

Your quarterly newsletter for

Community Foundation

For Rockbridge, Bath and Alleghany

CFRBA

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Donor Spotlight: *Gabe, Mary & Eliot Balazs Fund*



In 2002, Bryan Balazs set up a fund in memory of his parents Gabe, Mary and Bryan Balazs. The Balazes moved to Lexington in 1966 shortly after Gabe and Mary received their Ph.D. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, and Bryan was but a toddler. Gabe began his career as a professor in the Electrical Engineering Department at the Virginia Military Institute, and soon after became the Director of VMI's Computer Center. Mary's passion was poetry, and she taught English for many years, part-time at VMI and also at Washington and Lee University, Dabney S. Lancaster Community College, and in the middle and high schools in Rockbridge County. Eliot Balazs was born in 1969. He established himself in the 1980s as a general contractor and craftsman in historic restoration and preservation in the area. Gabe and Mary retired in 1999, while Eliot continued to demonstrate his care and commitment to restoration projects in the community. Eliot loved archeology and devoted his free time inspiring others in these endeavors. The Balazs family demonstrated their belief in giving back to the community through supporting education, community service, and volunteer activities. In 2012 Eliot died and in his memory Bryan added his name the family fund. This fund honors and recognizes his parents' and brother's lives, and continuing the family legacy of giving back to the community.

CFRBA Hosts Annual Reception 2013

The Community Foundation for Rockbridge, Bath and Alleghany hosted its annual reception at Kendal of Lexington on November 14th. One hundred thirty two guests were in attendance for the event including foundation donors, grant recipients, local government officials and past/present board members. The attendees enjoyed an evening of good food and wine while exchanging ideas on how to improve the quality of life and help fulfill the many needs in our communities.

In her opening speech Lori Keckler Executive Director, explained, "Tonight we are celebrating philanthropy – your philanthropy individually and our foundation's philanthropy collectively. Through your generosity we are improving the quality of lives of Rockbridge, Bath and Alleghany Counties not only today, but far into the future...forever."

The Community Foundation for Rockbridge, Bath and Alleghany has quickly grown in the past two years. With total assets now at \$3.4 million the Foundation was able to distribute more than \$128,000 to area not for profit organizations during the evening. These funds were in addition to the six scholarships given out earlier this year totaling \$3500. The grants were awarded for projects ranging from poverty and homelessness to education and humanitarian outreach. More needs were met this year with the addition of new funds in the Foundation. Out of thirteen appeals for unrestricted funds Ten were able to be met this year. This is the largest number of grants the Foundation has given out, and yet we all acknowledged that there are still unmet needs which need to be addressed.

Agencies who were present to receive grants that evening included:

The Boys Home of Covington	Brownsburg Community Association	English-Speaking Union	Glasgow/NB Food Pantry
Hillsdale College	Hoofbeats Therapeutic Riding Center	Hulls Angel's	St. Johns Church of Glasgow
Meals on Wheels	Project Horizon	The United Way	R.E. Lee Episcopal Church
Habitat for Humanity	Rockbridge Area Health Center	The Community Table	Town Creek Church
Rockbridge Care- Box Project	Rockbridge Christmas Baskets	RATS	RARA
St. Luke's Episcopal Church Outreach			

As one of thousands of independent community foundations operating across the country, the CFRBA continues to help individuals and organizations establish endowed funds. The Foundation assists donors in carrying out their philanthropic goals by matching their goals to the needs of the community. The Foundation insures that the donor's gifts continue to meet needs in perpetuity by using the earnings from these endowments to give back to the community through grants to not-for-profit organizations.

As Dan Vance, Chairman of the CFRBA Board explained, "We are very pleased that the experience we gained over the last decade is now allowing us to make grants to the community and to be a more effective vehicle for those who wish to set up endowments and improve the quality of life in our service area."

Annual Reception



Lori Keckler announces \$128,000 will be awarded



Robert Glidden speaks to guests about mission and objectives



Donor Carlson Thomas watches his fund checks be awarded



Carol Grisby distributes unrestricted grants



Councilman Michael Turner accepts checks for Glasgow not for profit agencies



Dan Vance shows Dorothy Truman the check being awarded from her fund



Katie Datz is all smiles as the Free Clinic receives one of many grant checks

Learn more about funds and giving at www.cfrba.org

Spotlight

CFRBA is pleased to introduce one of its newest board members.

Josh Elrod was born in Ames, Iowa and moved to Lexington with his family in 1984. He is a graduate of Lexington High School, the College of Wooster, and the University of Virginia School of Law. Josh began practicing law in Lexington in 2000, and now practices as a partner in the firm Mann, Vita & Elrod. His practice focuses on family law, including collaborative practice, criminal defense, and general litigation. Josh has been the President of the local bar, a representative to the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar and served on the Eighth District Ethics Committee from 2005 until 2011, concluding his term as chair of the Committee. Locally, he has been a regular coach for youth athletics, served on the boards of Habitat for Humanity and Yellow Brick Road Early learning center, and the Session of Lexington Presbyterian Church, where he teaches Sunday school. He lives in Lexington with his wife, Fran, and three children, Sierra, John and Adam.



Josh Elrod

A Note from our Executive Director

A downs syndrome girl, experiencing the exhilaration of achievement in earning her first horseshow ribbon, an elderly patient receiving comfort and encouragement through hospice care, an autistic boy energized by a spin on a simple sidewalk scooter; these are just a few of the ways that the Community Foundation is making a difference in the lives of the Rockbridge, Bath, and Alleghany region.

After just two years as an independent foundation, we've already played a significant role in supporting local organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the Rockbridge SPCA.

We've given small donors a way to add their contributions to others (thereby multiplying their impact), and we've given families interested in memorials or estate planning a way to ensure that their gifts have an enduring legacy.

Our board-comprising respected, local civic leaders— gives every donor the confidence that springs from solid stewardship.

Those board members concern for citizens of all ages is matched only by their commitment to transparency and accountability. Please take a moment to see what the Foundation has accomplished and consider how you can join us in our community enrichment efforts.

CFBRA Board of Directors:

Dan Vance- Chair

Robert Glidden- Vice Chair

Sue Whitsitt- Secretary

Woody Sadler- Treasurer

Carol Grigsby

Sallie Sebrell

Josh Elrod

Elizabeth Knapp

George Phillips

Kelly Dean

Russell Tompkins

Funds Administered by CFRBA

Dwight & Olivia Reed Fund
Pleasants Scholarship Fund
English Speaking Union Fund
Louis & Helen Hodges Fund
Lexington Kiwanis Club Fund
St. Lukes Episcopal Outreach
Lexington HS Alumni Fund
Vance Family Fund
Project Horizon Fund
Whitsitt-Massey Fund
Rockbridge Area SPCA Fund
Main Street Lexington Fund

Camp Mt Shenandoah Scholarship
Gabe, Mary & Eliot Balazs Fund
Alta F. FowlerFowler Fund
Lexington City Schools Fund
Rockbridge Area Health Center Fund
Edward F. Turner Memorial Fund
YMCA of Rockbridge Fund
Rockbridge Area Hospice Fund
Warner Family Fund
Nature Camp Scholarship Fund
Marquerite Averett Fund
Boxerwood Education Foundation

Truman Memorial Fund
Eric Charles Bowyer Fund
Carter Goad Memorial Fund
Charles Lauck Scholarship
CFRBA Board Unrestricted
Brownsburg Community Fund
Anne Hamilton Moore Fund
Virginia Horse Center Fund
Carlson & Harriet Thomas Fund
Mayerchak Family Fund
Lexington Sunrise Rotary Club
Woodson & Lorriane Sadler Fund

