An unprecedented crisis.  
A rapid response.  
A grateful community.

River Counties Community Foundation has accomplished much in its 25 years. But one of its proudest accomplishments was its immediate and flexible response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Within a week of Gov. Ralph Northam’s stay-at-home order in March 2020, the foundation suspended its annual community grants program to focus on helping nonprofits in Lancaster, Middlesex, and Northumberland. These organizations were under intense pressure to provide needed services, as some community members lost jobs, faced concerns about rent and food, worried about childcare, and struggled to find critical personal protective gear.

RCCF created the River Counties COVID-19 Response Fund from its unrestricted monies, largely from its Together. Stronger. fundraising campaign and sought additional resources from its generous donors and the community. RCCF also created a partnership with the Jessie Ball duPont Fund to help nonprofits outside RCCF’s service area.

RCCF worked with the YMCA of the Virginia Peninsulas to open childcare for emergency and essential workers; provided PPE to numerous organizations; helped organizations set up tutoring programs for children learning at home; supported funding for the health needs of the vulnerable; and so much more.

“Almost overnight, the breadth of need became apparent,” said Lincoln Boykin, RCCF Grants Management Officer. “We jumped into action to focus on how to meet that need nimbly and immediately.”
REPORT FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR
AND REGIONAL DIRECTOR

We are pleased to share with you this 2021 Annual Report, in which we take a look back over the past 25 years of River Counties Community Foundation’s (RCCF) service to the community. What a journey it has been! In 1996, few people in our area were familiar with a community foundation, even though the concept originated in 1914 in Cleveland. Today, there are over 700 community foundations in the country.

Thanks in no small measure to the commitment and focus of five founding board members, the organizational support and sound investment strategy provided by the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond, the trust of a few early donors, and the continued generosity of you, our local community members, RCCF has grown from its humble beginnings to become an important part of the philanthropic fabric of our community. The support of the nonprofit sector through grant funding and education is making a difference in the three counties we serve – Lancaster, Middlesex, and Northumberland.

RCCF’s key role is to help leverage the generosity of the local community by being a perpetual source of funding across all sectors of need. These include our primary areas of focus - health and wellness, community vibrancy, educational success, environmental stewardship, and economic prosperity.

RCCF has widened its reach in recent years by working to leverage private charitable support with government funding to bring about change that couldn’t have occurred otherwise. We’ve demonstrated our responsiveness and flexibility in unexpected times of need. As you will read in the following pages, RCCF has helped our neighbors and vital nonprofits weather adversity, be it the result of a devastating fire, a major recession, or a world-wide pandemic.

RCCF’s board is comprised of 15 community members who volunteer their time and talent and who care deeply for those living and working in our communities. We are grateful for the service of retiring board member Dr. David R. “Jerry” Suyes and thank him for his leadership.

The resilience, love of neighbor, and the generosity that defines the communities we serve are what have made RCCF successful over the past 25 years. With assurance, we look ahead to the unknown and unexpected events of the next 25 years that our community will undoubtedly experience Together.Stronger.

Carolyn Norton Schmalenberger
Board Chairman

Margaret M. Nost
Regional Director
Our community has never feared stepping into the unknown. Through visionary nonprofit leadership and awesome philanthropists, we have developed resources that most communities of comparable size do not have. These include Rappahannock General Hospital, family YMCAs, Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury, Boys & Girls Club, Free Health Clinic, Healthy Harvest Food Bank and many others. The leadership of those groups was never deterred when consultants said it could not be done! The same is true for River Counties Community Foundation. We were told that there were not enough local resources to make a meaningful impact. It would be difficult unless we had an employee or a partnership with another group to succeed. We listened to advice, found the funding for a staff position, developed a partnership with Richmond and began to develop our strategies for gathering assets and distributing the income. The growth has been gratifying and the success fulfilling. Twenty-five years later we make a difference, and we are the go-to organization for funding in the community. I can only imagine the impact that the next 25 years will bring to our community!

Phil Booth
The Community Foundation concept, understood and accepted in large cities, was new to the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula 25 years ago. The fact that it was well received after a short time by both the public and charitable entities proves the soundness and popularity of the concept. Not only have charitable institutions benefited, but philanthropists have found it an easy, sound, and safe way to complete their charitable goals annually and well into the future. The solid foundation of the River Counties Community Foundation is cemented by the talented and dedicated leaders and staff.

Tom Gosse
Twenty-five years ago, the concept of a community foundation in rural counties was relatively unknown and generally not believed to be viable. With the support from local family foundations, estates, and annual giving (TogetherStronger), RCCF has achieved a remarkable legacy of impacting community sustainability. Since the initial gift by Roger Williams in 1996 and the three donations the following year of $500 each, the foundation has matured with the help of dedicated staff, passionate board members, and community support.

The flexibility and dedication intrinsic in a community foundation fostered the creation of the very timely COVID-19 Response Fund specifically to meet local community needs. Congratulations to RCCF on its first 25 years and for living its mission, “Connecting people who care with causes that matter.”
Together. Stronger.

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”

– NELSON MANDELA

Gloria S. Wallace
1924-2021

Gloria was a member of the RCCF grants committee for 25 years. She was a natural organizer, mover and shaker, serving as chair of the Lancaster Community Library, founding the “Sundays at Two” lecture series, and supporting the Foundation for Historic Christ Church. Gloria also chaired numerous committees at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.

John H. Hunt II
1947-2021

John always worked tirelessly for the good of the community. His business acumen and board leadership skills were invaluable contributions to RCCF, Foundation for Historic Christ Church, Grace Episcopal Church Trust, Chesapeake Academy, Boys & Girls Club, Steamboat Era Museum, Lancaster Community Library, and numerous social organizations.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to help further our mission.

The mission of River Counties Community Foundation is to inspire local philanthropy by:

• Connecting people who care with causes that matter
• Providing superior stewardship for our donors
• Creating a better quality of life ... forever.
When River Counties Community Foundation (RCCF) was founded 25 years ago, it was able to provide grants to repair wells and buy books for libraries. Today, it is helping to fund a new water system in Middlesex that will take fresh water from Urbanna to Deltaville. RCCF also funded a childcare and reading program for children in Lancaster and Northumberland when schools were closed due to the pandemic.

RCCF started with a $25,000 gift from Roger and Jeanette Williams. Today, its assets total $28 million.

A year after it was formed, in 1996, the foundation gave grants of $500 each to three local nonprofits – Northern Neck-Middlesex Free Health Clinic, Hands Across Middlesex, and Habitat for Humanity.

RCCF’s success has been in part due to its affiliation with the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond (CFR). CFR provided credibility to a new and little understood philanthropic venture in the area. From the outset, RCCF had access to sound policies and procedures, a legal structure, and experienced staff, which enabled RCCF to focus on building charitable assets and supporting the nonprofit community in Lancaster, Middlesex, and Northumberland counties. Today, RCCF is the largest of three CFR affiliates in the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck region.

In its early years of planning for permanent endowments, RCCF’s assets were mostly restricted. RCCF learned that it could not be responsive to unforeseen emergency needs, such as the damage incurred from Hurricane Isabel in 2003. In 2008, when the entire country experienced a severe recession, CFR provided a much-needed matching grant to help RCCF with a “Safety Net Fund” to support those in need.

In 2014, RCCF started an annual fundraising program, Together.Stronger., which has allowed RCCF to help more nonprofits in the area. In its first year, Together.Stronger. raised $14,000. Last year, it raised $87,000. Much of the Together.Stronger. funds made it possible for RCCF to help nonprofits respond to COVID-19. For example, RCCF helped in the funding of childcare at the YMCA for emergency and essential workers. For many parents, it was a “real blessing,” as one mother exclaimed. “Together.Stronger. provides more flexibility for the foundation to respond to crises. It also allows us to be proactive with our funding as the needs of our counties and their nonprofits evolve. Going forward, that will be our focus as we continue to build charitable endowments,” said Margaret Nost, Regional Director.
**Look How Far We’ve Come…**

**Summer 1996** – Convening Committee meets to discuss formation of a community foundation.

**December 1996** – Affiliation Agreement is signed with the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond. Roger and Jeanette Williams donate $25,000 as seed money for the newly formed organization known as River Counties Community Foundation.

**January 1997** – Initial Advisory Board is formed with Thomas A. Gosse serving as Chair.

**August 1997** – The first donor advised fund is established by Dewey H. Stallard from the conversion of his private family foundation.

**November 1998** – The first discretionary grants are distributed to the nonprofit community.

**April 1999** – RCCF receives its first planned gift when Bob and Marty Scheu set up a $1.2 million charitable remainder trust to support local nonprofits upon the termination of the trust.

**September 2000** – The first of many seminars designed to strengthen the local nonprofit sector is held, “How to Implement a Planned Giving Program for Your Charity.”

**Fall 2001** – The first “Catalogue of Philanthropy,” listing nonprofit organizations serving Lancaster, Middlesex, and Northumberland counties, is published and distributed in local newspapers.

**Spring 2002** – The Foundation for a greater Richmond commits to a matching three-year grant to fund a part-time director to support the board and help provide continuity as RCCF grows.

**July 2002** – Margaret Nost is hired as RCCF Director, and an office is established in Irvington.

**May 2003** – A competitive grant program is established. A total of $10,000 is awarded by the newly formed Grants Committee.

**Winter 2004** – RCCF assets reach $1 million.

**Summer 2007** – Cumulative grants to the community reach $1 million.

**April 2009** – The River Counties Safety Net Fund is created in response to the economic recession, providing critical funding to human service agencies over the next 12 months.

**Winter 2009** – RCCF assets reach $5 million.

**January 2014** – A Grants Management Associate is hired to oversee nonprofit funding and education.

**Summer 2014** – Cumulative grants to the community reach $5 million.

The *Martha Henna Harris Fund* significantly increases grant funding in Middlesex County.

**Fall 2014** – The Together.Stronger annual campaign is established to provide unrestricted support from the larger community.

**Winter 2016** – RCCF assets reach $10 million.

**February 2017** – RCCF office moves to Main Street, Kilmarnock, providing accessibility and visibility.

**March 2019** – RCCF office moves to White Stone, providing large meeting and event space and parking.

**March 2020** – The COVID-19 Response Fund is established to provide immediate funding to nonprofits responding to the pandemic. An Administrative Associate is hired.

**Summer 2020** – Cumulative grants to the community reach $10 million, including over $1 million of COVID relief grants.

**Winter 2020** – RCCF assets reach $27 million.

**Fall 2021** – RCCF celebrates 25 years of funding more than $13.5 million in grants while accumulating $28 million in assets and building philanthropy in Lancaster, Middlesex, and Northumberland counties!

Margaret Nost has led the River Counties Community Foundation for nearly 20 years. As Regional Director, she has shepherded this organization from its modest beginning to a position of significant importance in investing in local nonprofits. Her knowledge of our community and steady hand provided extraordinary leadership as we grew as an active and vital local community foundation. Today, she is assisted by Lincoln Boykin, Regional Grants Management Officer, and Ashleigh Elliott, Regional Administrative Associate. We are grateful for their commitment to our mission.
In the nonprofit sector, the word “collaboration” is everywhere, most often spoken by funders who encourage partnerships, teamwork, and shared resources among their grantees. But this conversation can go both ways. Nonprofit leaders and fundraisers often want the very same collaborative efforts from foundations.

Just as organizations face challenges when coming together to collaborate on a shared objective, funders can be challenged in their ability to work together on grantmaking. Each organization has its own mission to which it must adhere. However, by working together, limited charitable dollars can be leveraged for greater impact.

In 2020, under the weight of the pandemic and its havoc on the public sector, it was time for local funders to act big and act together. The closure of schools across the state provided a monumental challenge: caring for young children. Parents, especially essential workers, were now in a position of requiring care for children who normally were in school. To address the immediate need for high quality, reliable, and affordable childcare, River Counties Community Foundation (RCCF) brought together its funding resources in a collaborative effort with those of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund and the Nettie Lokey Wiley and Charles L. Wiley Foundation.

These three foundations were not strangers to one another. Over the past decade they have shared professional resources and provided partnership grantmaking. But the shared interest of youth brought the three individual funders together in the largest way yet, providing $100,000 to support childcare programming at the Northern Neck Family YMCA, the Middlesex Family YMCA, and the Northumberland Family YMCA.

The shared interests and shared commitment to young children were at the center of the collaborative efforts of RCCF, the duPont Fund, and the Wiley Foundation. This partnership proved that challenging times create resiliency, resourcefulness, and work that truly matters.
Educational Pathways Evolve and RCCF Responds

Sarah Mauney, Paraprofessional (left), and Danielle Norris, Director of Compass Academy & Virtual Learning (right), provide guidance during a furniture construction STEAM project and investigative learning session with the Science Museum of Virginia.

When River Counties Community Foundation (RCCF) first started making small grants 25 years ago in the education field, the funding helped purchase books. Today, it provides Wi-Fi hotspots, which were not even envisioned 25 years ago! Through its COVID-19 Response Fund, the foundation has spent more than $600,000 on tools and opportunities to help students learn outside the classroom during the pandemic.

Early in the life of the foundation, the framework of grantmaking was tied directly to the level of funding the foundation was able to distribute. Many donors restricted their funds to certain areas that were of interest to them. Because of that limited capacity, there was a hesitation to partner with municipalities, other public agencies, and the public schools. Part of the rationale was that the tax base could better support what was needed.

This allowed private funding to support nonprofit organizations working in the broad area of education. It was hard for the foundation to make a difference in something as large as public education.

As RCCF’s resources grew, this once limited lens began to widen. There was a shift from reactive to proactive grantmaking, with RCCF involved in conversations with nonprofits early in the development of programs. This made it possible for RCCF and grant seekers to really think big.

While RCCF’s grantmaking did not shift completely, it did begin to include funding for cooperative programs with the public schools, funding to help organizations partner together with their programming, and startup funding for new programs.

Examples of this shift include funding for the startup of the second three-year-old preschool program in Lancaster and the first in Middlesex, and the startup funding for the Compass Academy in Middlesex.

Implemented in 2018, Compass Academy provides an alternative pathway to graduation for Middlesex County students. Focusing on deeper learning and engaged community involvement, students and instructors work together to build innovative transitions to careers, post-secondary training and education, and positive community contributions.

“The impact of RCCF’s grantmaking in education is no longer just addressing a current need, it is changing the trajectory of youth on their path to graduation,” said Regional Grants Management Officer Lincoln Boykin.
**RCCF COMPONENT FUNDS**

**UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**
These funds support unrestricted needs as advised by the RCCF Advisory Board. Unrestricted funds give RCCF the flexibility to address unexpected and unforeseen needs in the community.
- Fuzz and Peggie James Charitable Fund (2007)
- Donald W. and Doris B. Lynch Fund (1999)
- Moran Charitable Fund (2019)
- Fund for River Counties (2014)
- Dewey and Vivian Stallard Charitable Fund (1997)
- Wendell and Gloria Wallace Fund (2008)

**DESIGNATED FUNDS**
Designated Funds specify one or more charitable organizations to receive ongoing support. Should the designated charity cease to operate or change its charitable focus, RCCF will ensure the fund continues to support the donor’s original charitable intent.
- Beverly Forrester Beane Fund (2019)
- Fr. John D. Boddie Memorial Scholarship Fund (2009)
- Church Resource Services Community Fund (2009)
- Catherine B. Chilton Endowment Fund (2000)
- Nettie Mooring Gordon Fund (2009)
- Beverly and John-Michael King Charitable Fund (2008)
- Donald W. and Doris B. Lynch Endowment Fund (2007)
- Pim Montgomery Charitable Fund (2014)
- Pim Montgomery Fund for the Northern Neck Family YMCA (2014)

**RCCF COMPONENT FUNDS**

**River Counties COVID-19 Response Fund (2020)**
Supports immediate needs and long-term recovery efforts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Mary Catherine Rotert Endowment Fund (2017)**
Supports the education of nursing students and medical care for the underserved.

**Don and Suzanne Scheu Fund (2016)**
Supports summer programs at the Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck.

Supports designated charities.

**William and Sally Spotswood Fund (2001)**
Supports designated charities and unrestricted needs in the area served by RCCF.

**Straughan Family Charitable Fund (2002)**
Supports Rice’s Hotel/Hughlett’s Tavern Endowment Fund.

**Weaver Family Charitable Fund (2006)**
Supports designated charities and unrestricted needs in the area served by RCCF.

**Peter G. and Tillie M. Weil Charitable Fund (2011)**
Supports designated charities.

**DONOR ADVISED FUNDS**
Donor Advised Funds allow individuals and families to actively participate in grantmaking. RCCF provides the administrative support. Donors can remain anonymous, if they choose.
- Adler Family Fund (2019)
- Blue Water Fund (2020)
- Brent Family Foundation Fund (2020)
- Daniel E. and Sally Clark Fund (2018)
- Art and Martha Gilbert Fund (2021)
- Hug Family Fund (2012)
- Kiser Family Charitable Fund (2007)
- Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula Equity and Placemaking Fund (2018)
- Nost Family Fund (2020)
- PetCyn Fund (2015)
- Pollard Family Fund (2019)
- Ratcliffe Family Charitable Fund (2006)
- Lloyd and Margie Redlin Fund (2017)
- Suyes Family Endowment Fund (2018)
- Watkins Family Advised Fund (2011)
**BEQUEST FUNDS**

Bequest Funds are established to receive a portion or all of a donor’s estate. The Fund agreement can be easily revised during the donor’s lifetime to reflect changes in charitable priorities without having to change estate documents.

Anonymous (12)
Hank and Seale George Fund (2007)
Jean and Garland Hagen Charitable Fund (2010)
Barbara and Vernon Haynes Scholarship Fund (2019)
Jean and Jack Hogan Foundation Fund (2014)
Hoinkes Charitable Endowment Fund (2011)
Joy and Stuart Kramer Endowment Fund (2017)
Dr. Russell O. and Antoinette M. Lewis Scholarship Fund (2017)
Mama Kat Fund (2017)
Mason Fund (2006)
H. Dickson and Susan T. McKenna Fund (2013)
Page and Rebekah Melton Charitable Fund (2016)
Darlene Krevonick-Pearson Fund (2016)
Mary Catherine Rotert Endowment Fund (2017)
Kathryn and Jeffrey Wainscott Charitable Fund (2020)
Watkins Family Endowment (2011)
Harry W. Wells, Jr Charitable Fund (2007)

**AGENCY FUNDS**

Agency Funds are established by nonprofit organizations as endowments to generate income to support their programs. These funds increase the stability and self-sufficiency of the agency. Should the agency close, the endowment remains with RCCF to support similar needs in the community.

BBoys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck Endowment Fund (2013)
Dream Fields Endowment Fund (2014)
RHHT Endowment Fund II (2010)

The River Counties Community Foundation (RCCF) Legacy Society was created to recognize donors who have made a planned gift or included RCCF in their wills, trusts, or estates. Legacy Society donors may gift a portion or all of their estate to RCCF. Many donors create bequest agreements that outline how the estate gifts are to be administered. If a donor’s charitable priorities change during his or her lifetime, the bequest agreement is easily updated to reflect those changes. However, not all Legacy Society donors create a bequest agreement. They prefer to leave their gift unrestricted to be used by the RCCF Board to make the community a better place for future generations.

Jean and Garland Hagen first approached RCCF about creating a bequest fund in 2010 to support many of the organizations to which their family has connections, including UVA and Virginia Tech. Since then, they have made changes several times to the agreement without having to change their estate documents.

Craig and Mary Charlotte Kelly are annual supporters of RCCF’s Together.Stronger. appeal, and they have named RCCF as one of several charitable beneficiaries of their estate. At the present time, Craig and Mary Charlotte have chosen not to create a bequest fund of their own, with their gift to be used to address the greatest needs at the time it is received.

To learn how to become a Legacy Society member, please contact Margaret Nost, Regional Director, at (804) 436-1600 or mnost@cfrichmond.org.

Jean and Garland Hagen and Craig and Mary Charlotte Kelly enjoying a RAL Art Center exhibit.

**Anonymous (14)**

Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Q. Booth
Mr. and Mrs. William G. Ehlman
Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. George
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A Gosse
Mr. and Mrs. C. Garland Hagen
Mr. and Mrs. R. Page Henley, Jr.
Mr.* and Mrs. Laurance H. Higgins
Mr. and Mrs. Jack L. Hogan
Mr. and Mrs. H. Dieter Hoinkes
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Hood
Mr.* and Mrs. John H. Hunt II
Mr. and Mrs. Leland T. James
Mr. and Mrs. Craig J. Kelly
Mr. Stuart W. Kramer
Mr. and Mrs. Paul W. Lassanske

Dr. Russell O. Lewis
Mr.* and Mrs.* Donald W. Lynch
Mr.* Ross F. Mainor, Jr.
Mr.* and Mrs. H. Dickson McKenna
Mrs. Rebekah P. Melton
Mrs.* Pauline B. Montgomery
Mr. William C. Pearson
Mrs. Mary Catherine Rotert
Mr.* Rodney W. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Wainscott
Mrs.* Gloria S. Wallace
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Watkins, III
Mr.* Peter G. Weil
Mr. Harry W. Wells, Jr.

*Deceased

Together, we do more good.
**RCCF COMPONENT FUNDS (cont’d)**

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION for a greater RICHMOND COMPONENT FUNDS**

These Funds support RCCF’s Competitive Grants Program.

**Martha Henna Harris Endowment Fund**
Supports unrestricted needs with preference for programs creating economic security and independence in the greater Richmond area and Middlesex County.

**Frances R. Parker Fund**
Supports designated charities and organizations that provide emergency services, meet basic human needs, or interpret history and local culture in Middlesex County.

**FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS**

These funds support one or more charitable areas or issues affecting the community, such as arts and culture, education, poverty, and environmental issues. RCCF will identify organizations working in those areas to receive funding.

**Pirkko Lauslahti Graves Charitable Fund (2015)**
To support programs for children from difficult socio-economic conditions in the areas of health and development from prenatal through pre-kindergarten, post-secondary education, and local creative arts.

**Northern Neck Wild Turkey Association (2017)**
To support wildlife management, conservation, environmental education and/or related activities in Lancaster and Northumberland counties.

**River Counties Youth Fund (2008)**
To bolster morality, good citizenship, strength of character, family values, work ethic, entrepreneurship and educational achievement in the under-19 youth of Lancaster and Northumberland counties, especially, but not exclusively, those youth who can be considered “at risk”.

**SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS**

Scholarship Funds support educational expenses for students. RCCF works with the donor to establish guidelines, administers the application process, and makes awards to academic institutions on behalf of the recipients.

In 2021, $37,000 was awarded in scholarships to students in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula.

**Alice Haynie Dameron Scholarship Fund (2004)**
Established by Alice Dameron to support post-secondary scholarships for residents of Northumberland County.

**Don and Myrtle L. Phillips Scholarship Fund (2021)**
Established by Kimberly Phillips Boehm, Don Phillips, Jr., Michael Phillips, and Mark Phillips to honor their parents’ dedication to Northumberland County students by supporting post-secondary educational scholarships for qualifying graduates of Northumberland High School. To be awarded in 2022.

**Casey Neal Rogers Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund (2006)**
Established by the family and friends of Casey Neal Rogers to endow post-secondary scholarships for qualifying residents of Northumberland County.

**Doris Estreet Scholarship Fund (2001)**
Established by Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church’s Community Mission Program to honor Doris Estreet. Provides post-secondary scholarships for graduates of Lancaster High School.

**Maria Laqueur and Jerry Hamm Scholarship Fund (2008)**
Established by Maria Laqueur to support post-secondary educational scholarships for qualifying high school graduates of Lancaster High School.

**Grace Lowery Memorial Scholarship Fund (1999)**
Established by the Northumberland Elementary School Reading Partners to provide need-based scholarships for qualifying seniors at Northumberland High School.

Established by Ross Mainor to support scholarships for qualifying graduate or undergraduate students who are pursuing health-related, education or social services degrees.

**Northumberland Civic Center, Inc. Fund (1999)**
Established with a gift of the remaining assets of the former Northumberland Civic Center, Inc. primarily to support post-secondary educational scholarships for qualifying graduates of Northumberland High School.

**Don and Myrtle L. Phillips Scholarship Fund (2021)**
Established by Kimberly Phillips Boehm, Don Phillips, Jr., Michael Phillips, and Mark Phillips to honor their parents’ dedication to Northumberland County students by supporting post-secondary educational scholarships for qualifying graduates of Northumberland High School. To be awarded in 2022.

**Casey Neal Rogers Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund (2006)**
Established by the family and friends of Casey Neal Rogers to endow post-secondary scholarships for qualifying residents of Northumberland County.

Established by the Rotary Club to support post-secondary educational scholarships for qualifying graduates of Lancaster and Northumberland High Schools.

**Rebecca Smiley Scholarship Fund (2014)**
Established by Rebecca Smiley to support post-secondary scholarships for qualifying graduates of Lancaster and/or Northumberland High Schools.
“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

HELEN KELLER

Together. Stronger. Annual Fund Strengthens the RCCF Mission

One of the ways RCCF allocates funds to community nonprofits is through the annual Community Impact Grants program. Nonprofits are notified of when to submit grant applications, which are then reviewed and evaluated by RCCF’s Grants Committee and approved by the RCCF Advisory Board.

Over the years, even as RCCF’s endowed assets grew, the needs of the community continued to exceed available funding. RCCF decided to react proactively to this situation by implementing an annual fund initiative, known as Together.Stronger.

The RCCF Board realized many residents of our community, while philanthropically inclined, did not know how to go about efficiently supporting the many worthwhile local nonprofits. Together.Stronger, provided an easy and effective avenue for their philanthropy to have a broad impact. More than 600 individual contributions, totaling $530,000, have been received in the first seven years of the Together.Stronger campaign. This funding has been available for supporting the Community Impact Grants program and, importantly, meeting unforeseen emergencies. The COVID pandemic is one the most prominent of these emergencies. Natural disasters are another.

Over the years, RCCF has received many generous gifts to the Together.Stronger initiative. The Board wishes to express its deep gratitude to all those who have contributed to RCCF, helping to strengthen RCCF and the many important nonprofits which serve the varied needs present in our region.

Mabel Owens Brown Driver was a lifelong learner and a woman of varied interests. Raised in Gloucester County, Mabel loved her family, enjoyed studying genealogy, and was an avid collector of anything that caught her eye. She enjoyed traveling with her husband, especially on cruises.

Mabel grew up on a farm and later lived in New Kent County. She had a deep affection for all animals, whether they were dogs, cats, chickens, or squirrels! She was a supporter of the Richmond SPCA, which has named the vestibule of its Humane Center in her memory.

Mabel found great joy in being on the water. The times spent with family at wine, crab and oyster festivals were among her happiest memories.

Mabel passed away in February 2020. Her family has made a very generous donation to River Counties’ Together.Stronger campaign in Mabel’s memory to support unrestricted needs in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. This gift reflects her generosity of spirit and love of community.
COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

In 2021, River Counties Community Foundation awarded $845,080 in its Community Impact Grants program. At the core of grantmaking is a set of goals that envisions a community that offers a path to economic prosperity, an opportunity for young people to experience educational success, a commitment to health and wellness, care for its natural environment, and its strong community vibrancy. Community impact grants are awarded to impactful programs and projects working toward these collective goals.

EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS – Young people achieve in school, engage in their community, and are prepared for the workplace ($328,430).

Children begin school ready to learn and are supported academically and socially throughout their educational experience.

- Great Aspirations Scholarship Program (GRASP)
- Jacob’s Ladder
- Lancaster County Virginia Education Foundation
- Middlesex County Public Library
- Middlesex County Public Schools
- Rappahannock Community College Educational Foundation
- YMCA of the Virginia Peninsulas – Lancaster, Middlesex and Northumberland Counties

Youth become skilled, self-sufficient, and contributing members of the community.

- Boys and Girls Clubs of the Northern Neck
- Lancaster Community Library
- Colonial Seaport Foundation
- Virginia cooperative Extension, Gloucester County 4-H Youth Development

HEALTH AND WELLNESS – Community members are healthy and safe ($277,000).

Residents have access to comprehensive and coordinated preventative services and quality health care.

- Lancaster County Lions Foundation
- Ledwith-Lewis Free Clinic
- Northern Neck – Middlesex Free Health Clinic

Residents are connected to resources that meet their health, nutritional, and safety needs.

- Avalon Center
- Bay Aging
- County of Gloucester
- County of Lancaster Department of Emergency Services
- Gloucester United Emergency Shelter Team
- Hartfield Volunteer Fire Department
- Healthy Harvest Food Bank
- Middlesex Department of Social Services
- Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department
- Northern Neck Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- S.L. Mentoring
- Smith Point Sea Rescue
- The Animal Welfare League of the Northern Neck
- The Bay Center
- The Doorways
- The Haven Shelter & Services
- Town of White Stone
- Upper Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Upper Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department

Alice Cooper, Director of the Lancaster Community Library, reviews plans for the new mobile library, which will enable continuance of Storymobile services, while adding services, such as Wi-Fi, that are necessary for citizens in the 21st century.

The Healthy Harvest Food Bank team prepares for a new 26-foot refrigerated box truck, which will also serve as a mobile freezer. Last year, the food bank delivered 426,793 pounds of fresh local produce to partner agencies across six counties.
COMMUNITY VIBRANCY – Community members have access to and an appreciation for arts and cultural opportunities ($124,900).

Residents are enriched and educated through a diverse offering of arts and cultural activities in their communities and schools.

- Bay School Community Arts Center
- Northern Neck Orchestra
- Rappahannock Art League
- Rappahannock Concert Association
- Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts

The region’s historic, cultural and natural assets are supported to enrich current and future generations.

- Deltaville Maritime Museum & Holly Point Nature Park
- Foundation for Historic Christ Church
- Friends of the Rappahannock
- Friends of Urbanna
- Howland Chapel Futuristic Outreach
- Rice’s Hotel/Hughlett’s Tavern Foundation
- Steamboat Era Museum
- The Fairfield Foundation

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY – The region’s resources are sustainable, and its residents are economically stable and secure ($114,750).

Residents access and maintain safe and affordable housing in thriving, sustainable communities.

- Deltaville Community Association
- Hands Across Middlesex Interfaith Outreach
- Lancaster/Northumberland Habitat for Humanity
- Lancaster/Northumberland Interfaith Service Council

Residents have the financial knowledge, skills, and resources to support themselves and to access career and economic opportunities.

- Linking Hope and Help
- Northumberland Public Library
- The TriWay Trail

Kristen DeGraw, Administrative Director, and Bob LeBoeuf, Museum Director of the Deltaville Maritime Museum & Holly Point Nature Park, inspect the rare marine railway winch used to haul large boats out of the water during the heyday of wooden boat building in the area. The new large machinery pavilion, providing free access to the exhibits, is the first building of a planned major exhibit center.

Jimmie Carter and Steven Reiss, members of the TriWay Trail committee, examine the proposed 9.5-mile, multi-use trail for cyclists and walkers. The TriWay Trail will serve as a key, off-road connection to many businesses, schools, parks, restaurants, and places of interest as it connects the villages of Kilmarnock, White Stone, and Irvington. The center of the trail will be located near the original clubhouse at Hills Quarter.

**JESSIE BALL DUPONT FUND**

Linking Hope and Help - to support The Link’s ongoing emergency financial assistance program for seniors in Lancaster and Northumberland Counties.

Northern Neck Baptist Association - for NNBA’s Advocacy/Tutorial-Empowerment program providing educational support for students and advocacy support for parents in Lancaster and Northumberland counties.

Richmond County Department of Social Services - to support the DSS’s program to assist families living in poverty with severe needs (housing, transportation assistance, etc.) but who do not qualify for any government supports. *

YMCA of the Virginia Peninsulas - for YMCA’s educational support programs in Richmond and Westmoreland counties. *

* denotes grants made outside of RCCF’s service area

**RIVER COUNTIES COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND**

Callao Volunteer Rescue Squad - to support the completion of a food pantry to serve residents of the Callao region of Northumberland County.

County of Lancaster Department of Emergency Services - to support the purchase of gear and materials for use in the ongoing COVID-19 clinics in Lancaster County.

Deltaville Community Association - to support the purchase of PPE, sanitation supplies, and additional staff support to allow the Ricky Taylor Memorial Community Swimming Pool to open for the summer season with COVID safety protocols in place.

Fairfields Baptist Church - to support the Kingdom Kids preschool program request to cover the balance of the cost of structural changes to the building’s classrooms and for one “Airscrubber” unit.

Macedonia Community Development Corporation - to develop a grassroots-opening of tutoring/mentoring sites in Lancaster, Middlesex, and Northumberland Counties for students learning virtually.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northern Neck - to support ongoing childcare and virtual education services for children at four BGCNN sites in Lancaster and Northumberland Counties, and to expand the teen program services in those counties.

Queen Esther Baptist Church - to support a virtual educational support program for children in the community.

YMCA of the Virginia Peninsulas - to support ongoing childcare and virtual education services for children at the Middlesex Family YMCA, the Northern Neck Family YMCA, Northumberland Family YMCA, Camp Kekoka, and to expand these services into other sites in those counties.

Dedicated community leaders John O’Shaughnessy, YMCA of the Virginia Peninsulas – Board Member (center), Volunteer Board of Managers – Chairs: Margie Redlin – Northern Neck (standing), June Newton – Northumberland (left), and Joe Heyman – Middlesex (right), provided invaluable local input to ensure critical childcare and education services were available during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

“We are proud to support the family Ys as they continue to strengthen our communities in the areas of youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility,” said O’Shaughnessy.
Responsive and Impact-Driven Grantmaking

Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in April 2020, River Counties Community Foundation (RCCF) has invested almost $2 million to sustain and expand the nonprofit community’s valued work in our area.

For the second year in a row, RCCF supported the local community with an emergency COVID relief fund, the River Counties COVID-19 Response Fund. Over the past 18 months, this emergency response fund has granted $979,872 to support 40 nonprofits serving the most vulnerable of our friends and neighbors.

RCCF COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND GRANTS

$979,872

April 1, 2020 Through September 30, 2021

In 2021, RCCF’s annual Community Impact Grants program supported nonprofits in Lancaster, Middlesex, and Northumberland, providing important community services and initiatives that address Community Vibrancy, Economic Prosperity, Educational Success, Environmental Stewardship, and Health & Wellness. In total, RCCF distributed $845,080 to 52 local nonprofits through this grant program.

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

$845,080

Through September 30, 2021

RCCF continually strives to balance its long-term goal of building permanent charitable assets with a need to be responsive and flexible to the communities it serves. Maintaining a disciplined investment strategy in the face of changing market conditions requires patience and perseverance. This enables RCCF to support our nonprofit partners, even when facing the most uncertain of times. In the past 25 years, RCCF has funded over $13.5 million in grants, while accumulating $28 million in assets. Though we may not know what tomorrow brings, RCCF will be here to carry out our donors’ legacies and build philanthropic capital for future generations. That’s the power of endowment!
Carolyn Norton Schmalenberger has served on the RCCF Advisory Board for the past eight years and as Board Chair for the past two. Her compassion, leadership, and love of community have been invaluable additions to the Board. She will be greatly missed.

Thank you for your vision and leadership during these extraordinary times.

Past RCCF Advisory Board Chairs

Tom Gosse – 1997-1998
Gloria Wallace* – 2006-2007
John Hunt* – 2001-2002
Richard Steelman* – 2008
Tom Gosse – 2003
Jay Wallin – 2009-2010
Charles Paul* – 2004-2005
Paul Sciacchitano – 2011-2012
Gloria Wallace* – 2006-2007
Ron Mihills – 2013-2014

* Deceased

Susan Pittman – 2015-2016
William Vose – 2017-2018
Mary Kay Rotert – 2019
Carolyn Schmalenberger – 2020-2021

Front: Kathryn Kahler Vose, Mason Brent – Vice Chair, Rev. Dr. Linwood T. Blizzard II; Rev. Dr. Thomas Coye, Carlton Revere, Mary Catherine Rotert, Carolyn Norton Schmalenberger – Chair, Elizabeth B. Hurd

Back: Arthur Gilbert, Brownie Watkins, Kathleen Conroy – Secretary, Wayne H. Jessie, Sr.

Not pictured: Lance Franke – Treasurer, Elizabeth Hardy, David R. Suyes, Jr., DDS

Photographed at

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE NORTHERN NECK
Together, we do more good.