

Foundation Focus

QUARTERLY UPDATE - FALL 2015 - ISSUE 8

Bringing A Dream to Life

Artist Nancy Baur Dillen Creates Scholarship Supporting Brevard Public Schools Art Teachers

As an artist and retired Eastern Florida State College professor of art, Nancy Baur Dillen dreamed of creating opportunities for art teachers to share, develop and grow as artists and as educators in order to influence and inspire the skills, creativity and techniques of a new generation of artists. She and her husband Rick have



Nancy Baur Dillen

brought this dream to life by establishing the **Nancy Baur Dillen Art Teacher Scholarship Fund** at the Community Foundation for Brevard.

Art educators employed by Brevard County Public Schools are invited to apply for the scholarship. Up to four full- or part-time art teachers will be awarded up to \$1,250 to attend a one-week class at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tennessee during the summer of 2016.

“Art teachers open doors to entire new worlds for so many young people and it’s essential for them, as artists and educators, to rekindle their own magic. I found that getting away to focus on my own work, in the company of other artists, was absolutely vital. Rick and I are delighted to share that opportunity with new generations,” said Nancy Baur Dillen.

“We’re so appreciative of the Nancy Baur Dillen Art Teacher Scholarship. The selected applicants who attend Arrowmont will absolutely love the experience and it will ultimately help them be better art teachers,” said Bridget Geiger, K12 visual arts and theatre resource teacher for Brevard Public Schools.

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Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts is a national art education center. The school offers weekend, one- and two-week workshops for the beginner to advanced artists taught by national and international practicing studio artists and university faculty.



Students work and learn in professionally equipped studios on a 14-acre residential campus in Gatlinburg, TN. Workshops and classes are offered in ceramics, fiber, metals/jewelry, painting, drawing, photography, warm glass, woodturning, woodworking, mixed media, books and paper.

"Art is essential to the human experience. Through the Nancy Baur Dillen Scholarship Fund, Nancy and Rick are benefitting our community exponentially, giving us all a gift that will grow and inspire generations of people who will make our world a better place," said Sandi Scannelli, president and CEO of the Community Foundation for Brevard. "We are tremendously grateful and honored to be working with the Dillens."

More information and instructions for applying are at cfbrevard.org/grantees/dillen. The deadline for applications is Monday, January 11, 2016. ■



SPOTLIGHT PHOTO

Foundation's Scannelli, Palm Bay's Mayor William Capote and Jeff Kiel of Florida Today, honored on November 13th as Community Literacy Advocates by Rolling Readers Space Coast.

Finken Legacy Advances Medical Research

In August, the Community Foundation for Brevard awarded **\$82,500** in medical research grants from the **Kenneth R. Finken and Dorothy Hallam Finken Endowment Fund**.

A grant of \$60,000 was awarded to **Florida Institute of Technology** for two significant cause and cure projects - Alzheimer's disease and cancer research. The Alzheimer's research, spearheaded by Dr. Shaohua Xu, associate professor of biological sciences will extend research funded last year by the Community Foundation. The grant for cancer research was awarded to Dr. Eric Guisbert, assistant professor of biological sciences. Dr. Guisbert's focus will be to develop a cell-based assay to identify new anticancer drugs that target HSF1. This is the eighth grant awarded to Florida Tech from the Finken Endowment Fund for medical research.



Dr. Shaohua Xu, Dr. Eric Guisbert, Dr. Anthony J. Catanese, Lisa Davidson and Linda May



Preeclampsia's Eleni Tsigas, grants manager Lisa Davidson, and Community Foundation Board members Rob Naberhaus and Juliana Kreul

Also, for the second year, the Community Foundation awarded Brevard-based **Preeclampsia Foundation** a medical research grant in the amount of \$22,500 to extend their research to study the genetics of preeclampsia and its association with cardiovascular disease, both of which have dramatic impact on the health of women and children.

These grants focusing on cause and cure medical research have the potential to extend the length of life and improve the quality of life for many. They are excellent examples of how philanthropy influences the important work occurring in our community that may lead to far-reaching and significant progress in medical research worldwide. ■

New Scholarships

The Missy and Tony Shannon Memorial Scholarship

A scholarship program has been created by Michael Shannon for Brevard County residents pursuing a degree from the Veterinary Technology program of Eastern Florida State College. Missy and Tony were two homeless cats adopted by Michael and contributed to his strong value for the importance of animal care. The fund was set up in recognition of the growing need for additional, capable veterinary care and support professionals. The number of organizations providing care and rescue is also growing, providing graduates with employment opportunities as well as opportunities to volunteer with local nonprofit organizations caring for animals.



The Culpepper Nursing Scholarship



With thanks to the Space Coast Health Foundation, the Community Foundation now offers the **Culpepper Nursing Scholarship** for Brevard residents. Mary 'Meme' Culpepper Pearson, daughter of Dr. A. L. and Mrs. Amelia Culpepper, shared her family's story that led to the creation of the program.

The Culpepper family has a deep and long history of medical careers, particularly in nursing. It was in loving memory of her husband, Dr. A. L. Culpepper when Amelia Culpepper established the nursing scholarship

program to offer opportunities to deserving students seeking a nursing career.

Dr. Culpepper was a fellow in the American College of Surgeons, taught pathology at a medical school in New Orleans, ran a clinic in Alexandria, LA, and also taught OBGYN to nurses in training there.

Amelia Culpepper's mother and aunt became nurses in New Orleans after their father died, and they stepped forward to support their six-member household. Amelia followed in their footsteps and held roles as a nursery school nurse at Tulane University, a camp nurse, a visiting nurse along the New Orleans waterfront wharfs, and a surgical scrub nurse, where she met Dr. Culpepper. One of the Culpepper daughters became a nurse at Wuesthoff Hospital in Rockledge, FL and a grandson-in-law became a trauma nurse in the Tampa, FL area. ■

The Culpepper family has long valued and admired the nursing profession and through this legacy gift of an endowed scholarship, the values of the Culpepper family live on to encourage students who aspire to this important career.

Call of the Wild – Addressing Animal Welfare in Brevard

Thanks to generous contributors, Brevard continues to become a better community for our pets and wildlife. Brevard is fortunate to have many nonprofit organizations that provide for the care and well-being of animals, both domestic and wild. The Foundation also works to address environmental issues that impact our natural environment and wildlife.

As one of Brevard County's largest funders of animal welfare causes, we hold a responsibility and obligation as our donors' stewards to invest funds wisely in organizations that achieve their mission and vision. We'd like to share a few updates from some of the projects funded:



With a grant from the **James H. and Betty O. Gooch Fund**, the Marine Resource Council's *Discovery in the Palm of Your Hands* is a lagoon-focused learning experience that allows students to explore Lagoon habitats and species using hand-held computers.

The Bond Family Fund, The Cover Family Fund, Fulton's Folly Fund in Memory of Robert M. Fulton and the **Helene Ferris Charitable Fund** of the Community Foundation funded two outdoor fenced dog runs at the **SPCA of Brevard**. These additional dog runs will allow the staff to more efficiently clean the inside cages while the dogs receive more outdoor playtime, exercise, and meet-and-greets with potential adoptive families.



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Once again this year, the foundation's donors supported the **Sea Turtle Conservancy's** annual education program, "Tour de Turtles".



SPCA of North Brevard's adoption center was able to purchase a surgery light, autoclave and anesthesia machine thanks to the **Leah M. Combs Endowment Fund**. The SPCA can now perform most of the spay/neuter surgeries on adoptable pets onsite, which helps to reduce stress in the animals and expedite adoption.

So far this year, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$60,000 in funding to address animal welfare initiatives. The need for these services is great. If you are interested in setting up a fund to help domestic pets or wild animals in Brevard, please contact us. ■

Capacity Building Workshops for Nonprofits

Nonprofit organizations need practical tools to enhance their work, and each year the Community Foundation for Brevard coordinates local and low cost workshops to enable nonprofit leaders to learn from local and national experts in the field. The Community Foundation sponsored two outstanding workshops this past summer:

Since benchmarking success through outcomes and impact continues to be a hot topic for nonprofits and their funders, we brought in **Peter York, CEO and Founder** of Algorhythm. Peter broke down the often-intimidating science of data, analytics, evaluation and impact measurement into understandable, practical, and applicable ideas.

Next, with more organizations chasing scarcer funds, funders are choosing to invest their resources into projects that exhibit higher levels of community collaboration. **Mandy Pearce, CFRE** and owner of Funding for Good shared the fundamental concepts of understanding, developing, and maintaining strategic partnerships that will ensure long-term organizational success.

After the workshop several attendees shared great results and success stories. Thank you to **David Brubaker**, President/CEO of Central Brevard Sharing Center, **Sherryl Worst**, CEO/Founder of Smile Angel Foundation, Inc., and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida – Temple Terrace Branch for sharing your stories. We are always excited to see agencies putting into practice what we bring to our workshops! ■



Engage Your Board in Dynamic Governance and Fundraising January 22 • 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. • Suntree Country Club

Chuck Loring will return to Brevard to share his thoughts on how your Board can develop a culture of philanthropy and the crucial role of board members in development planning and fundraising.

Register: bit.ly/1jRZH9d

O-Mazing Opportunity for the Skate to School Scholarship Fund

A luxurious surfing, golfing, and fishing trip to Fiji is out of reach for most of us, but world champion surfers Kelly Slater and Shane Dorian are making it happen for two lucky people. The two surfing legends teamed with Omaze to give back to the community through a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Brevard County native, Kelly Slater has endorsed the Community Foundation for Brevard's **Skate to School Scholarship Fund** as one of the four charitable beneficiaries of this unreal experience. Robert "Scooter" Newell of Cocoa Beach envisioned and created the **Skate to School Scholarship Fund** to reward top skaters of local skateboard competitions with college education scholarships. He started the fund with the Community Foundation earlier this year.

Omaze is an online social good platform that gives anyone the chance to win once-in-a-lifetime experiences with celebrities, athletes, and the world's greatest thinkers, all to benefit social causes. The lucky winner, who participated not because of the surf but due to her love of the charities, and one guest will take off on this incredible trip on November 28th and will stay in Fiji until December 4th. ■



Theresa Grimison Joins Foundation Team

Theresa Grimison joins the staff of the foundation part-time to assist in its philanthropic services and programs for the growing number of donors and agency endowment partners. After 10 years of visiting family in Brevard County, Theresa and her husband, Matt, had the opportunity to relocate to Brevard.



Theresa Grimison

Theresa shares "I have seen first-hand the positive impact philanthropists and community foundations have on the charitable organizations and communities they support. To be a part of that good and valuable effort, particularly here in Brevard, is an honor."

Her most recent professional experience was with the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC as former senior director of development and operations. Prior positions include vice president of development for First Book, director of the museum services division for the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, and the first employee and deputy director of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, NM. Theresa earned her BA from Fordham University, her MBA at the University of New Mexico and post-graduate studies at Columbia University. She and her husband have two children and live in Indian Harbour Beach. We know you'll join us in a warm welcome to Theresa. ■



Harris Corporation Charitable Fund Grant Award of \$250,000 to Brevard Field of Dreams

Scannelli Honored by the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)



Sandi Scannelli, president/CEO of Community Foundation for Brevard was honored by the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) during the fifth annual Community Heroes Award Night held October 30 at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel, Lake Buena Vista. The ceremony, which is part of MOAA's annual meeting, recognized three individuals from the central Florida region who exemplify service to the wounded military and veterans' populations. Lee Woodruff, *CBS This Morning* contributor and *New York Times* best-selling author, was the master of ceremonies.



Sandi received the Community Hero Award for her work as a co-leader and coordinator of Community Blueprint Brevard, an initiative launched and co-led by the Cape Canaveral Chapter of MOAA (MOAA-CC). Since the beginning of the initiative in 2013, she has organized meetings for veteran-serving organizations to share news, collaborate, and identify the needs of veterans in Brevard County.

"Sandi was nominated because she is the embodiment of caring for our Brevard County veterans," shared Capt. Robert Watts, USN Ret. and President of the MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter. "She saw a need and assumed the responsibility of identifying the issues affecting our veterans and providing solutions. Sandi's efforts have made a positive impact on the lives of our veterans and their families. The MOAA is extremely proud of Sandi and the Community Blueprint team."

One of the team's first identified goals was to help transitioning and other veterans connect with existing resources. To help meet the Blueprint goal, 2-1-1 Brevard, Inc. established a veteran/military web interface for its existing database of community resources and enhanced its listings of services for veterans funded by the **Harris Corporation Charitable Fund** of the Community Foundation. Additionally, with the support of the **Petre Family Fund, Fulton's Folly Fund**, and an anonymous donor – all fund partners of the Community Foundation for Brevard, 2-1-1 Brevard is piloting a Veterans Response Team Specialist. This role will serve as a contact for veterans, active military and their immediate family members who seek a human touch to help them navigate the community and provide warm referrals and follow-up to ensure successful reintegration.

"I am extremely honored to be recognized by MOAA, not only personally, but also because it highlights the role of the Community Foundation and its fund partners as a resource and strategic partner for important issues facing our community," said Scannelli. "Everyone participating in this collaborative initiative cares deeply about our veterans and shares a vision for a rapid, successful re-entry of our military service personnel to civilian life and our community. There is still much to do, but together, I believe we can make an impact."

Community Blueprint Brevard also offers forums for veteran service providers to build relationships and knowledge of services available. To learn more email: TheresaG@cfbrevard.org. ■



SPOTLIGHT PHOTO

Anonymous donor bolsters Bridges Foundation Endowment Fund with \$50,000.

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