

The Monocacy Foundation

2016 Newsletter

Bridging the Gap

For 31 years, family members and caretakers have turned to The Monocacy Foundation for assistance in providing for the needs and wishes of those in the Frederick community with developmental disabilities. Specialized equipment and therapies are expensive and insurance companies continually deny requests. Attending summer camp or being able to go on a vacation is just a dream. This is when The Monocacy Foundation steps in to help bridge the gap. We have helped many gain the freedom of movement, others a dream vacation and for still more, a helpful therapy.

Our trustees, grantees and their families would like to thank all of our donors for their generosity. We would also like to thank the businesses in the Frederick community who provided in-kind donations to our grantees.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of our grantees who were recognized during the annual grant ceremony held on December 1st, 2015. May you be inspired as much as we are as we continue to attempt to meet the needs and wishes of these truly remarkable individuals.

The Trustees of The Monocacy Foundation



Frederick Rock School

Jake Tucker joined a baseball and a basketball team, but his Autism Spectrum Disorder made it difficult for him to fit in, so his mother enrolled him in the Frederick Rock School where he sings and plays the guitar. Being a member of the Frederick Rock School has been the best extra-curricular activity for Jake.



The Doris Remsberg Endowment Fund of The Monocacy Foundation was pleased to help fund summer camp at the Frederick Rock School for him. Shown with Jake is Kathy Rohrer, trustee of The Monocacy Foundation.



Donovan, Mike and Brock from the Paul Davis Company with Jonny

Partnering Together

The Monocacy Foundation partnered with the Paul Davis Company of Gaithersburg, Maryland to build a ramp for Jonny Harris. At one time, Jonny could walk and ride his bike, but as his Duchenne Dystrophy progressed and his muscles lost function, Jonny needed a scooter to get around. Jonny's mom told us they needed a ramp built so he could access his yard. The Paul Davis Company supplied the materials and volunteers to build the ramp. The company also saw a need for a walkway and contacted the Munday Concrete Company and Home Depot to assist in its construction. Now, Jonny has the freedom to take his scooter and independently access the outdoors and play with his friends. Jonny and his mom would like to thank the Paul Davis Company, Munday Concrete and Home Depot for the new ramp and brick pavers walkway.



Mike Hosford, Trustee, and Susie

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Susie MacMullen, a resident of Community Living, loves to attend the free events that abound in Frederick County, but sometimes she likes to attend a special concert or participate in an activity that has a fee. Susie, with help from her staff, recently asked The Monocacy Foundation for assistance in providing funds to enable her to attend some special social and recreational events and the trustees were happy to oblige.

LEARNING TO SWIM

Bonnie Brundick, 4, is an active young girl. The Monocacy Foundation provided funds so Bonnie could take swimming lessons and learn how to swim since the family lives close to a community lake. Swimming also helps to promote gross motor skills for individuals who have a developmental disability.



Bonnie and Kathy Rohrer, Trustee



Jack and Mark

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

Jack and Mark Florimbio are 12 year old twins who love to be active. Both have autism and often struggle when they try to interact with their peers and adults. One activity they really enjoy is bowling as part of a league at the Walkersville Bowling Center. As members of the bowling league, they are learning to work together as a team, as well as picking up social skills and bowling prowess they can use for the rest of their lives. The Monocacy Foundation was pleased to be able to pay for Jack and Mark to join a league at the Walkersville Bowling Center.

Loving Our Animals

Matthew Lewis, pictured below, lives with his two cats, Pumpkin and Autumn in his own townhouse purchased with assistance from the Frederick County Housing Authority. The first thing he did when he moved into his townhouse was get his cats. They are his “babies” and he makes sure they are well cared for. He carefully watches all of his purchases, but anyone who owns any pet will tell you, they can be costly. Matt would sacrifice getting something he needed in order to help his cats. The Monocacy Foundation was able to assist Matt by giving him certificates to several pet stores and to Walmart, which carries a selection of pet supplies.



John Baker and “Baby”

John, with some help, wrote to us saying “My cat’s name is Baby. I have had her for 5 years. She is like my daughter. I really want her to be healthy and to live a long time. I am not sure how I can help her if I can’t afford her vet care.” The trustees were able to work with Old Farm Veterinary Hospital to give Baby several free exams plus the cost of some of her medications. We trust Baby will live a happy and healthy life with John.



Dr. Jeff Wilson, John and Dr. D.J. Hiltner



Helping the Frederick County Special Olympics Softball Team



Doug Shepard is the volunteer coach of the Frederick County Special Olympics Softball team. This summer marked its 7th year of competition. Ten dedicated players plus a few others make up the team. While they have been winning games, many have struggled with their batting skills. The Monocacy Foundation bought a softball pitching machine for the team so they could practice their batting skills.



Larry Johns-Assistant Coach, Mike Sherwin, Jesse Frase, Brian Saal, Matt Lewis, Dustin Sclater, Trustee; Phil Shepard, Bobby Vandyk, John Rodger, Stanley Frederick and Doug Shepard-Coach

MUSIC THERAPY

Music therapy can help improve gross and fine motor skills, range of motion, memory recall, and social integration, as well as learning how to follow directions and communication skills. It can also help with expressing emotions, and increasing speech output, and can decrease anxiety. Plus *it's fun!*



Alison has been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and when her parents enrolled her in a music therapy class, they saw immediate improvement in her speech output. The Monocacy Foundation was happy to assist the family and fund additional music lessons for Alison.

Community Living's Vocational Program also asked the Foundation to fund music therapy for a group of its members. While the Vocational program's main goal is to find employment for its participants; poor social skills and behavioral problems need to be addressed before seeking employment. Music therapy has shown to be an effective way of helping with social skills and behavioral problems.



Eva Poole, Staff member with
Caleb Lowery



George Chaney, Trustee with Allison and
Allison's mom



Steve Lambert

HOME SAFETY

Timothy Smith lives with his mom in Thurmont. He loves to take out the trash and recycling and also likes getting the mail, but has fallen several times. Timothy's developmental disability hasn't kept him from doing what he likes to do as much as his arthritis has kept him from his favorite activities. His mother asked The Monocacy Foundation for funds to install much needed railing at their front door and from the garage to the house. The railings won't take away his arthritis pain, but they have made it easier for Timothy to navigate the stairs and prevent falls.



Kathy Rohrer and Timothy

Tommy Dorsey's Legacy



In 2006, Tommy Dorsey established the Doris Remsberg Endowment Fund, a sub-fund of The Monocacy Foundation to honor his sister, Doris Remsberg. At one time, in Frederick County, kids with developmental disabilities weren't allowed to attend school and Doris fought this rule. Due to her efforts, Harmony Grove school began and Doris was the first principal. When Rock Creek School opened in the early 70's, Doris became its first principal. Tommy was very proud of his sister and understood her dedication to all of her "kids" who passed through the doors of Harmony Grove and Rock Creek.

Tommy died in March 2015 and made provisions for the Doris Remsberg Endowment Fund of The Monocacy Foundation in his will. This substantial gift will make a huge impact on The Monocacy Foundation's ability to provide assistance to those in our community who have developmental disabilities.

Thank You

The Religious Committee at Buckingham's Choice in Adamstown, donates to a local charity twice a year. The committee recently chose The Monocacy Foundation to be the recipient of its funds. The Foundation is proud to have been selected by the Religious Committee to receive this generous donation.



Mary Curtis, chairwoman of the Religious Life Committee; Marty Young, Development Director of The Monocacy Foundation, and Winnie Hiltner, a member of the Religious Life Committee and donor to The Monocacy Foundation



New Supporters

The Frederick Chapter of the KKI Sorority, a national sorority for educators, supports local community agencies and last fall they voted to support The Monocacy Foundation.

When the sorority learned the Foundation often purchased dog and cat supplies for some of the grantees, they provided the Foundation with gift certificates for various stores in the area that sell pet supplies, as well as a check for the Foundation.

Marty Young with Stacey Hiltner, president of the local chapter of KKI



Announcing A New Fund



The Board of Trustees of The Monocacy Foundation is pleased to announce a new sub-fund for the Foundation. The **Tess Marie Heavner Enrichment Fund** was established by Carol Norris, the guardian of the person and property of Tess Marie Heavner, as a way to honor Tess and to thank Community Living for all of the loving care given to her by the direct support staff. Tess has been a resident of Community Living since 2005 and also attends their Retirement Our Way (ROW) program.

The Paul Luther Stine Family Memorial Fund

Jean Stine has a warm and giving heart, especially for those individuals who have developmental disabilities. Her brother, Paul, had a developmental disability and, to honor him and her family, Jean has made a commitment to the Frederick Community to help others who have a disability. This year's Paul Stine Fund grants went to Elaine Rippeon and Jeb Bartgis. Jeb works as a handyman on his neighbor's farm and also attends Community Living's vocational program. Elaine receives support services through Community Living. Both Jeb and Elaine will be attending Special Challenge Camp at Claggett in Adamstown, Maryland. They love the swimming and crafts, but especially look forward to the dance which is held on the last evening.



Mike Hosford, Trustee and Jeb Bartgis



Michael Planz, CEO of Community Living with Elaine Rippeon

The Lindsay West Direct Support Educational Fund

Established in 2013 by Lindsay's parents, the fund provides scholarships to Community Living direct support staff to further their education. Lindsay lived with Community Living for many years and starting this Fund was a way for her parents to thank the direct support staff at Community Living who helped take care of their daughter. Kojo Amoako, recipient of this year's Lindsay West Memorial Direct Support Education Fund, attends FCC with plans of becoming an LPN. He also continues to work full-time at Community Living.





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Marty Young
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The Feldman Group,
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Thank You

The Monocacy Foundation firmly believes that people with developmental disabilities have the right to a life enriched with social and recreational opportunities, preferences for where and with whom they live, and dignity in dying.

For more information, contact:

Ms. Marty Young
Development Director
620-B Research Court
Frederick MD 21703

marty@communitylivinginc.org

Visit our website at:

www.communitylivinginc.org/Monocacy



Our Funds

6 WAYS TO GIVE

The Monocacy Foundation has several sub-funds and we encouraged you to donate to the specific fund(s) of your choice.

- *Community Living Fund* (Provides support to Community Living residents and programs)
- *Community Fund* (Provides support to Frederick County citizens with developmental disabilities)
- *Lindsay West Direct Support Education Scholarship Fund* (provides financial support to Direct Support staff at CLI)
- *The Doris Remsberg Endowment Fund* (Established by Tommy Dorsey in honor & memory of his sister, Doris Remsberg. Provides support to Frederick County citizens with developmental disabilities)
- *The Paul L. Stine Family Memorial Fund* (Funded by Jean Stine to provide for Community Living residents who are either without family or the family is unable to help them financially)
- *The Tess Heavner Enrichment Fund* (provides support to Community Living residents and programs)

The Monocacy Foundation Board of Trustees

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