will support room, board, instruction, and transportation costs for the “Summer Leadership Workshop”. www.ehos.org


For All Seasons - \$4,250

Providing a round-the-clock rape crisis telephone hotline, and affordable, easily accessible quality mental health and therapeutic services to residents of the Mid-Shore

For All Seasons (FAS) offers easily accessible behavioral health services for individuals, families, and groups in each of the five Mid-Shore counties. Additionally, FAS provides a 24-hour Rape Crisis/Sexual Assault Center. FAS has developed core services to meet the behavioral health needs of residents on the Mid-Shore, including victims of sexual violence. The development of victim services is often rooted in identifying gaps in services that occur when neither public nor private entities can adequately meet the needs of crime victims. As a result of this, FAS has recently expanded its Victim Services Program to include a bi-lingual staff member with direct experience and knowledge of sex trafficking in our immediate region. Grant funds will go to “Support Victims of Human Trafficking for Sex” program for the development an educational curriculum for local agencies and community members to identify victims of sex trafficking, and for the development of an outreach program that provides an opportunity for victims to leave the world of trafficking. www.forallseasonsinc.org 


Healthy Families Mid-Shore - \$2,500

Serving families with recognized risk factors for child abuse and neglect

Healthy Families Mid-Shore is an accredited home visiting program that provides voluntary intervention and prevention services to first-time parents who reside in Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot counties. The families served are eligible for the Maryland Children’s Health Program, which is income based, and are at risk because of the parents’ history of problems, inadequate support and high stress. The goals are to educate parents on nurturing care and healthy childhood growth and development, to promote healthy child-parent relationships, to reduce risk and build protective structures for children within the family, breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect. Using the “Growing Great Kids for Prenatal-36 Months” curriculum, home visitors build the capacity of first-time parents to raise children who will have social, emotional, and language and learning skills to be “ready for school”. This grant will provide funds for interpreters to accompany staff on visits to homes where English is not spoken, and will also buy materials specific to the new curriculum. www.talbothealth.org 


Ladies of Nia - \$3,500

Tomorrow’s H.O.P.E Mentoring Program

Ladies of Nia is a volunteer organization comprised of “a group of friends who are united in sisterhood for the restoration of our communities”, especially children, teens and women of color. Through service and outreach they want to be agents of change and bring “hope and light” to those who need support. The mentors are all professional women, family oriented, who have some connection with Caroline County from their own growing-up years, and who desire to still be a presence there and be role models for young girls growing up facing difficult challenges. Beginning with the 2009-10 school year they established a mentoring program at Lockerman Middle School in Caroline County. Some of those girls, now high school seniors who will attend college in the fall, are still with the program, along with new middle school members. This grant will support the “Tomorrow’s H.O.P.E. Mentoring Program” and provide funds for college text books for the four graduating seniors. www.ladiesofnia.org 

Mid-Shore Community Mediation Center - \$2,000

Offering mediation services to Mid-Shore residents

Mid Shore Community Mediation Center (MSCMC) has been providing no-cost mediation, facilitation and conflict management education for Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties since 2005 focusing on the neediest members of the community. MSCMC works with over 20 agencies and organizations in these three counties including the Departments of Juvenile Services and school guidance offices and teen and drug courts. Last year, the program provided 197 mediation sessions in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot counties, involving 114 women, 104 mothers, and 10 grandmothers. A new initiative, the “Parenting Plan Mediation Project”, will offer mediation services between parents, and sometimes grandparents or others, pertaining to the care, living situation, and decision making to serve the best interests of the children through a productive, collaborative conversation to produce a mediation agreement. This grant will support the “Parenting Mediation Project”. www.midshoremmediation.org 

Mid-Shore Pro Bono - \$2,000


Offering pro bono legal services on the Mid-Shore

Mid-Shore Pro Bono is the first regional pro bono referral agency in the state and the only such agency located on the Eastern Shore offering access to legal resources, advice and counseling at no cost to the client.

Through their Legal Services Clinics they pair qualifying individuals seeking legal assistance with volunteer attorneys in their area. Since its establishment in 2005 it has grown in popularity among residents as well as volunteer attorneys, and is seen as a valuable aid to the courts. The service works to sustain a community that is facing difficult economic times, and also furthers the general sense of fairness and belief in the justice system. In 2012 MSPB introduced the “Mid-Shore Community Conferencing Project”, a free service to address the increase in youth entering the criminal justice system. The project has received 18 case referrals from the Department of Juvenile Services, served 17 youth, and facilitated 9 conferences. Conferences are designed to bring together everyone involved and affected by conflict to reach resolutions that help prevent the incident’s recurrence. This grant will support program budget for the “Community Conferencing” program. www.midshoreprobono.org


Partners in Care, Talbot County site - \$1,000

Providing support services to older adults in Talbot County

Partners in Care Maryland is a community non-profit providing supportive services to help older adults remain independent in their own homes. They work to build a sense of community and security for people using the concept of time-exchange. Volunteers provide essential services, such as transportation or handyman service, and then earn “credit in the bank” which they may use to receive help when they need it. This concept encourages people to accept help knowing that they may pay it back. Everyone is valued for his or her own contribution; everyone is part of the solution. It is “parity rather than charity”. Talbot has the only Mid-Shore county with a chapter, and, in the past year, the Ride Partners program has provided 50-70 trips per month to medical facilities on the Eastern Shore and as far away as Baltimore and Washington, DC. This year, PIC plans to establish a chapter in Caroline County where there is a demonstrated need for the “Ride Partners” program. This grant will help fund the Caroline County expansion. www.partnersincare.org 


Rebuilding Together, Caroline County - \$1,500

Offering free home repair services for low-income residents in Caroline County

The Caroline County affiliate of Rebuilding Together is an entirely volunteer organization that provides free services to low-income elderly, disabled, veterans and families with children who face needed but unaffordable home repairs or improvements, to keep them living in their homes in comfort and safety. Since their founding in 2007, volunteers have given 3,254 hours and completed 132 home repair or modification projects for families, many of them headed by single women, and referred applicants to other agencies for help when appropriate. In addition, this affiliate operates the West Denton Depot where used building materials, architectural items, appliances and a variety of household items are sold, the income being used for the organization’s building projects. The Depot serves to re-purpose and re-cycle materials that might otherwise go into landfills, and to provide very inexpensive goods to families that can use them. This grant will go toward a building project(s) for one or more female clients. www.rebuildingtogethercaroline.org 


Rebuilding Together, Kent County - \$1,500

Offering free home repair services for low-income residents in Kent County

The Kent County affiliate of Rebuilding Together has as its mission to work in partnership with local community volunteers to provide home repairs, accessibility modifications and links to community resources to keep low-income homeowners living independently in a safe, dry and warm home. They collaborate with at least eleven other community organizations and agencies, such as Kent County Social Services, the Health Department, Inter-Faith Housing, Washington College, and others, as well as many local businesses. Since June 2004, Rebuilding Together Kent County has completed 120 jobs. Currently, they have 21 projects on the waiting list. This grant will go directly toward material costs of the “Kent County Rehabilitation Project”. www.rebuildingtogetherkcmd.org 

SOAR in the Saddle Horsemanship Program - \$1,400

Providing horsemanship programs to at-risk Mid-Shore children

SOAR in the Saddle utilizes horsemanship therapy to promote Success, Outreach, Achievement, and Responsibility to disabled, disadvantaged, and at-risk children in the Mid-Shore area. The program is free to participants, however, they are required to “pay it forward” by volunteering a minimum of 4 hours to a community organization or individual in need. Established in 2012, SOAR has served 81 children from Caroline, Kent, and Queen Anne’s counties who have been referred by school counselors and the Departments of Social Services. Horseback riding promotes a sense of well-being, improved self-esteem and self-confidence, along with physical improvements, such as improved vertical and horizontal balance, motor coordination, and muscle tone. Through the community service component, participants experience the satisfaction that comes with helping a neighbor or a community project. This grant will sponsor 4 girls for an 8-week SOAR in the Saddle session. www.soarinthesaddle.org 


Talbot Interfaith Shelter - \$3,750

Offering shelter and support services to homeless in Talbot County

Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS) is an outreach ministry dedicated to providing a temporary safe haven to single adults and families who lack adequate housing during the winter months. Teams of volunteers from 17 faith communities provide hot meals, drive shelter guests to showers at the Talbot YMC, make bagged lunches, and spend time with the shelter's guests. Since 2009, the shelter has provided approximately 720 bed nights each year (1 per person per bed per night), serving between 17 – 20 individuals each season, using over 3500 volunteer hours annually. Future plans for Talbot Interfaith Shelter include the construction of a year-round building capable of accommodating up to 40 men, women, and children to meet the needs of Talbot's homeless population. In 2011, the shelter started the "Emergency Family Housing Project" to support one family at a time in a rented apartment. For the coming season, TIS intends to add a second apartment for mothers with young children. This arrangement permits the family to maintain an appropriate daily schedule, and provides the mother with case management and assistance. This grant will help fund the "Emergency Family Housing Project". www.talbotinterfaithshelter.org

Talbot Partnership for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention - \$4,000

Providing substance abuse educational programs to Talbot County children and families


Founded in 1991, Talbot Partnership encourages the community to recognize the problems and implement solutions related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse by putting into action policies, promoting early intervention programs, and building a community culture that favors drug-free youth. Recognized for programs such as "Guiding Good Choices" and "Safe Homes", Talbot Partnership is a community coalition that has built a membership base of more than 80 organizations and individuals over the past 23 years. Today, women and girls are the fastest growing segment of the population impacted by the damages of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse, representing a generally unrecognized serious issue for the women and girls of Talbot County. A new initiative, "Addressing the Growing Dangers to Women and Girls from Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs", targets prevention from these risks by providing new strategies, education materials, community updates, and efforts to advocate changes in perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors. The program will engage young people, parents and other caregivers, schools, all levels of government, and all social systems that interface with the youth in a coordinated effort to prevent and reduce substance abuse and its consequences. This grant will provide funds to develop a media campaign, a mother's tool-kit and reference guide, and a medical practitioner's resource guide. www.talbotpartnership.org 

2013 GRANT RECIPIENTS

15 grants totaling \$33,220


CASA of Queen Anne's and Kent Counties - \$2,544.00

Advocating for every abused and neglected child in the Queen Anne's and Kent Counties court system

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program is a non-profit organization, which advocates for children who are under the protection of the juvenile court system due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Each child is assigned a CASA volunteer who has been carefully screened and trained to make recommendations to the court on the best interest of the child, the goal being to secure a safe, permanent placement for every child served. Each year many youth who reach the age of 18-21 leave the program and enter adulthood without the financial or emotional support of a family. Endeavoring to prepare them for this transition, CASA wishes to use the Fostering Futures Program developed by the National CASA Association, train volunteers in using the program, and offer a two-day life skills workshop for the youth ages 13 to 21. The workshop will include classes in cooking, nutrition, shopping, personal finance, cleaning, personal hygiene and job interviewing skills. This grant will support the implementation of the program and the two-day workshops. www.casaqackent.org 


Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center - \$4,000.00

Providing services for immigrant elementary school children in Talbot County

The mission of the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center is "to empower people from different cultures to become successful and engaged members of our community by coordinating services and informational programs"; and by education, to break down barriers that often exist and cause misunderstanding. Their objectives are to become a trusted and central source of information to the immigrant community and to service providers; and to create positive community awareness of the current and potential impact of immigrants in the community. One successful program currently underway is The After-School Program for immigrant elementary school children in Talbot County. This program has a strong component of assistance to parents in being able to understand what is required to help their children succeed in school. For some parents this adult education will include ESL classes currently given at Chesapeake College. This grant will support the implementation of the *Parenting for Academic Success* curriculum that the Center has adopted. www.chesmrc.org 


Community Mediation Upper Shore - \$2,400.00

Offering mediation services in Kent and Queen Anne's Counties

Community Mediation Upper Shore (CMUS) is currently the only mediation service providing free, accessible conflict resolution services through mediation, education and training throughout Kent and Queen Anne's Counties. Their Changing Families Project is designed to serve no and low-income families seeking divorce or needing to make plans about their children and marital property issues. Their objectives are to help parents make financial agreements that allow both households to continue at roughly equal standards of living; and to help children avoid dramatic behavioral changes as their family shifts around them that would affect their well being and success in school. As regards this project, they partner with MidShore Pro Bono, which provides free access to attorneys, and with Mid-Shore Community Mediation Center, which provides volunteer training. This grant will support the Changing Families Project, which benefits women and girls within their family structure. www.CMUSmediation.org 


Corsica River Mental Health Services, Crossroads Community - \$4,480.00

Providing school-based mental health services for at-risk youth in the Mid-Shore

Crossroads Community, Inc. (CCI) was founded in 1983 and now reaches all five mid-shore counties, providing psychiatric rehabilitative services that help people recover from severe and persistent mental illness. Corsica River Mental Health Services, Inc. (CRMHS), founded in 2009, is a private, non-profit mental health clinic providing psychiatric treatment and therapy to residents of Queen Anne's County and surrounding areas. Included in the services they offer are various public school based programs. Disruptive behaviors and low self-esteem, which often accompany poor mental health, put academic achievement at risk. School-based programs can mitigate the risk during the year, but progress is often undermined when attention is not given to these problems during the summer. CRMHS and CCI are collaborating on a Children and Adolescent Summer Enrichment Program, using professional staff from both organizations, that will engage middle school youth and their parents in an eight week enrichment program designed to be fun while addressing issues of self esteem, constructive vs. disruptive behaviors and positive peer interaction. There will be separate required sessions designed for parents, an estimated 80% of whom will be single mothers. This grant will be used to enhance the Summer Enrichment Program. www.ccinonline.com 


Dixon House Independent and Assisted Living - \$500.00

Providing quality assisted living care to women and men from Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties

This residence facility for seniors provides high quality and affordable care in a home-like environment in the historic downtown district of Easton. Originally planned as a residence for women only, women comprise the large majority of its residents today. Promoting wellness and independence is a priority and to that end many engaging activities are planned for the residents, both on site and in the wider community. The staff is hoping to expand the opportunities for Intergenerational Programming, involving younger women, children and youth from several identified organizations and schools. The benefits will accrue to participants of all ages - companionship and community connections for the elderly, opportunities for service and life lessons learned for the young. This grant will help with the costs of these intergenerational projects. www.dixonhouse.com 

Healthy Families Queen Anne's/Talbot - \$2,600.00


Serving families with recognized risk factors for child abuse and neglect

Healthy Families QA/T is an accredited home visiting program that provides voluntary intervention and prevention services to first-time parents who reside in Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties. The families served are eligible for the Maryland Children's Health Program, which is income based, and are at risk because of the parents' own history, issues, problems, inadequate support and high stress. The goals are to educate parents on nurturing care and healthy childhood growth and development, to promote healthy child-parent relationships, to reduce risk and build protective structures for children within the family, breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect. This year Healthy Families will use a new curriculum called "Growing Great Kids for Prenatal-36 Months". Home visitors and supervisors have been trained in this new curriculum, but some costs remain to most effectively use the program. This grant will provide money for interpreters to accompany staff on visits to homes where English is not spoken, and will also buy materials specific to the new curriculum. www.talbothealth.org 


HomePorts, Inc. - \$1,000.00

Providing services to keep senior citizens in their homes in Kent County


HomePorts is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping residents in Kent County stay in their own homes as they grow older. It is a grass roots member-driven group affiliated with a nation-wide organization called Village to Village Network. Participation is open to any household with individuals age 55 or older. Volunteers and paid providers offer services such as transportation, home maintenance, personal assistance and troubleshooting, health and wellness programs and social and educational activities. Most clients do pay a membership fee, but

scholarships are offered to some low-income seniors. This grant will help offset the cost for women clients on scholarship. www.homeports.org 


Ladies of Nia, Inc. - \$2,000.00
Tomorrow's H.O.P.E Mentoring Program

Ladies of Nia is a volunteer organization comprised of “a group of friends who are united in sisterhood for the restoration of our communities”, especially children, teens and women of color. Through service and outreach they want to be agents of change and bring “hope and light” to those who need support. Beginning with the 2009-10 school year they established a mentoring program at Lockerman Middle School in Caroline County. Some of those girls who are now in high school are still with the program, along with new middle school members. The mentors are all professional women, family oriented, who have some connection with Caroline County from their own growing-up years, and who desire to still be a presence there and be role models for young girls growing up facing difficult challenges. This grant will support the Tomorrow's H.O.P.E. Mentoring Program.
www.ladiesofnia.org 


Mid Shore Community Mediation Center - \$750.00
Offering mediation services to Mid-Shore residents

Mid Shore Community Mediation Center (MSCMC) has been providing no-cost mediation, facilitation and conflict management education for Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties since 2005 focusing on the neediest members of the community. MSCMC works with over 20 agencies and organizations in these two counties including the Departments of Juvenile Services and guidance offices and teen and drug courts. They are developing a program to provide mediation services for the many parties that are involved in the child welfare system including parents, youth, agency representatives and others. Two members of the MSCMC team have already received training in the process involving determination of a Child in Need of Assistance, and Termination of Parental Rights. This grant will provide funds for development of materials about mediation benefits and availability for the education of stakeholders in the process, and materials and supplies for the Child Welfare Mediation Project.
www.midshoremmediation.org 


New Beginnings Youth & Family Services - \$2,000.00
Serving low-income Dorchester County residents

This non-profit organization serves the residents of Bay Country Apartments and Parkside Village Apartments, both subsidized housing communities in Cambridge, where families raise their children “fighting the effects of poverty, violence, and drugs, among other difficulties”. New Beginnings reaches out to the children and youth who are still in school, focusing on their academic achievement, career goals and healthy life styles. They have a strong after school program and summer programs that engage children in a variety of activities, creative and educational. This grant will support the Experiencing Art Program, which will offer some dance, music, art and crafts opportunities not available before. 

Page Turners: Girls Who Read to Achieve - \$1,750.00
Promoting the value of reading as a means to education and leadership


Page Turners is a network of school-based book clubs that use the discussion of literature as a tool for empowering at-risk middle school girls as readers, leaders, thinkers, community members and graduates. The books chosen have strong female heroines who cope with challenging circumstances not unknown to the girls in the clubs. The books and curriculum for each year are centered on themes of self-discovery and it is hoped that by the reading and the discussions these girls will be empowered to “turn a page” in their own lives. From a modest beginning serving 20 girls in one county in 2008-2009, Page Turners has grown to serving 310 girls in 31 book clubs at 17 schools in five Eastern Shore counties and Baltimore City. This grant will be reserved for the 12 Mid-Shore book clubs, and will provide rewards for good attendance in the form of books for the girls' personal libraries; and will also provide funds for student initiated projects that involve reading in the wider community.
www.pageturnersread.org 

Partners in Care Maryland, Talbot County site - \$2,500.00
Providing support services to older adults in Talbot County

Partners in Care Maryland is a community non-profit providing supportive services to help older adults remain independent in their own homes. They work to build a sense of community and security for people using the concept of time-exchange. Volunteers provide essential services, such as transportation or handyman service, and then earn “credit in the bank” which they may use to receive help when they need it. This concept encourages people to accept help knowing that they may pay it back. Everyone is valued for his or her own contribution; everyone is part of the solution. It is “parity rather than charity”. At the present time Talbot is the only Mid-Shore county with a chapter, and their service at this time is limited to transporting clients to places they need to go. This grant will be applied to operating costs for the Ride Partners program. www.partnersincare.org 


Phillips Wharf Environmental Center - \$2,696.00

Providing environmental education programs from its Tilghman Island center in Talbot County

Located on Tilghman Island in Talbot County, this educational non-profit's mission is to further the understanding and appreciation of the ecosystems of the Chesapeake Bay as well as stewardship of the Bay itself. It operates a visitor's center as an educational venue and a Fishmobile that "takes the show on the road" to schools and various community events. A laboratory facility supports activities to monitor and improve the health of the Bay. PWEC also sponsors excursions for youth and adults, free lecture programs, a Tilghman Tree Project, and partners with the Department of Natural Resources in its Maryland Grow Oysters project. PWEC enjoys wide support from local residents and watermen and, in turn, supports many community events. The Center was founded by a woman and has great appeal for girls groups who come during the school year and the summer. Believing that an informed woman scientist can be a powerful role model in the community, and that skills gained as an on-site science interpreter can help a young woman find her own career path, the Center hopes to add women interns to the staff for the summer months. This grant will support one intern for eight weeks. www.pwec.org 


Rebuilding Together Caroline County - \$2,000.00

Offering free home repair services for low-income residents in Caroline County

The Caroline County affiliate of Rebuilding Together is an entirely volunteer organization that provides free services to low-income elderly, disabled, veterans and families with children who face needed but unaffordable home repairs or improvements, to keep them living in their homes in comfort and safety. Since their founding in 2007, volunteers have completed over 103 home repair or modification projects for families, many of them headed by single women, and referred applicants to other agencies for help when appropriate. In addition, this affiliate operates the River Landing Salvage Depot where used building materials, architectural items, appliances and a variety of household items are sold, the income being used for the organization's building projects. This Depot serves to re-purpose and re-cycle materials that might otherwise go into landfills, and to provide very inexpensive goods to families that can use them. This grant will go toward a building project(s) for one or more female clients. www.rebuildingtogethercaroline.org 

Rebuilding Together Kent County - \$2,000.00

Offering free home repair services for low-income residents in Kent County


The Kent County affiliate of Rebuilding Together has as its mission to work in partnership with local community volunteers to provide home repairs, accessibility modifications and links to community resources to keep low-income homeowners living independently in a safe, dry and warm home. They collaborate with at least eleven other community organizations and agencies, such as Kent County Social Services, the Health Department, Inter-Faith Housing, Washington College, and others, as well as many local businesses. Having completed over 106 projects in the last nine years, they currently have 15 projects on the waiting list, 13 of the applications are for women and/or community projects that will benefit women and children. This grant will go to the Kent County Rehabilitation Project and go directly toward project costs. www.rebuildingtogetherkcmd.org 

2012 GRANT RECIPIENTS

17 grants totaling \$39,500

Chesapeake Chamber Music, Inc. - \$3,500.00

Offering musical enrichment programs to elementary school students in Talbot and Dorchester counties

The mission of Chesapeake Chamber Music is "to enrich the musical life of the Chesapeake region by delighting today's audiences and developing tomorrow's". To this end, the Youth Reach Program in Talbot and Dorchester Counties includes "First Strings", which introduces beginning string instrument study to 3rd graders in their elementary schools, and "Presto!" for those wishing to continue their study. This highly regarded program reinforces many skills essential to academic success, increases self-confidence through performance, and develops habits of cooperation and self-control, in addition to furthering a love of music. This grant will enable the expansion of the "First Strings" program in three schools in Dorchester County. www.ChesapeakeChamberMusic.org 

Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers - \$4,700.00


Providing quality childcare for children in Talbot County

Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers, founded in 1970 as Easton Day Care Center, provides quality, accessible childcare in a nurturing, diverse, safe and enriching environment. Throughout the year they serve over 400 children ages 2-15 from the mid-shore region at five sites in Talbot County. Offering a sliding fee scale for families and providing more than \$115,000 yearly in tuition assistance, they accept any eligible family regardless of their ability to pay. The professional staff, which is almost all female, are required to update and maintain

credential levels as outlined by the state of Maryland, and are encouraged to further their qualifications in the fields of childcare and education. This grant will supplement the budgeted amount for professional development, made necessary by budget cuts this year at the state level.  www.eastondaycare.org


Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center - \$2,000.00

Providing technical assistance to entrepreneurs and small business owners

The Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center has a mission to create and sustain an entrepreneurial ecosystem on Maryland's Eastern Shore. In addition to administering a regional revolving loan fund, ESEC has expanded to provide technical assistance and training for entrepreneurs and small business owners. This grant will support a 10-week "New Venture" training course at Chesapeake College, which targets entry-level or early-stage participants helping them develop skills and awareness to successfully start a business. Past experience indicates that many of the participants will be minority women and women living with limited means.  www.VentureAhead.org


Echo Hill Outdoor School - \$1,350.00

Offering a interdisciplinary, residential outdoor education program that cultivates curiosity about nature and the environment stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay Area to students from 150 elementary and middle school public and private schools across the Mid-Shore and the Mid-Atlantic states.

Echo Hill Outdoor School was established in 1972 to provide young people with an "interdisciplinary, residential outdoor education program that cultivates curiosity about nature, the environment, our fellow human beings and ourselves". The staff is dedicated to educating youth of all backgrounds to become active, responsible stewards of the natural environment in which they live. Currently 150 public and private schools and other organizations from the mid-Atlantic region participate in the school's very successful, highly regarded programs. In the summer of 2012, they will implement the Environmental Education Leadership Training Program for promising young women graduating from area high schools who have no immediate plans for further education. They will be mentored by staff members, given opportunities to develop skills, which they will share in a teaching environment, and encouraged to seek further education or other pursuits in environmental stewardship. This grant will pay the stipend for one intern for nine weeks.  www.ehos.org


HomePorts, Inc. - \$3,000.00

Providing services to keep senior citizens in their homes in Kent County

HomePorts is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping residents in Kent County stay in their own homes as they grow older. It is a grass roots member-driven group affiliated with a nation-wide organization called Village to Village Network. Participation is open to any household with individuals age 55 or older. Volunteers and paid providers offer services such as transportation, home maintenance, personal assistance and troubleshooting, health and wellness programs and social and educational activities. While most clients do pay a membership fee, scholarships are offered to low income seniors, many of whom are women who suffer from chronic illness or other disabilities. This grant will provide membership for three women's households.  www.homeports.org

Horizons At Radcliffe Creek School - \$1,500.00


Providing a 6-week summer program to disadvantaged children in Kent County

Horizons at Radcliffe Creek School operates a six-week summer learning and enrichment program for low-income public school children of promise in grades K-5 in Kent County. The program is affiliated with Horizons National and has served close to 900 children since 1995, providing targeted academic support, swimming lessons, meaningful enrichment experiences and character building activities in a safe and supportive environment. Water safety and swim instruction is considered vital for these children who live in a county surrounded by water, and whose families may not have the resources to provide lessons for them. Part of this grant will go toward the purchase of life jackets for use in the water safety program. Another part of the grant will support two play days at Washington College, which 60 children will attend. These events are held during the school year and provide continuity for the children and the staff who work with them during the summer, and are a valuable way for the staff to assess their students' progress over the year.  www.radcliffecreekschool.org

Kingdom Church & Ministries "Ladies of Destiny" - \$1,500.00


Providing a supportive setting for women in Dorchester County

Kingdom Church & Ministries in Cambridge sponsors "Ladies of Destiny", a youth program for girls in their church and others living in the area who are from 9 to 19 year old. Their mission is to "develop, enrich and empower participants to become young ladies with integrity, self respect who are goal oriented". The focus of their educational activities is on health and healthy life styles, job readiness skills, finance, keeping good grades in school, and social awareness. The goal of the program is to help these young ladies become self-reliant and acquire skills for their long-term endeavors. Among the graduates of the program are students at local colleges, one in

nurses training and one preparing to join the military. This grant will support the “Enhancing the Lives of Young Ladies” program. 


Mid-Shore Pro Bono, Inc. - \$2500.00

Offering pro bono legal services on the Mid-Shore

Mid-Shore Pro Bono is the first regional pro bono referral agency in the state and the only such agency located on the Eastern Shore offering access to legal resources, advice and counseling at no cost to the client. Through their Legal Services Clinics they pair qualifying individuals seeking legal assistance with volunteer attorneys in their area. Since its establishment in 2005 it has grown in popularity among residents as well as volunteer attorneys, and is seen as a valuable aid to the courts. The service works to sustain a community that is facing difficult economic times, and also furthers the general sense of fairness and belief in the justice system. This grant will support the expansion of all their Legal Services Clinics, including The Debtor Assistance Project, Bankruptcy Clinic, the Foreclosure Clinic, where women clients are in the majority, and the Civil Legal Clinic. www.midshoreprobono.org 


New Beginnings Youth & Family Services - \$1,500.00

Serving low-income Dorchester County residents

New Beginnings Youth & Family Services serves the residents of Bay Country Apartments and Parkside Village Apartments in Cambridge, affordable housing communities of culturally diverse families raising their children “fighting the effects of poverty, violence, and drugs, among other difficulties”. Their services for youth include summer and after school programs that assist students in their academic achievement, focus on college preparation and career goals, and promote healthy life styles. For example, new programs have been added this year to introduce the culture and history of Dorchester County, a Jazzercise class to encourage fitness, and new ways to recognize and reward achievement. This grant will help support and expand the Girls LEED! Program to include girls up to 15 years old. Girls LEED! stands for Learn, Explore, Engage and Do. 


Partnering for Youth After School - \$2,800.00

Providing after school programs to Queen Anne’s County students

Partnering for Youth, working with the Board of Education and other community partners, is the sole provider of comprehensive after school programming in Queen Anne’s County. Responding to parents’ concerns about how their middle school children were spending time after school, the large number of latchkey children, the increased crime rate during the hours of 3 to 6 p.m., and the rural geography of the county, many community agencies, organizations and businesses came together in 1995 to organize and support an after school program which offers academic, recreational, enrichment and social competency activities. Today the full program operates in two elementary schools and two middle schools. A scaled back program takes place in two other middle schools. Despite difficult economic times, their goal is to be able to expand to the four other elementary schools in the county. Tutoring in math and reading is provided and all sites provide time to complete homework. In addition there is a rich assortment of multi-age project-based activities in science, robotics, engineering, astronomy, technology, fitness, arts and service learning. This grant will go towards scholarships for economically disadvantaged girls in Queen Anne’s County who would not otherwise be able to attend. 
www.creatinglegacies.org


Phillips Wharf Environmental Center - \$3,600.00

Providing environmental education programs from its Tilghman Island center in Talbot County

Phillips Wharf Environmental Center on Tilghman Island has as its mission not only to further the understanding and appreciation of the ecosystems of the Chesapeake Bay and the heritage of the Chesapeake Bay waterman, but also to foster stewardship of the Bay itself. In its sixth year of existence it operates a visitors’ center as an educational venue, a Fishmobile that transports live specimens to schools and various community events, and a laboratory facility for scientific study and research. The Center enjoys broad support from the Tilghman community and a volunteer board that believes “Phillips Wharf can be the beacon of sensible environmental practices in the Tilghman Island region”, and to that end they are involved in several major programs, such as oyster growing and tree planting, and special community events, cruises, and excursions that are ecology related. The Center was started by a woman and many of the volunteer staff have been women. Believing that an informed woman scientist can be a powerful role model in the community, and that the skills gained as an on-site science interpreter translate to other forms of employment for these women, the Center hopes to establish a sustainable Intern model in the summer of 2012 that they can build upon. This grant will pay the stipend for one summer intern for 12 weeks.  www.pwec.org


Pickering Creek Audubon Center - \$2,000.00

An environmental resource serving the Mid-Shore

Pickering Creek Audubon Center offers environmental education as well as the opportunity to experience and appreciate nature at its 400-acre site in Talbot County. In cooperation with the Talbot County Public Schools the Center has published a "Gateways to Conservation" curriculum for grades 1-8, which is a "successful model of nature centers and school systems working together to teach science and conservation concepts". The Center provides the site for field study and hands-on activities for visiting school groups. They also offer a Youth Conservation Leadership program where the students, known as Junior Naturalists, "work deeply and intentionally with a small group of students (25) who have potential enthusiasm for a science and conservation career". These students participate free of charge in exchange for a commitment to attend several meetings a month where they identify and discuss issues, do field research, take off-site field trips, and, later, pass on what they have learned at community events and programs. They also will attend the Center's summer Eco-Camp where they serve as mentors to the younger children. This grant will fund the Youth Conservation Leadership Program for one year. www.pickeringcreek.org 


Rebuilding Together/Caroline County - \$2500.00

Offering free home repair services for low-income residents in Caroline County

Rebuilding Together is the leading national non-profit organization working to preserve affordable home ownership by providing free services to low-income elderly, disabled, veterans or families with children who own their homes and are facing necessary home repairs but cannot pay for them. To illustrate the need for this service in the county, since the affiliate was formed in 2007, and at the time this application was submitted, they have completed 85 projects for 65 clients, 45 of those clients are women, and 5 are women with children. Seventeen access ramps have been installed, 8 of those for women. Twenty applicants have been referred to other agencies for additional help. Seven projects are currently in progress. Volunteers complete the projects, except in cases where the services of professional contractors are needed. Rebuilding Together also operates a Salvage Depot where reusable building materials and household items are sold, helping to keep good, recyclable items out of the landfills. This grant will be applied to projects where women live alone or are head of households. www.rebuildingtogethercaroline.org 


St. Martin's Ministries - \$1000.00

Offering a full array of supportive services to Mid-Shore residents from its location in Caroline County

The mission of St. Martin's Ministries is "to help meet the basic human needs of impoverished people, to respect and affirm their dignity, and to address the root problems that perpetuate the cycle of poverty". Located at the Benedictine Monastery in Ridgley, they operate four key programs for mid-shore families: Emergency Food Distribution to increase food security and reduce hunger; Eviction Prevention to prevent eviction and utility disconnection; a Thrift Store enabling unemployed and low-income families to meet their basic clothing and household needs; and St. Martin's House, to provide safe, effective relief from homelessness for women and their children, and to assist residents attain self-sufficiency through goal focused case management and service linking. The House provides living space for 12 families who may reside at the house for up to 24 months. This grant will provide for some much needed refreshing and refurbishing of bedroom furniture at St. Martin's House. www.stmartinsministries.org 

St. Michaels Community Center - \$2,000.00


Offering educational and recreational programs to Bay Hundred residents

St. Michaels Community Center offers educational, recreational, social and health-related activities to every age group from toddlers to seniors without regard to gender, economic, social or ethnic status. As part of their focus on youth they offer two programs to empower and educate young women about exercise, nutrition and self-esteem. JazzerTeens promotes fitness as a way of life taking into account children's musical tastes and physical needs. The National Fitness Leaders Association and the President's Council have recognized it on Physical Fitness and Sports. One goal is to help combat childhood obesity in the community. The other program is the popular Girls to Girls Club, which addresses hygiene, nutrition and self-esteem in a support group setting. The girls explore fashion, meal preparation, etiquette, manners and exercise in a setting that is fun for them. This grant will support both of these programs. www.stmichaelscc.org 

Talbot County and Caroline County 4-H programs - \$2,100.00


Providing interactive development programs to young people in Caroline and Talbot counties

4-H is the University of Maryland youth development program and it offers interactive, hands-on educational experiences open to all young people ages 5-18. The Talbot and Caroline County educators work

collaboratively and serve youth in all five mid-shore counties. They have a solid organizational structure and exhibit best practices in non-formal education. 4-H Clubs have a mandate from the national organization to address three things: increase science literacy and generate interest in science/technology careers; promote practices that contribute to healthy lifestyles; and, create opportunities for youth citizenship. The Talbot and Caroline 4-H have a Health and Science Literacy Program to that purpose. Whereas it is usually found that science is more appealing to boys than girls, and girls need special encouragement to pursue science study, in Talbot and Caroline Counties the Health Careers Club is 75% female, and in Dorchester County it is 100%. This grant will support the Health Careers Club with funds to purchase medical equipment for their workshops and teaching kits, and for health-related field trips.  www.4-h.org

The You Food Project - \$2000.00

Offering experiential gardening education to Bay Hundred students and residents


The You Food Project provides experiential learning opportunities to teach children and families about food and the environment through school and community gardens. The pilot program at St. Michaels Elementary School reached all 5th and 6th grade students, giving them lessons in healthy food choices, plant and soil science, conservation, local food systems, all in the context of a garden. The educational benefits of this successful, active, hands-on learning are easily transferred to other academic areas, particularly science and math. The emotional benefits of planting, caring for and harvesting a garden are well recognized by anyone ever involved in such a project. Because the You Food Project partners with the St. Michaels Community Center, they may take advantage of the Community Center's pre-existing structure for after-school and summer programming, and provide ongoing classes and outreach to a wider audience, including younger children and their families, using the Community Garden as a teaching tool. This grant supports the continued operation of these programs. 
www.stmichaelscc.org

2011 GRANT RECIPIENTS

19 grants totaling \$36,260.00


The Dixon House - \$1,500.00

Providing quality assisted living care to women and men from Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties.

The Dixon House located in Easton, MD, is an independent and assisted living facility for senior residents of Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester and Queen Anne's Counties. Its mission is to provide affordable residential care for senior women and men in a safe, home-like environment. The Dixon House has begun to upgrade the facility with safe, modern conveniences while maintaining the historical character of the home. The aged call boxes and panic alarm system throughout the home are in need of updating so residents will be able to ask for assistance when needed and have a greater sense of safety and security. The grant will support updating emergency call boxes located in each resident's room. 

Dorchester Boys and Girls Club - \$2,000.00


Providing enrichment and recreational activities to youths in middle and high school in Dorchester County.

The Dorchester County Boys and Girls Club (DCBGC) is the first and only boys and girls club in Dorchester County. Their mission is to inspire and enable all young people to realize their full potential as responsible, productive and caring citizens. DCBGC provides after school enrichment and recreational programs to youth in middle and high schools. By collaborating with Dorchester Center for the Arts, DCBGC will provide two 6-week art classes for 10-15 disadvantaged middle and high school girls: Precious Metal and Clay Jewelry and Fantastic Fresco Drawing. One 4-week holiday class will also be offered. The grant will support "Helping Girls Achieve Through the Arts."  (Note: This organization became inactive and returned the unused portion of the grant.)

Echo Hill Outdoor School - \$1,000.00


Offering a interdisciplinary, residential outdoor education program that cultivates curiosity about nature and the environment stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay Area to students from 150 elementary and middle school public and private schools across the Mid-Shore and the Mid-Atlantic states.

Echo Hill Outdoor School, a leader in environmental education, provides students of all ages and backgrounds with educational programs addressing the stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay Area. It offers an "interdisciplinary, residential outdoor education program that cultivates curiosity about nature, the environment, our fellow human beings and ourselves". Echo Hill's "Explore Program," led by experienced educators, offers 3-5 day adventures on the waters of the Eastern Shore. The program gives young girls and boys the freedom needed to think, question and express themselves in a safe environment. Through participating in hands-on learning activities, students are able to develop the confidence and support needed to excel in the areas of math and science for their future education. Boys tend to show a greater interest in these subjects than girls, and more boys participate in the program. Echo

Hill would like to ensure that girls are given an equal opportunity to excel in math and science. The grant will support scholarships for girls who live outside of Kent County to participate in the “Explore” Program. 


For All Seasons, Inc. - \$2,000.00

Providing affordable, easily accessible quality care, prevention, support, intervention, and therapeutic services to residents of the Mid-Shore

For All Seasons (FAS) services include 24-hour crisis intervention, individual and group therapy, advocacy and mental health education. FAS is well known to the Hispanic Community as a source of support and assistance. In response to the growing Hispanic population in our community, FAS will provide financial resources to help women and their daughters assimilate into the community through healthy after school activities. FAS will provide funds for 20 mothers and their daughters to participate in community activities at such places as Clay Bakers, the bowling alley, the public swimming pool, as well as crafts at the agency, giving them time to build memories, share experiences and build self-esteem. The grant will support community building programs for Hispanic mothers and their daughters. 


Horizons at Radcliffe Creek - \$1,000.00

Providing a 6-week summer program to disadvantaged children in Kent County

The mission of Horizons at Radcliffe Creek School is "to provide targeted academic support, meaningful enrichment experiences and character building citizenship skills to disadvantaged children in Kent County." Since 1995, Horizons, an affiliate of Horizons National, has provided a 6-week summer learning program for more than 810 low-income children of promise from grades K-5 in Kent County Public Schools. Students receive meals, transportation, reading and math instruction as well as 2 afternoons of various enrichment activities and 3 afternoons of swimming instruction. The swim program will provide students with sequential instruction in water safety and swimming skills, improving their self-confidence and physical well being. The grant will provide funding for a certified Water Safety Instructor. 


Ladies of Destiny, Kingdom Church & Ministries - \$2,000.00

Providing a supportive setting for women in Dorchester County

For 7 years, the Kingdom Church & Ministries, located in Cambridge, has sponsored a successful “Ladies of Destiny” (LOD) youth program. Their mission is to encourage healthy lifestyles, positive attitudes, academic achievement and volunteerism. The program meets monthly and serves 20 young ladies, ages 11-19, from the at-risk population of Dorchester County. Instruction and activities focus on health and hygiene, etiquette, job readiness and finance. The goal of the program is to help young ladies become self-reliant and acquire skills for long-term endeavors. The grant will support the “Enhancing the Lives of Young Ladies” program. 


Ladies of NIA, Inc. - \$1,000.00

Tomorrow’s H.O.P.E Mentoring Program

Ladies of Nia, Inc. is a volunteer organization comprised of “a group of friends who are united together in sisterhood for the restoration of our communities”, especially children, teens and women of color. Through service and outreach they want to be agents of change and bring “hope and light” to those who need support. Their Tomorrow’s H.O.P.E. Mentoring Program serves girls in Lockerman Middle School and North Caroline High School, Caroline County, providing educational and social support, giving them positive and professional role models to help them set and achieve educational goals, while encouraging them to become effective leaders who are accountable and responsible. Having started with a group of eight middle school girls in 2009, they plan to add to their numbers each year as these girls move into high school and new girls are recruited. The grant will support the Tomorrow’s H.O.P.E. Mentoring Program. 


Mid Shore Center for Mediation - \$2,000.00

Offering mediation services to Mid-Shore residents

Founded in 2005, the Mid Shore Community Mediation Center (MSCMC) provides no-cost mediation and facilitation services for families in crisis, at-risk teens, families of incarcerated men and women and those without access to legal representation in the Mid-Shore region. MSCMC focuses on conflict resolution through mediation, providing clients a means to recognize the cause of conflict and resolve the issue. MSCMC works with over 20 agencies and organizations including the Departments of Juvenile Services in Caroline and Talbot Counties, as well as guidance offices and teen and drug courts. Their program, “Anger Management for Teens,” is a 12-week course on understanding and controlling anger and will be available to 34 teens in the Mid-Shore region. MSCMC is hoping to generate future mediations as a result of anger management classes while greatly improving the lives of those taking the “Anger Management for Teens” course. The grant will assist in funding the training of 3 staff members to be “Anger Management for Teens” instructors. 


Mid-Shore Pro Bono Inc. - \$1,500.00

Offering pro bono legal services on the Mid-Shore

Mid-Shore Pro Bono, Inc. (MSPB) was established in 2005 to address the need for increased pro bono legal representation in the Mid-Shore Region. MSPB is the first regional pro bono referral agency in Maryland and the sole agency on the Eastern Shore. Through their Legal Services Clinic, MSPB pairs qualifying individuals seeking legal assistance with volunteer attorneys to address their legal questions at no cost to the client. Through their partnership with the Maryland Foreclosure Prevention Pro Bono Project, they have found that more women than men have defaulted on their loans and face foreclosure. To meet the needs of struggling clients, MSPB is requesting continued support and expansion of a bankruptcy clinic, the Debtors Assistance Project (DAP). The clinic is currently held in MSPB's Easton Office. The grant will allow MSPB to continue to bring DAP to residents of the Mid-Shore. 


NDAAIGA, Harriet Tubman Team of Excellence - \$3,000.00

Providing quality educational programs and opportunities for youth in Dorchester County

The North Dorchester African American Independent Growth Alliance (NDAAIGA, pronounced na-DAY-ga) is a non-profit that takes a multi-faceted approach "toward encouraging adults and young people to be positive role models and leaders." Located in Hurlock, NDAAIGA operates the Harriet Tubman Team of Excellence Education Center providing after school enrichment activities for students ages 4-18. The Harriet Tubman Center is a building located near the elementary school where teachers, parents, community volunteers, high school honor students, college students and health agencies assist participants with social and emotional issues and guide them in their academic growth and achievement. The Center provides a strong program of tutoring, mentoring, homework time, computer instruction and supervised recreation to Dorchester County youth. The grant will support NDAAIGA's "Scholarships for Seekers of Excellence" program. 


New Beginnings Youth and Family Services - \$1,500.00

Serving low-income Dorchester County residents

For 10 years, New Beginnings Youth & Family Services has provided support and services to families in the Bay Country Apartments of Dorchester County. New Beginnings provides a variety of engaging programs that focus on academic achievement, college preparation, career exploration, life skills and a healthy lifestyle. Their program, Girls LEED!, will create a supportive and safe environment for young girls, ages 6-11, of the Bay Country Community. Girls will Learn to be positive peer leaders, Explore new interests and healthy lifestyles, Engage in extracurricular activities, and Do a community service project. The program will encourage them to build and maintain strong relationships and provide them with an environment to strengthen their resistance to using drugs and alcohol. The grant will provide funds for the "Girls LEED!" project. 


North Carolina Clergy Association, Inc. - \$1,000.00

Winter Haven Cold Weather Shelter serving the homeless in Caroline County

Winter Haven, a project of the North Carolina Clergy Association, Inc. provides a cold weather shelter for the northern portion of Caroline County at the Wesleyan Camp in Denton. Their mission is to "provide compassionate, energetic life saving community resources and ministry." In 2010 Winter Haven served 37 homeless men, women and children referred to them by the Department of Social Services. Winter Haven works closely with Caroline County Senior Center, Samaritan House, Caroline County Board of Education, the Town of Denton and local Police Departments. The grant will support the salary of the Shelter Operations Manager. 

The Prince Theatre Foundation - \$1,000.00


Providing a variety of cultural and education programs in Kent County

Since 2002, The Prince Theatre Foundation has been dedicated to enhancing and inspiring the Eastern Shore community through arts and entertainment, cultural enrichment and performing arts education for adults and youth. The Foundation works diligently to assure that events at the theatre in Chestertown are appealing and available to everyone in the community regardless of age, race, economic status, or cultural affinity. In the spring of 2011 the Prince Theatre begins "the Mama Griot Project," which will use women's personal stories to create dramatic theatre. Women ages 30-65 from Bethel AME Church (Chestertown) who call themselves "Women at the Well" will work with the Executive Director to dramatize events and experiences from their own lives that may be painful to tell. In the 8-week program, the stage will give these mothers a venue to share and dramatize life lessons with their daughters. The grant will assist in funding scholarships for the "Mama Griot Project." 

Queen Anne's County Christian Assistance - \$1,000.00


Offering shelter and support services to homeless in Queen Anne's County

Queen Anne's County Christian Assistance, Inc. (QACCA) is a non-profit organization that operates Our Haven Shelter, the only emergency, winter shelter open to women, men and children in Queen Anne's County. By partnering with Queen Anne's County Housing Department, QACCA has opened Our Haven Transitional Home, providing longer-term, affordable and safe housing for individuals and families in search of shelter. Clients can stay

in Our Haven Home for up to two years while they receive job coaching, budget counseling, mental health services, and search for long-term housing arrangements. With the help of over 200 volunteers from the local community QACCA is able to provide the homeless with meals, daily necessities and monitor shelter operations. The grant will support the Director of Operations/ Case Manager's coordination of services for shelter guests and volunteers during the 2011/2012 shelter year. 


Queen Anne's County Office of the Sheriff "RESET Program"- \$2,000.00

Providing a drug and alcohol educational program to youth in Queen Anne's County

The Trust Fund for Queen Anne's County Traffic Safety, established under the Queen Anne's County Partnerships for Children and Families, offers the RESET program through the Office of the Sheriff. RESET is an early intervention education program for youth in the upper mid-shore, addressing the use and abuse of alcohol and illegal drugs. It offers the courts an alternative sentencing option or condition of probation saving the youth from having a criminal record. It is also an option for parents who are seeking intervention for their child without an arrest taking place. In a series of 4 sessions, working with its partners in the community, RESET provides early drug and alcohol intervention education for youth who have been referred by Queen Anne's County Teen Court, Department of Social Services, the Health Department or Circuit and District Courts. In these sessions meeting monthly, two hundred and fifty students can be accommodated. The grant will support the Scholarship Trust Fund for the RESET program. 


Sudlersville Even Start Family Literacy Program - \$6,760.00

Empowering women & children through literacy and support

The mission of Sudlersville Even Start Family Literacy Program (SES) is to help "break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy" by empowering parents of children 4-8 years old to be their child's first and most important teacher. Under the direction of the Judy Center Partnership, SES assists families in Queen Anne's County to prepare their children for academic achievement. SES's program, "Empowering Women & Children through Literacy and Support" is a 6-week education program available to 10-15 Hispanic women and their children focusing on how to break the cycle of abuse and violence and become empowered to strive for full dignity and self-determination. The project will prepare the participants to teach their children the tools needed to break the cycle of abuse in their own lives. The grant will assist in funding "Empowering Women & Children through Literacy and Support." 


Talbot Community Connections - \$4,000.00

Working with the issues of safety, security, health, and well-being of Talbot County residents

Talbot Community Connections (TCC) was established to raise and distribute funds to support the unmet needs of Talbot County's vulnerable children and adults. In 2009, Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center, of Talbot Community Connections, initiated the program, *Equine Assisted Mental Health Therapy*, with the assistance of Timbergrove Farm, a local riding school in Caroline County. The program of 10 sessions provides an opportunity for 5-10 young girls who have been victims of child sexual abuse to develop personal self-esteem, responsibility, relationship building and a sense of empowerment by learning to manage and care for horses. With the help of instructors and mental health therapists, *Equine Assisted Mental Health Therapy* offers young girls a chance to rediscover their social skills and control their environment for their own personal safety. The program is an ally for young girls to find healing after their traumatic experiences. The grant will help support the cost of Equine Therapy Intervention for child victims treated by the Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center. 


Talbot Interfaith Shelter - \$1,000.00

Offering shelter and support services to homeless in Talbot County

Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS) is an outreach ministry dedicated to providing a temporary safe haven to single adults and families who lack adequate housing during the winter months. TIS is the only emergency shelter in Talbot County serving families. With the help of local faith communities and over 400 volunteers, the shelter provided 452 bed nights and 1,356 meals for 12 individuals in the 2009-2010 season. They maintain an open door policy that does not place limits on stays for qualified guests. TIS also provides guests with connections to other agencies and helps them find employment, permanent housing, sobriety, and increased emotional stability. The grant will assist in funding the Operations Manager position. 

Verlia Transition House for Women - \$1,000.00

Transitional housing for women and girls post in-patient rehabilitation programs


Founded in 2008 by Joseph Butler, Verlia Transition House for Women is the only post-rehab, transitional living environment in Dorchester County. Verlia House provides housing, continued rehabilitation, recovery and support for women once addicted to drugs and alcohol in Dorchester County. This grant will assist the Verlia Transition House in providing goods to improve the safety and quality of daily life for its residents. 

2010 GRANT RECIPIENTS

18 grants totaling \$38,300.00


The Affordable Housing Coalition of Talbot County - \$1,500.00

Providing affordable housing for the poorest of those seeking housing in historic Easton.

Founded in 2001, the mission of the AHC/TC is “to be the source of information, education and action regarding the need for affordable housing and develop recommendations for specific projects by acting as a catalyst for ideas and funding” in Talbot County. Composed of the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce, Department of Social Services, League of Women Voters, and concerned private citizens, the coalition is an advocacy group that focuses on rental properties and affordable housing for the poorest of those seeking housing. In 2008, the Coalition created a pilot program, the “Joint Opportunities Initiative” (JOI), to develop a neighborhood revitalization program that will showcase repair, rehabilitation and infill strategies that can be replicated in other Easton neighborhoods and other rural towns. This grant will fund the Community Outreach Program to explain JOI benefits directly to the property owners in a 4-block area of East-End Easton (65 homes and 12 vacant lots in Easton’s Historic District) with the goal of adding to the stock of affordable rental and ownership housing. 

CASA of Caroline, Inc. - \$2,000.00

Advocating for every abused and neglected child in the Caroline County court system.

CASA of Caroline, founded in September 2003, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the best interest of children, victims of abuse or neglect, who through no fault of their come to the attention of the Circuit Court of Caroline County. Assigned CASA Volunteer Advocates, the rights of the children in need of assistance (CINAs) are addressed with the children, foster parents, natural parents, teachers, medical professionals, social workers, and others involved in the lives of the children. With the knowledge gained by the Advocates, they submit twice-yearly reports to the court and the judge relies on the assessments to protect the best interests of the children. In 2009, 24 advocates represented 37 children in foster care. This grant will support CASA of Caroline’s yearly pre-service training and other training opportunities for its volunteers, board members, and staff. 


CASA of Queen Anne’s and Kent Counties – \$2,000.00

Advocating for every abused and neglected child in the Queen Anne’s and Kent Counties court system.

Incorporated in 2007, CASA of Queen Anne’s and Kent Counties advocates for abused, neglected, or abandoned children in need of assistance (CINAs) in the counties they serve. The first volunteers were sworn in 2008 in Queen Anne’s County; and, in 2009, encouraged by the courts and community members, a multi-jurisdictional program was created, adding Kent County, one of the last 7 counties in the state without a CASA program, to the service region. The first Kent County CASAs were sworn in by the Kent County Circuit Court in January 2010. Currently, CASA of Queen Anne’s and Kent has 20 sworn-in volunteers and is serving 12 children. This grant will provide operational support for recruitment, training, and supervision of additional Advocates in Kent County.


Character Counts Mid-Shore, Inc. - \$1,000.00

Providing character education to students in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties.

Character Counts Mid-Shore’s mission is to *provide and implement the highest quality character enrichment program to all communities in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties.* The program is based on the Six Pillars of Character – *Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.* Founded in 1997, the program began in 1 elementary school and has grown to 24 area public schools. Programs include “Winners Walk Tall” in elementary schools, “Laws of Life Essay Contest” for public and private middle and high schools, “Parenting with Character”, “Character Counts in the Workplace”, and sports-based “Take 5 and Pursue Victory with Honor.” The grant will provide funding for Winner Walk Tall training for Character Counts’ 200 adult volunteers for a program that will offer techniques to students to reduce stress in their lives, learn self-awareness, and methods for making better choices. 

The Dixon House - \$1,000.00

Providing quality assisted living care to women and men from Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot Counties.

The Dixon House is an independent and assisted living facility located in the historic district of downtown Easton. Founded as the Home for Aged Women 100 years ago, the name was changed to The Dixon House in 1984 to honor the family that originally donated the land and building – and to admit men, although the facility continues to attract mainly women from Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot Counties. Its mission is to provide affordable residential care for senior women and men in a safe, caring home-like environment. Currently in the process of upgrading the facility, from improved nursing stations to security equipment, this grant will assist in paying for the automation of the opening and closing of the old-fashioned front door. This improvement will enhance the residents’ ability to remain independent longer. 


For All Seasons - \$6,000.00

Offering a unique art therapy program to survivors of sexual assault.

For All Seasons provides affordable, accessible mental health services for individuals, families, and groups living on the Mid-Shore. Its services include 24-hour crisis intervention, individual and group therapy, advocacy, and mental health education. For All Seasons has partnered with 2 professional teaching artists to offer a unique 2-day program, "The Many Faces of Victims", to 10 victims of sexual abuse. Working 1-1 with 10 carefully selected local artists in a professionally guided setting; the participants were shepherded through the process of creating pieces of art that depict their individual experience. The collection of pieces will be exhibited at a variety of venues, from For All Seasons' office to the public library as well as appropriate public events on the Eastern Shore.


Horizons at Radcliffe Creek School - \$1,000.00

Providing a 6-week summer program to disadvantaged children in Kent County.

The mission of Horizons at Radcliffe Creek School is "to provide targeted academic support, meaningful enrichment experiences, and character building citizenship skills to disadvantaged children in Kent County." Since 1995, Horizons at Radcliffe Creek School, an affiliate of Horizons National, has provided a 6-week summer learning and enrichment program for low-income children of promise from grades K-4 in the Kent County public schools. In 2009, 60 students (53% girls) participated in the Horizons program. Students receive 2 meals, transportation to and from the site, 2 hours of reading and math instruction in the morning, 3 afternoons of swimming instruction, and 2 afternoons that may include field trips, science and social studies, art, music, and drama group activities. A critical, and required, piece of the program is swimming instruction. This grant will fund the cost of a qualified, certified Water Safety Instructor to provide the students with sequential instruction to provide water safety skills, swimming skills, and improved self-confidence. 


Ladies of Destiny, Kingdom Church & Ministries - \$2,000.00

Providing a supportive setting for women in Dorchester County

For 6 years the Kingdom Church & Ministries, located in Cambridge, has sponsored a successful "Ladies of Destiny" youth program for girls ages 11 – 19 whose mission is to encourage, among other things, healthy lifestyles, positive attitudes, academic achievement, and volunteerism. Twice monthly workshops focus on health, safety, relationships, and other pertinent topics presented by the LOD leaders and local agencies such as the Dorchester County Health Department. The "Enhancing the Lives of Young Ladies" project seeks to prepare 20 at-risk young women for jobs from Dorchester County for employment in retail and hospitality services by providing training in filling employment applications, resume writing, appropriate work attire, and interviewing skills. The grant will support this program, which includes field trip transportation, materials and supplies, and a facilitator stipend. 

Mid-Shore Community Mediation Center - \$3,000.00


Offering mediation services to Mid-Shore residents

Mid-Shore Mediation Community Mediation Center (MSCMC), founded in 2005, provides no-cost mediation and facilitation services to Mid-Shore residents. Mediation is a social technology that benefits both the people in conflict, the people who help resolve the conflict, and the communities where they all live. Led by an impartial trained volunteer, mediation is a way of facilitating communication in a relationship to resolve specific, concrete problems and circumstances between parties by raising the level of understanding between parties on the way to reaching agreement. MSCMC works with over 20 agencies and organizations, including Teen, Family, and District Court, For All Seasons, Caroline Youth Coalition, and Neighborhood Service Center, to generate cross-referrals and provide the most appropriate and comprehensive answers to the needs of clients. MSCMC offers a variety of programs: Parent-Teen Mediation; Teen-Teen Mediation; Family Court Mediation; and, Re-Entry Mediation. This grant will support the Teen-Teen Mediation program, which uses 14 trained teen mediators to address problems referred from Teen Court or Juvenile Services. 

Mid-Shore Pro Bono, Inc. - \$2,000.00


Offering pro bono legal services on the Mid-Shore.

Mid-Shore Pro Bono, Inc. (MSPB), established in 2005, is the first regional pro bono referral agency in the state and the only one on the Eastern Shore. It pairs qualifying low-income individuals seeking legal assistance with volunteer attorneys to address clients' legal questions and/or need for brief advice, information, or referral. In 2008-2009, 268 clients received MSPB services, primarily in the family law/domestic arena. In 2009, they partnered with the Maryland Foreclosure Prevention Pro Bono Project and since that time has found that more women than men have defaulted on their loans and therefore face foreclosure. To meet the needs of these struggling clients, MSPB is initiating a new pilot project in conjunction with The Debtor Assistance Project, which works in Montgomery and Prince George's County with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, MD State Bar Association Consumer Bankruptcy Section, and the Bankruptcy Bar of MD. DAP will offer a day-long clinic one day a month

at MSPB's Easton office to meet with qualified clients to help them avoid unnecessary bankruptcy filings. This grant will support the costs of bringing DAP to the Mid-Shore. 


NDAAIGA, Harriet Tubman Center - \$2,500.00

Providing quality educational programs and opportunities for youth in Dorchester County

The North Dorchester African American Independent Growth Alliance (NDAAIGA, pronounced na-DAY-ga) is a non-profit that takes a multi-faceted approach "toward encouraging adults and young people to be positive role models and leaders." NDAAIGA operates the Harriet Tubman Team of Excellence Education Center, located in Hurlock. The Team of Excellence consists of teachers, school mentors, and community members who volunteer their time and resources to help others acquire the skills to become self-reliant, committed goal seekers and achievers. The Center offers a strong program of tutoring, mentoring, homework time, computer tutoring, and supervised recreation to Dorchester County youth ages 4 – 18. This grant will go to the "Scholarships for Seekers of Excellence" that will provide need-based aid to students who would otherwise be unable to participate in the educational enrichment program. 


Our Haven Shelter/Queen Anne's County Christian Assistance - \$2,500.00

Offering shelter and support services to homeless in Queen Anne's County

Our Haven Shelter, under the auspices of Queen Anne's County Christian Assistance, operates the only emergency winter shelter in Queen Anne's County that is open to men, women, and children. Open from Dec. 1 to mid-April, the shelter provides clients with 3 meals, bedding toiletries, clothing (including interview clothes), as well as payment for medical and mental services. The shelter program has just finished its 5th year and plans to continue the shelter operation and open a transitional housing program. Land has been purchased and plans are in place to build a facility to house the shelter and transitional home programs. The grant will support a Director of Operations/Case Manager for the 2010/2011 shelter year whose responsibilities will include a broad array of services for shelter guests and coordination of private and public assistance. 


Page Turners: Girls Who Read to Achieve - \$1,800.00

Promoting the value of reading as a means to education and leadership to Dorchester County middle-school students

Page Turners (formerly Girl Talk) improves educational outcomes for at-risk, adolescent girls in grades 6 - 8 in Dorchester County through a network of school-based, afterschool book clubs to empower them, through the discussion of literature, to become self-aware leaders in their communities while improving their reading and critical thinking skills. Its curriculum will be thematic, discussion-based exploration of the literature that will allow for the exploration of a variety of disciplines and the themes "Who am I?" (6th grade), "Who are We?" (7th grade), and "What is our Role?" (8th grade). This grant will provide funding for the books for the 3 book clubs at Maces Lane Middle School, Cambridge. 

Partnering for Youth After School Programs - \$3,000.00

Providing after school programs to Queen Anne's County students

Founded in 1995, Partnering for Youth (PFY) After School Programs' goal is to build a safe and more positive after school environment for students, strengthen attachment to school, improve academic success, enhance physical fitness and personal well-being, and heighten family investment in the after school program. Beginning in 1 elementary school site with 70 students, PFY now serves 2,000 students at 13 sites at Queen Anne's County elementary and middle schools. In addition to PFY and the County Board of Education, other agencies are involved in program delivery, among them are Parks and Recreation, Drug & Alcohol Prevention, Sheriff's Department, Health Department, and other community organizations churches, and parents. The program offers 2 13-week sessions per school year and students select academic, recreational, fitness/nutrition, and social competency activities according to their interest. Tutoring for math and reading is provided to students identified by the school staff. All sites allocate time to complete homework. The after school programs are offered for a modest fee. This grant will provide scholarships for economically disadvantaged girls to participate in the PFY programs. 

Phillips Wharf Environmental Center - \$3,000.00


Providing environmental education programs from its Tilghman Island center in Talbot County

Founded in 2005, Phillips Wharf Environmental Center (PWEC) is an environmental/nature/education institution located on Tilghman Island that supports the efforts of Chesapeake Bay restoration through education of sound environmental practices. In 2008, PWEC instituted a successful "Building Environmental Leadership Capacity in Bay Hundred Women" for 6th girls from Tilghman and St. Michaels elementary schools. This year, PWEC has introduced the Fishmobile, a mobile science center that will take the marine species from PWEC along with the educational component of Bay science and stewardship to schools, summer camps, and community groups in the region. This summer, the participants in the Environmental Leadership program will help develop programs for the

Fishmobile. This grant will support both the Leadership and Fishmobile programs, including a stipend for a woman scientist-intern who will put the Fishmobile on the road. 


Queen Anne's County Office of the Sheriff - \$2,000.00

Providing a drug and alcohol educational program to youth in Queen Anne's County

The Trust Fund for Queen Anne's County Traffic Safety, through the Queen Anne's County Partnerships for Children and Families, will support the RESET program to be offered for by the Office of the Sheriff. The mission is to ensure availability of appropriate prevention, intervention, and treatment resources. Very successful in its first year, RESET will again offer a 4-session early drug and alcohol intervention educational program for youths ages 14-21 who have been referred by Queen Anne's County Teen Court, Department of Social Services, Health Department, or Circuit and District Courts. The goal is to reduce drunk driving, illegal substance use, and drug/alcohol-related crime. RESET provides an opportunity for participants to avoid a criminal record and a chance to reset their attitude and behavior. The grant will fund need-based scholarships for the program. 


Re-Building Together – Caroline County, MD - \$1,000.00

Offering free home repair services for low-income residents in Caroline County

Rebuilding Together – Caroline County, incorporated in 2007, is an affiliate of the national Rebuilding Together, the largest volunteer home rehabilitation organization in the country. Its free home repair services, provided by qualified and experienced volunteers, are available to low-income elderly, the disabled, or families with children who own and live in home requiring necessary but unaffordable repairs or improvements. Each applicant is assisted by a qualified volunteer who helps determine if financial need requirements are met and to verify the structural needs of the dwelling. Rebuilding Together – Caroline County also operates a salvage depot to recycle reusable building materials. The grant will provide funding for material costs of wheelchair ramp constructions or other critical dwelling needs. 

St. Michaels Community Center - \$1,000.00

Offering educational and recreational programs to Bay Hundred residents


The St. Michaels Community Center was founded in 1990 by a group of charitable and dedicated individuals from Christmas in St. Michaels and the community. It seeks to fill the unmet needs of the Bay Hundred area population by offering educational and recreational programs for every age group, from babies to senior citizens. The immediate focus is on the youth and teen population in an effort to provide them with opportunities to increase self-esteem, sense of community, and an appreciation for teamwork among peers. Every Wednesday night Kids Time reaches 15 – 20 participants ages 7 – 11 and Teen Night draws over 30 participants, ages 12 – 17. The students make their own dinner, set tables, clean up, and enjoy a group activity. This grant will support the costs of the activity supplies for the Kids Time and Teen Night programs. 

2009 GRANT RECIPIENTS

15 grants totaling \$40,640.00


CASA of Queen Anne's County, Inc. - \$4,500.00

Advocating for every abused and neglected child in the Queen Anne's and Kent Counties court system.


CASA of Queen Anne's, formed in 2007, has trained its first group of volunteer advocates and seen them sworn in as officers of the court who now are working to meet the needs of abused, neglected, and abandoned children who are in the Queen Anne's County court system. With the success and strength of this program, the circuit court judges in Queen Anne's and Kent counties have urged the creation of a multi-jurisdictional program by expanding into Kent County, one of the seven remaining Maryland counties without these valuable services. This grant will provide support to raise public awareness and community support as well as volunteer management in Kent County. 

Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center - \$2,000.00


Providing educational opportunities and creating partnerships to strengthen the health care system in Dorchester County

The mission of the Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is to recruit and retain health care professionals and build healthy communities through educational opportunities and collaborative partnerships. AHEC's Health Careers Program focuses on recruitment of students into the wide variety of health careers needed on the shore. This grant will fund field trips to campuses such as the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to broaden the choices of Eastern Shore students interested in a career in the health care field. 


Easton Recreational Opportunities and Clubs for Kids, Inc. (Easton ROCKS) - \$1,500.00
Providing needed after-school activities in Talbot County

Easton ROCKS After School, Inc. provides Talbot County middle school aged students with special interest programs and physical activities. This grant will support a new program, Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.), developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and United Church of Christ, providing sexual education for students in grades 7-12. The 25-hour program, which will be led by three trained and certified facilitators, is nonsectarian. The goal is to provide facts about anatomy and human development and to help participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. The grant will fund purchase of the curricula, visuals (slides and video), and materials. 


Family Support Center of Queen Anne's (Judy Center) - \$4,000.00
Serving the needs of Queen Anne's County families

Family Support is a child-centered, family-focused program to improve the lives of families with children up to three years of age. Services and resources are offered to enhance adults' parenting skills, life skills, and peer support. Children are placed in the child development program, which includes regular developmental screening tests. The Center plans to offer a drivers education program to assist six "mature mothers" (with access to automobiles) in obtaining their driver's license. This will allow these women to make themselves and their families more self-sufficient. The grant will fund this program, which includes the cost of learner's permits, classes, classroom location certification, childcare, and transportation to and from class. 


Girl Talk: Read to Achieve – 2 grants of \$1,390.00 each
Promoting the value of reading as a means to education and leadership to Dorchester County middle-school students

Girl Talk will improve educational outcomes for at-risk, adolescent girls by creating a network of school-based, after-school book clubs to empower them, through discussion of literature, to become self-aware, active leaders in their communities while increasing their reading achievement and critical thinking skills. The grant will provide funding for Girl Talk clubs for 6th - 8th grade girls at North Dorchester Middle School and Mace's Lane Middle School in Dorchester County. 

Healthy Partners - \$3,000.00
A public – private partnership offering fitness and nutrition education to at-risk teen girls in Talbot County


BodyWatts, a lifestyle studio in Easton, will offer a pilot program, "Girls Reaching for Real Life," in conjunction with a Talbot County non-profit organization. Designed for 20 teenage girls at risk for obesity, the program will meet two hours daily, Monday-Friday, for eight weeks. Half the time will be devoted to group exercise and half to education and support. The goal is to educate, motivate, and encourage the young women to develop a healthy lifestyle. A fitness assessment and workout assignment will be included, along with coaching to address self-esteem issues. The grant will support the cost of materials and stipends for certified trainers, a licensed dietitian, and a nurse practitioner. 

Kingdom Church and Ministries - \$3,000.00
Providing a supportive setting for women in Dorchester County

For five years the Kingdom Church & Ministries, located in Cambridge, has sponsored a successful "Ladies of Destiny" youth program for girls ages 11 - 18 whose mission is to encourage them to be "ladies of excellence." Through monthly workshops on health, safety, relationships, and other pertinent topics, the program has developed integrity and self-respect among its participants. The ministry has discovered that the young women are not fully prepared for jobs available in Dorchester County in retail and hospitality and therefore plans to enrich the program by adding resume writing, understanding application forms, interview skills, and dressing for success. The grant will support costs of the project, including a facilitator's stipend, materials, and field trips to local businesses and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. The program will serve 20 at-risk young women from Dorchester County. 

New Beginnings Youth and Family Services, Inc. - \$3,000.00
Serving low-income Dorchester County residents

New Beginnings Youth and Family Services, Inc. is a non-profit service organization located on the grounds of the Bay Country apartment complex in Cambridge. Bay Country is a model affordable housing development that offers services focused on self-sufficiency skills for its residents, many of whom live there rent-free through federally subsidized housing credits. In 2001 the Bay Country Girl's Program began as an informal group of girls aged 7 to 16 and has since grown in size and scope. New Beginnings is pleased that no female teenager involved in their programs has become a teen mother. This grant will fund a new "Girls Circle," a weekly structured support

program for 25 girls between the ages of 9 and 18 to foster self-esteem and help them maintain authentic connection with peers and adult women in their community. 


Phillips' Wharf Environmental Center - \$5,000.00

Providing environmental education programs from its Tilghman Island center in Talbot County

Founded in 2005, Phillips Wharf Environmental Center (PWEC) is an environmental/nature/education institution located on Tilghman Island that supports the efforts of Chesapeake Bay restoration through education of sound environmental practices. This grant will fund two sessions of a pilot program, "Building Environmental Leadership Capacity in Bay Hundred Adolescent Girls," for 6th grade girls from Tilghman and St. Michaels elementary schools. It will provide environmental stewardship strategies and basic ecology concepts while developing confidence and friendships that will nurture a sense of collegiality and friendship and help the participants' entry into middle school. The grant will fund equipment, supplies, and instructors for the 12-hour 6-session program.


Queen Anne's County Christian Assistance - \$2,500.00

Offering shelter and support services to homeless in Queen Anne's County

Our Haven Shelter, operated by Queen Anne's County Christian Assistance, is an emergency winter shelter from December through mid-April. Services have included three daily meals, bedding, clothing, toiletries, and payment of services (doctor visits, prescription medications, and counseling). The shelter program has just finished its fourth year and plans to continue that operation as well as opening a transitional housing program. This grant will fund an assistant director/case manager for the 2009/10 shelter year whose responsibilities will include a broad array of services for shelter guests and coordination of private and public assistance. 


Queen Anne's County Office of the Sheriff - \$2,400.00

Providing a drug and alcohol educational program to youth in Queen Anne's County

The Trust Fund for Queen Anne's County Traffic Safety, through the Queen Anne's County Partnerships for Children and Families, will support the RESET program to be offered by the Office of the Sheriff. The mission is to ensure availability of appropriate prevention, intervention, and treatment resources. RESET is a 4-session early drug and alcohol intervention educational program for youths ages 14 - 21 who have been referred by Queen Anne's County Teen Court, Department of Social Services, Health Department, or Circuit and District courts. The goal is to reduce drunk driving, illegal substance use, and drug/alcohol-related crime. RESET provides an opportunity for participants to avoid a criminal record and a chance to reset their attitude and behavior. The grant will fund need-based scholarships for the program. 


Rebuilding Together – Caroline County, Md, Inc. - \$3,000.00

Offering free home repair services for low-income residents in Caroline County

Rebuilding Together – Caroline County, incorporated in 2007, is an affiliate of the national Rebuilding Together, the largest volunteer home rehabilitation organization in the country. Its free home repair services are available to low-income elderly, the disabled, or families with children who own and live in homes requiring necessary but unaffordable repairs or improvements. Each applicant is assisted by a qualified volunteer who helps determine if financial need requirements are met and to verify the structural needs of the dwelling. Work is done by volunteers under the direction of a qualified and experienced volunteer "House Captain." Rebuilding Together – Caroline County also operates a salvage depot to recycle reusable building materials. This grant will fund installation of two or more access ramps for needy women homeowners in Caroline County. 


St. Martin's Ministries, Inc. - \$2,000.00

Offering a full array of supportive services to Mid-Shore residents from its location in Caroline County

The mission of St. Martin's Ministries is "to help meet the basic human needs of impoverished people, to respect and affirm their dignity, and to address the root problems that perpetuate the cycle of poverty." Services are offered through St. Martin's Barn, which provides food, financial subsidies, and clothing to those in need, and St. Martin's House, which provides a full array of support services and temporary housing for homeless women and their children. This grant, which is augmented by a 1-1 match from another organization, will support a pilot program called "Women Working for Change." In the past, residents' attendance at skills-based classes offered at local social service and other governmental agencies often conflicted with jobs and appointments. By bringing the classes onsite, "Women Working for a Change" will avoid such conflicts, so that no matter when a resident enters St. Martin's House, the same educational content will be offered as part of a coordinated cycle. Classes include financial management, employment readiness, basic computer skills, parenting skills, and nutrition and wellness education. 

Summer Days Math & Science Camp for Girls - \$1,800.00

Providing an educational summer camp for girls from across the Mid-Shore

Summer Days Math and Science for Girls was founded in 1994 to encourage adolescent girls to pursue these subjects. This grant will fund full scholarships for two Queen Anne's County public school girls to attend camp and will support the Director's need to improve the camp's e-mail and web capabilities through the purchase of an updated cell phone and one year of service. 

2008 GRANT RECIPIENTS

14 grants totaling \$35,554.44


Cambridge Church of Christ - \$2,000.00

Providing a supportive setting for women in Dorchester County

For 10 years, the Cambridge Church of Christ has sponsored a "Tuesday Night Togetherness Class" in which women have worked to develop positive, nurturing relationships with each other and the community. A new program, developed by this group, will teach young about the purpose and value of giving back to the community. Entitled "People United to Bring About Change" (PUTBACK)", the 10-month long program will enroll about 25 young people who with the aid of mentors will volunteer at the Maryland Food Bank, assist the elderly in nursing and retirement homes, and learn basic life skills. They will then teach younger children what they have learned.


Caroline County Human Services Council - \$500.00

Offering a full array of supportive services to Caroline County residents

The mission of the Caroline County Human Services Council, also known as the local management board, is to develop and promote a caring environment that provides efficient and effective services to the residents of the county by working in partnership with public and private individuals, agencies and organizations. This grant will fund the purchase of five child auto safety seats for use by the "Nurturing Parenting Program." The new car seats will provide enhanced safety for children when they and their parent(s) are transported to program-related appointments in the county. 

CASA of Caroline County, Inc. - \$2,500.00

Advocating for every abused and neglected child in the Caroline County court system.

CASA of Caroline is a not-for-profit agency that provides trained advocates for abused, neglected, or abandoned children in Caroline County who have been found to be Children in Need of Assistance (CINAs), put under the authority of the court, and placed in foster care. CASA of Caroline currently provides advocates for over 70% of the Caroline County children placed in foster care. Of the 43 children now in foster care, 95% suffer from developmental limitations and exhibit symptoms of emotional pain, anger, fear, loneliness, or abandonment. This grant provides funds for training advocates in short-term art/play intervention techniques, allowing them to create a neutral environment for accessing information about the CINA's emotional state and for rehabilitation. The grant also provides for art supplies, games, tuition, or admission fees to art, music, or cultural activities. 


CASA of Queen Anne's County, Inc. - \$3,000.00

Advocating for every abused and neglected child in the Queen Anne's County court system.

CASA of Queen Anne's was formed in 2007 and anticipates training its first group of advocates this spring. A grant to CASA of Talbot County in 2006 from the Women & Girls Fund was instrumental in helping this group get started. Like all CASAs, this agency uses trained advocates to provide a voice in court for the most vulnerable members of its community, children who are under the protection of the court due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment. This grant will be used to produce a PowerPoint presentation and the purchase the necessary equipment to recruit volunteers, to solicit donations, and to increase public awareness about the agency's mission.

Character Counts! Queen Anne's County - \$754.44


Providing character education to students in Queen Anne's County

Character Counts!, founded by the Josephson Institute of Ethics, is a nonprofit, nonsectarian coalition of schools, communities and nonprofit organizations working to advance character education. It does this by teaching a curriculum called "The Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship." The Queen Anne's County program works with public school students in grades K- 6 and Grade 9. This grant provides funds for the training of Character Coaches and for materials to use in their classroom presentations. The grant-funded training particularly focuses on behavioral skills coaches can teach students to help them deal with bullies. 

Chesapeake Culinary Center, Inc. - \$3,600.00


Providing culinary arts vocational training for Mid-Shore residents

The Chesapeake Culinary Center is a grass-roots non-profit organization, staffed by hospitality industry professionals that includes a culinary arts program and a public restaurant. The CCC also conducts vocational

training for social services clients and an after-school program for high school students. This grant funds vocational training at the Emerson House Restaurant's summer program, which teaches teenagers all aspects of the restaurant business. Fourteen students will be admitted to the 12-week summer program with priority given to at-risk and latchkey teenagers. In addition to teaching marketable job skills, this program offers students the opportunity to develop personal self-esteem and self-sufficiency, as well as teamwork, time management, and work ethic skills. 


Dorchester County Family YMCA - \$2,500.00

Serving Dorchester County families

The Dorchester County Family YMCA began serving the community in 1986 and now, with close to 3,000 members, has become a gathering place for individuals and families of every socio-economic level. The YMCA works with Head Start, Department of Juvenile Justice, and Department of Social Services, to provide a broad array of services to the community. This grant will provide funds for a Summer Girls Health Education Program. Designed for 10 girls between the ages of 9 and 11, the camp will address childhood obesity through an age-appropriate, multi-pronged approach. Activities will include strength and cardio training, nutrition education, grocery shopping and meal preparation, physical activities, and psycho-educational groups that teach stress and emotion management. Parents and caretakers will also be involved in the program. 


New Beginnings Youth and Family Services, Inc. - \$2,000.00

Serving low-income Dorchester County residents

New Beginnings Youth and Family Services, Inc. is a non-profit service organization located on the grounds of the Bay Country apartment complex in Cambridge. Bay Country is a model affordable housing development which offers services that focus on self-sufficiency skills for its residents, many of whom live there rent-free through federally subsidized housing credits. The Youth Center is a hub for a variety of activities, such as parenting classes, work skills training, nutrition programs, and women's support groups. This grant will fund the "Bay Country Girls' Program," which will serve 10 elementary school and 15 teen-aged girls. Activities will introduce the girls to budgeting, food preparation and nutrition, conflict management, and violence prevention. Other activities include "Girls Night Out," weekly issue discussion sessions, and "Reading Buddies" in which the girls partner with first through third graders for daily reading sessions that promote a love for reading and respect for books as well as helping the little ones work toward their school's reading medals. 


North Dorchester African American Independent Growth Alliance - \$2,000.00

Providing quality educational programs and opportunities for youth in Dorchester County

The North Dorchester African American Independent Growth Alliance (NDAAIGA, pronounced na-DAY-ga) is a non-profit that takes a multi-faceted approach "toward encouraging adults and young people to be positive role models and leaders. NDAAIGA operates the Harriet Tubman Team of Excellence Education Center, located in Hurlock. The Team of Excellence consists of teachers, school mentors, and community members who volunteer their time and resources to help others acquire the skills to become self-reliant, committed goal seekers and achievers. The Center offers tutoring, mentoring, homework time, computer tutoring, and supervised recreation. This grant will support the Summer 2008 Learn Serve and Earn Program. In partnership with local employers, the program arranges summer employment for up to 10 students between the ages of 12 and 15. Provided with the opportunity to learn positive work ethics of promptness, regular attendance, good attitude, and hard work, students are also coached in anger management, business planning, and career opportunities. 

Prince Theatre - \$700.00

Providing a variety of cultural and educational programs out of the Prince Theatre in Chestertown

The Prince Theatre Foundation's mission is "to foster and promote broad public use of the historic Prince Theatre in Chestertown, Maryland for the purpose of cultural and community activities that encourage wide participation in and access to the arts in our area." This grant will provide tuition assistance for the Summer 2008 Playmakers Program, a daily 5-week summer camp that culminates in a large-scale production for the entire community. While the workshops are designed to allow students to strengthen skills in the areas of theatrical performance and storytelling, the activities used also help students improve communication skills, self-esteem, literacy, decision-making skills, and the ability to work both independently and collaboratively. 

Rebuilding Together – Caroline County, Md, Inc. - \$3,000.00


Offering free home repair services for low-income residents in Caroline County

Rebuilding Together – Caroline County, incorporated in 2007, is an affiliate of the national Rebuilding Together, the largest volunteer home rehabilitation organization in the country. The organization works to assure that homeowners, who qualify for assistance, live in warmth, safety, and independence. Its free home repair services are available to low-income elderly, the disabled, or families with children who own and live in homes requiring

necessary, but unaffordable repairs or improvements. Each applicant is assisted by a qualified volunteer who helps determine if financial need requirements are met and to verify the structural needs of the dwelling. Repair work or improvements are done by volunteers under the direction of a qualified and experienced volunteer “House Captain”. Additionally, Rebuilding Together – Caroline County operates a salvage depot to recycle reusable building materials. This grant will fund the installation of access ramps for two elderly women in Caroline County.


St. Martin’s Ministries, Inc. - \$5,000.00

Offering a full array of supportive services to Mid-Shore residents from its location in Caroline County

The mission of St. Martin’s Ministries is “to help meet the basic human needs of impoverished people, to respect and affirm their dignity, and to address the root problems that perpetuate the cycle of poverty”. Services are offered through St. Martin’s Barn, which provides food, financial subsidies, and clothing to those in need, and St. Martin’s House, which provides a full array of support services and temporary housing for homeless women and their children. This grant, which is augmented by a 1-1 match from another organization, will support a pilot program called “Women in Transition.” The program is designed to strengthen the organization’s ability to follow-up on residents after they leave St. Martin’s House, thus improving positive outcomes for the previously homeless women and their children. In addition, a Women in Transition Fund will be created as an ongoing source of funding for these women’s one-time or short-term needs related to their transition from the House to independent living. 


Talbot County Early Head Start at the Talbot County Family Support Center - \$5,000.00

Providing comprehensive services for teen mothers and their infants in Talbot County

Talbot County Early Head Start at the Family Support Center promotes school readiness for young children. This grant provides funds for the “We-Care Childcare Teen Mother and Child Program,” a unique program that provides services specific to the needs of up to 6 teen mothers under the age of 16. The mothers continue their full-time schooling with their peers, developing needed social and educational skills as they mature. During the day, the children are entered in the Talbot County Early Head Start program and receive quality childcare, early childhood educational programs, nutrition, wellness and medical services. Upon returning to the center after school, mothers participate in parenting classes and parent-child literacy activities. 

Visions America Community Development Corporation - \$3,000.00


Serving residents of Dorchester County

Visions America Community Development Corporation (VACDC) is a community-based organization located in Cambridge that primarily serves at-risk members of the minority population. To date, it has served hundreds of Dorchester County families through a wide variety of services targeting the community’s most pressing needs. Programs range from educational services for infants through teens to senior care and in-home aid services. Youth awareness programs cover topics like teen pregnancy, drug awareness and prevention, family planning, and tobacco-use prevention and cessation. Sustainability training is offered to adults in areas like housing, credit repair, and small business development. This grant supports a new program called “Community Outreach for Healthy Lifestyles” which addresses the county’s childhood obesity crisis by encouraging proper nutrition and regular physical activity. Led by qualified education professionals, a registered dietician, and a physical fitness professional, the year-round program will serve at least 55 young people. The program’s goal is to provide the education and skills necessary to create and maintain a sustainable healthy lifestyle for the young people and their families. 

2007 GRANT RECIPIENTS

9 Grants totaling \$32,500.00

Community Alliance for the Performing Arts (C.A.P.A.) - \$2,500.00 *Setting the stage for youth to succeed by fostering the growth and diversity of performing arts on the Eastern Shore*

This grant will aid the organization’s ability to assist Mid-Shore children, ages 6 through 18, by providing need-based scholarships. For 2007, CAPA is expanding its original *SummerFame* program by two weeks with added in-depth sessions and smaller class sizes; also added are two 1-week *SummerFame* programs to be offered at Tilghman Elementary School. In the fall, CAPA will add singing and dancing to its after-school performing arts program. All of these projects provide a nurturing environment within which to reinforce positive attitudes, self-confidence, and newly learned skills. 

Channel Marker, Inc. - \$5,000.00 *Providing prevention and support services to individuals, their families, and the community to maximize the mental health potential of all*

This grant will be directed to the Primary Mental Health Project, designed to provide the earliest possible identification of at-risk children. The Primary Project operates in four Talbot County elementary schools (Easton,

St. Michaels, Cordova, and White Marsh) where all students in Kindergarten through Third Grade are pre-screened to identify the target population. Through therapeutic, nondirective play in a safe, structured setting and under the supervision of a Child Associate trained by Channel Marker, the at-risk students will improve their social skills, academic skills, task orientation, and ability to tolerate frustration. In operation for over 20 years, Channel Marker, Inc. has a strong record of providing mental health care services across Caroline, Talbot, and Dorchester counties.

Easton Day Care Center, Inc. - \$3,000.00 *Providing quality childcare for children in Talbot County*

This grant supports the *Help a Child Grow* initiative by providing tuition assistance to Easton Day Care for families headed by single mothers who have significant need and are working or attending school in order to further their careers and move toward economic sustainability. In operation since 1970, it currently maintains five accredited facilities throughout the county.

Easton Recreational Opportunities and Clubs for Kids, Inc. (Easton ROCKS) - \$5,000.00 *Providing needed after-school activities in Talbot County*

Easton ROCKS after School provides Easton Elementary students in grades 1 through 5 with a fun, safe, and educational place, before and after school, to participate in enriching special interest programs and physical activities. Programs are open to all regardless of their ability to pay the nominal charge. The goal is to improve academics and physical fitness, build school and community spirit, foster friendships, and provide a wide array of programming. With this grant, Easton ROCKS will be able to purchase the curricula for Girls Inc. Operation SMART: Science, Math, and Related Technology. The new "Just for Girls" programming will have math, science, health and social skills, and physical fitness components.

For All Seasons, Inc. - \$3,500.00 *Providing affordable, easily accessible quality care, prevention, support, intervention, and therapeutic services to residents of the Mid-Shore*

This grant will provide for two clinicians to develop and facilitate a pilot Mother-Daughter Connection Program. Twelve mothers and their middle-school age daughters will have the opportunity to increase their healthy communication patterns and develop strategies for the mothers to assist their teenagers in ways the daughters find supportive. For All Seasons, Inc. provides affordable, easily accessible quality care, prevention, support, intervention, and therapeutic services to residents of the Mid-Shore.

Prince Theatre Foundation - \$2,500.00 *Providing a variety of cultural and educational programs out of The Prince Theatre in Chestertown*

This grant will support tuition assistance, staff salary assistance, and educational materials for theatre workshops to be held between June 2007 and May 2008. The workshops at The Prince Theatre are designed to have students strengthen skills in areas of theatrical performance and further develop their self-expression, self-esteem, literacy, decision making skills, and ability to work independently and collaboratively. Storybook Theatre is an after-school program to be run in 2 sessions in fall 2007 and spring 2008. Playmakers Summer Program will offer a daily, 5-week summer camp that culminates in a final, large-scale community production.

St. Martin's Ministries - \$3,000.00 *Offering a full array of supportive services to Mid-Shore residents from its location in central Caroline County*

This grant will provide dental care for the women and children living at Saint Martin's House. The women in residence there are each in the process of making a life change. They are enrolled in educational classes, they seek jobs, and they participate in structured programs in order to learn life skills such as parenting, self-esteem, and personal financial management. They receive regular counseling for the problems that have led them to seek shelter at Saint Martin's House.

Shared Opportunity Service, Inc. (SOS)/Kent Family Center - \$5,000.00 *Serving residents of Kent County*

This grant will support a second year of the successful Girls on the Run of Kent County, which, in the course of training girls ages 8 to 13 for a 3.1 mile run, promotes healthy attitudes including teamwork, self-acceptance, positive body image, conflict resolution, and nutritional awareness. In addition to the 2007-08 school year program, there will be a summer 2007 session. Kent Family Center's mission is "to assist families in becoming healthy, stable, and self-sufficient and to offer them information, guidance, and support."

Visions Learning Center (Visions America Community Development Corporation) - \$3,000.00 *Serving residents of Dorchester County*


This grant provides funds for a pilot program, Learning and Lifestyles. During an 8-week summer program, minority and at-risk students will learn computer skills and increase their reading, writing, and language proficiencies. Life skills include cooking, childcare, and the development of career goals. Visions Learning Center is a community-based organization located in Dorchester County that offers services from senior care to small business development courses. Visions Learning Center's goal for the Learning and Lifestyles program is to foster self-esteem and self-confidence as well as improved academic success.

2006 GRANT RECIPIENTS

9 Grants totaling \$27,800.00


Community Alliance for the Performing Arts (C.A.P.A.) - \$1,500.00

Fostering the growth and diversity of performing arts on the Eastern Shore

This grant was used for need-based scholarships for CAPA's 2006 summer programs, *SummerFame*, *Curtain Call*, and *Curtain Call Junior*, as well as the *Performing Arts Workshops for kids*. These youth programs serve Mid-Shore children ages 5 – 19 and build self-esteem through acting programs set in a nurturing environment. CAPA's mission is "to set the stage for youth to succeed by fostering the growth and diversity of performing arts on the Eastern Shore of Maryland." 


CASA of Talbot County - \$3,000.00

Advocates for every abused and neglected child in the Talbot County court system

This grant was made to support CASA of Talbot's efforts to provide services in Queen Anne's County. In order for the program to begin operation by FY 2008, a needs assessment must be conducted, followed by informational and planning meetings and the creation of a management plan. All of this is being done at the request of and in partnership with The Hon. Thomas G. Ross, County Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Queen Anne's County. 


Channel Marker, Inc. - \$5,000.00

Providing prevention and support services to individuals, their families and the community to maximize the mental health potential of all

A grant for support services for Talbot County elementary school girls is part of the Primary Mental Health Project aimed at learning skills and other school-related competencies. This program screens Talbot County students in grades K-3 to identify children in need of early intervention mental health services. The project sought to serve a total of 65 students in the Talbot County schools during the 2006-07 school year. Channel Markers, Inc. has over 20 years of intensive community experience of providing mental health services. 


Healthy Families Queen Anne's/Talbot through the Queen Anne's County Health Department - \$3,500.00

Serving families with recognized risk factors for child abuse and neglect

This grant was used for The Healthy Families Sustainability Project to fund home visiting staff during the second half of FY 2006. The program provides neurologically based childhood development curriculum to 44 high-risk families in Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties. Healthy Families QA/T serves a target population of residents who are first-time parents, eligible for Maryland's Children's Health Insurance Program, and who have been identified as being at-risk for poor parenting outcomes. Eligible families are offered Healthy Families and voluntarily engage in an intensive, strength-based service that begins during pregnancy and continues until the target child starts school. 

New Beginnings Youth Center - \$5,000.00

Serving low-income Dorchester County residents

This grant supported the People of Courage Program, a 3-month program for people wanting to re-enter the workforce, embark on their own business, or return to school. Based on an individual assessment, each participant's program was geared toward advancing the appropriate skills. The goal of the program is to serve a total of 20 persons in 2 sessions. 


Shared Opportunity Service, Inc. (Kent Family Center) - \$2,500.00

Serving residents of Kent County

This grant funded a 10-week session of *Girls on the Run*® as part of the Kent Family Center's After School Youth Program. The experiential curriculum is a nationwide program geared for girls ages 8-13 which promotes healthy character development skills as the girls train for a 3.1 mile run. Kent Family Center's mission is "to assist families in becoming healthy, stable and self sufficient, and to offer them information, guidance and support."


Summer Days Math & Science Camp for Girls - \$1,800.00

Serving girls from across the Mid-Shore

Our grant was used to fund two new positions for Summer Days for its 2006 summer sessions. At each of the 2 sessions, a Junior Counselor was added to the staff, thus enriching the camp experience by being a valuable role model and mentor for the campers. Summer Days provides an excellent setting for young girls to explore the fields of math and science, to gain self-sufficiency, and to develop life-skills through education in a fun and safe setting. 


Talbot Community Connections, Inc. - \$2,500.00

Working with the issues of safety, security, health and well-being of residents of Talbot County

This grant provided funding for the purchase of a set of anatomically detailed dolls which are being used with victims of child abuse in the forensic interview at the Child Advocacy Center, located in the pediatric wing of Memorial Hospital at Easton. Also, the grant helped to defray the cost of training necessary for proper use of the dolls. Talbot Community Connections, Inc. was formed as a non-profit organization to raise funds to answer unmet needs of the Talbot County Department of Social Services. 

Talbot Mentors, Inc. - \$3,000.00

Bringing together caring adults with Talbot County children who can use a friend


This grant was used to support mentoring services, such as volunteer screening, mentor training, and matching procedures. Currently, there are 65 mentor/mentee matches, of which 40% are girls. The goal was to add 12 new matches during the 2006-2007 school year. Talbot Mentors' mission is "to match children in Talbot County with volunteer mentors in order to support those young people in the challenges and opportunities through friendship, guidance, and education." 

2005 GRANT RECIPIENTS

7 Grants awarded totaling \$25,000.00


Caroline County Mental Health Clinic of the Regional Mid-Shore Mental Health Services - \$5,000.00

Provides mental health services to Caroline County residents

This grant provided funds for a 12-week support group for "at-risk" parents of children from birth to 6 years of age. Through this program, the families learned parenting skills and coping mechanisms, giving them tools to help strengthen their families and improve their quality of life. 


CASA of Caroline - \$3,750.00

Advocates for every abused and neglected child in the Caroline County court system

This grant provided funds to CASA of Caroline (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for volunteer recruitment, pre-service training, and continuing education. Founded in 2002, CASA of Caroline currently has 10 advocates and hopes to recruit an additional 30. These volunteers work to meet the needs of Caroline County's most vulnerable young people who find themselves in the judicial system through no fault of their own. 


CASA of Talbot County - \$1,000.00

Advocates for every abused and neglected child in the Talbot County court system

Because cases have become more complicated by parental addiction and mental health issues, the need for more extensive training has evolved. A grant was made to provide increased training through the purchase of additional training materials and videos. 


Clare House for Women - \$5,000.00 – organization defunct (2007)

A sanctuary for women in need in Dorchester County

The Community of St. Francis Clare House, which is located in Cambridge, opened in 2004 and has served as a sanctuary to over 20 women in need. The organization has provided housing, meals, transportation, medical assistance, and access to community services to area women who are disadvantaged or in transition due to prison release, illness, substance abuse, escape from domestic abuse, or homelessness. This grant was used to help fund the position of Administrative Coordinator for the house, which allowed the organization to serve more women more efficiently. 

Easton Day Care Center, Inc. - \$4,000.00

Provides quality childcare for children in Talbot County

This grant provided tuition assistance for those children attending the day care programs who have the most financial need and whose mothers are working and/or attending school to further their careers. Easton Day Care, through its 5 sites in Talbot County, serves a diverse population of children between the ages of 2 and 12. 

Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence - \$4,000.00

Provides shelter, counseling, and advocacy services to Mid-Shore residents

The Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence, located in Denton, serves as the central access point for assistance on domestic violence within the counties of Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot. In 2003-2004,

MSCFV provided services to 628 individuals. This grant provided funding of the organization's "Client Needs Fund," which makes one-time payments to post-crisis victims of domestic abuse with financial transitional needs.

St. Luke's Nursery School - \$1,250.00

Apre-school for children in the Bay Hundred region of Talbot County


This grant provided scholarship assistance for children from low-income families or who had working single mothers residing in the Bay Hundred area of Talbot County. Located in St. Michaels, and in operation since 1979, the pre-school offers a quality program that helps prepare children for school in a safe and enjoyable atmosphere.

2004 GRANT RECIPIENTS

6 Grants awarded totaling \$19,402.00


Mental Health Association in Talbot County - \$3,000.00

Provides services for Mid-Shore residents

This grant helped to fund a second printing of "My Child's Journal." Written in English and Spanish, the journal is distributed cost-free to every woman across the Mid-Shore during her seventh month of pregnancy. The goal is to prepare women from all socio-economic income levels for their children's birth and to help cement a long-term relationship between parent and child. 


New Beginnings Youth Center - \$5,000.00

Serving low-income Dorchester County residents

New Beginnings Youth Center in Cambridge opened in 2001. It provides mentoring, tutoring and after school programs for at-risk youth and parents who live in the low-income neighborhoods it serves. Statistics kept by the Cambridge Police Department show a significant drop in all categories of crime since the center opened its doors. Our grant was used to fund two programs at the Center. The first program brought young mothers together in an informal setting to learn life and conflict resolution skills, while the second sought to create "a belief by girls that they can achieve," by providing structured summer and after-school programs. The model established at New Beginnings is being used in other communities across the state. 

Pickering Creek Audubon Center - \$2,412.00

An environmental resource serving the Mid-Shore

This grant funded a "Lifeskills" program in conjunction with the Talbot County Family Support Center. The 8-week program provided young mothers of children under 4 with opportunities to develop parenting skills and a healthy lifestyle while learning about their environment. 


St. Michaels Housing Authority - \$6,300.00 (program closed 2007)

Serving residents of the Bay Hundred region of Talbot County

This grant provided scholarship funds in 2004 at TLC Childcare Center in St. Michaels. TLC is the only infant day care provider in the Bay Hundred area of Talbot County. The mission of the childcare program is to help keep parents in the work force while alleviating one of their most pressing concerns – finding safe, stable childcare.


Summer Days Math & Science Camp for Girls - \$1,200.00

Serving girls from across the Mid-Shore

A grant provided scholarship funds and helped to purchase much needed computer equipment for the summer camp program. The computer equipment aided in administration of the camp, was used for the campers' math and science research, and was used to create a slideshow for the end-of-the-session ceremony. 

Talbot County Family Support Center - \$1,490.00

Serving residents of Talbot County


A grant was to be used to fund a program that educated young women about the dangers and difficulties of teen pregnancy and parenting. Called the "Realities of Teen Pregnancy – a program by teens for teens," it was to send a panel of teen mothers into local schools and community organizations to discuss the realities of their lives. **Note:** *Due to a change in State of Maryland funding to the Family Support Center, this program was never undertaken, and the grant money was returned to the Women & Girls Fund.* 

2003 GRANT RECIPIENTS

4 Grants awarded totaling \$12,260.00


CASA of Talbot County - \$5,000.00

Advocates for every abused and neglected child in the Talbot County court system

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) was created in 1990 to advocate for every abused and neglected child who is in the Talbot County court system through no fault of their own. This grant was awarded to fund a training resource center of videos, books, and pamphlets for CASA's many volunteers. The training resources were also made available to the other CASA organizations on the Mid-Shore. 


For All Seasons - \$3,360.00

Serves women and girls throughout the Mid-Shore

This grant provided funding for two professionals to develop and facilitate after school groups for "at-risk" girls. The groups' aim was to maintain connections with peers and adult women in the community, while at the same time increasing self-esteem and self-expression through verbal and creative activities. The groups covered a broad range of topics relating to the many needs of these girls. 

Summer Days Math & Science Camp for Girls - \$900.00

Serving girls from across the Mid-Shore

Summer Days provides an excellent setting for young girls to explore the fields of math and science during its 2-week sessions. This grant helped provide scholarship money and also helped bring a renowned forensic scientist to the camp. The Summer Days Math & Science Camp for Girls was started in 1994 to help introduce girls to math and science and to promote the pursuit of science careers for women. Since careers in the sciences have not typically been valued or nurtured among girls in the United States, this program seeks to fill that gap. 

Talbot County Family Support Center - \$3,000.00

Serving residents of Talbot County

Our grant funded prenatal classes for Spanish-speaking and adolescent mothers, part of the underserved population of our community, instructing them in the importance of pre- and postnatal care. Participants learned the importance of prenatal and newborn infant care in assuring safe births and healthy babies. 