

Four Funds Make Spring Competitive Grants Possible

Established in 2005, the Hampshire County Community Foundation has slowly been building its endowed assets to help sustain grantmaking support for local charitable causes. For the past few years, several of the Foundation's funds have been able to award grants based on the earnings alone from their endowed assets. This spring, distributions from four funds provided \$3,594 for competitive grantmaking.

We'd like to share a bit of history about these funds.

William Brady and Jean Taylor Rannells Fund



In 2006, Trudy Rannells Seita, a native of Hampshire County now residing in Vienna, WV, established the William Brady and Jean Taylor Rannells Fund in honor of her parents. "I liked the idea of creating a permanent endowment fund that is a lasting legacy to them," she said when setting up the fund.

William Brady Rannells was born in Three Churches, WV. His early education took place in a one-room school. To attend high school, he had to board with a family in Romney during the week and returned home on weekends. He was a graduate of Romney High School, Class of 1926, and from West Virginia University in 1931 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He married Jean Taylor in 1937. An early aviator, he was Cumberland's only licensed commercial pilot in the late 1930s and taught flying at the Mexico Farms Airport. He served in the South Pacific during World War II in the Army Air Force, retiring as Lt. Colonel.

Following the war, his professional career was centered in Romney as a businessman in real estate and insurance, and as Assistant District Engineer and District Engineer for the WV Department of Highways, and an engineering consultant for Allegheny Ballistics Laboratories.

Jean Taylor Rannells (1909-2004) was born near Three Churches, WV. Her early education took place in a one-room school, then she boarded "in town" for a year of high school. Accepted into the Western Maryland Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Cumberland, MD, she graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1931.

She served as a nurse for the Kelly-Springfield Tire Company, Cumberland Memorial Hospital, Hampshire Memorial Hospital and assisted in the

Hampshire County Health Department. She was a long-time member of the Romney United Methodist, the Order of Eastern Star, Daughters of the Nile and an active fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, Heart Association, and March of Dimes. She taught Sunday School and was a troop leader for Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and 4-H.

Distributions from the William Brady and Jean Taylor Rannells Fund, a field of interest fund, benefit youth and health programs in Hampshire County.

J. Holland & Anita Rannells and Gorda and Mona Saville fund



Gloria Rannells Saville described her parents and her husband's parents as being generous and civic-minded, teaching by example the importance of giving back. She established the J. Holland & Anita Rannells and Gorda and Mona Saville fund as a special tribute to them.

Saville's parents were both from Hampshire County. Her father, an entrepreneur, helped bring cable television to the region when cable was first introduced. Saville recalls, "Dad went to a car show in Oakland one day and there happened to also be a show about cable TV." According to Saville, her father bought a TV and spent hours up on the roof trying to find a signal. "The roof was ruined, but he found a signal," said Saville. Soon thereafter, the Potomac Valley Television Company was formed, claiming to be the largest cable system in the U.S. in 1957. The Rannells were quick to share their success with their community. They provided land for the high school and football field (Rannell's Field) and purchased the first lights for the stadium. The building that houses the Hampshire County Public Library was also made possible, in part, because of the generosity of the Rannells.

Gorda and Mona Saville, also from Hampshire County, had a grocery store on Main Street. Gorda taught school in a one-room schoolhouse and was a member of the volunteer fire company. "He could always be counted on to help with fire company fundraisers," said Saville. Both

Gorda and Mona also devoted much of their time caring for Mona's mother. "They were just good citizens," said Saville.

Distributions from this Field of Interest fund benefit hunger relief programs and have provided small grants to area food pantries and school back-pack programs.

Hampshire County Volunteer Emergency Medical Services Fund

In 2008, the Community Foundation was awarded a challenge grant from WV Grantmakers, our state's association of grantmakers, now known as Philanthropy WV. The challenge was to create a new field of interest fund, and for every dollar raised for the new fund, the challenge grant would match up to \$5,555.

The board discussed several fields of interest (youth, education, health), but landed on volunteer emergency services after hearing two board members share their experiences with local EMS squads, one from a patient perspective and one from a volunteer EMT perspective.

EMS squads are frequently the unsung heroes in emergency situations. They are called. They appear. They do their jobs and they're gone. The core of their work is quickness. They are first responders who assess, stabilize, and transport. The financial resources necessary to provide these services are daunting. It costs well over \$100,000 to purchase a single ambulance, not to mention the thousands of dollars of equipment onboard and the day-to-day operational expenses. Recruiting and retaining volunteers is another issue. Volunteers are required to have hundreds of hours of training, which contributes to the out-of-pocket expenses for the volunteer.



By suggesting this fund, the board wanted to draw attention to the EMS squads and provide another means of promoting what they do and attracting financial support through an everlasting fund they will keep on giving.

The challenge was not only met, but exceeded, with the help of local physicians and most of the EMS squads, themselves.

Since it was established, the fund has distributed nearly \$7,000 to county volunteer EMS squads, returning their initial investment and now supporting squad activities through a competitive grant application process.

Hampshire County Community Impact Fund

Donors are the driving force behind any community foundation's grantmaking. It is their charitable vision we strive to fulfill. Their interests determine how we direct our funding. It is a pleasure and an honor to work with donors to realize their charitable goals. Yet unrestricted funds are vital to a strong vibrant community foundation.

Unrestricted Funds give us (or any charity, for that matter), the ability to be more responsive, more agile, more independent, and more forward-thinking.

Unrestricted funds give us the freedom to address a broad range of local needs, including future needs that none of us can anticipate. As a community foundation, we strive to evaluate all aspects of community well-being: arts and culture, economic development, education, environment, health and human services, neighborhood revitalization, and more. The flexibility of an unrestricted fund (and unrestricted gifts), enables us to respond to our community's most pressing needs, today and tomorrow.

The Hampshire County Community Impact Fund, established by our charter board of directors, is currently our only unrestricted fund. To date this fund has provided over \$10,000 in grants to support a wide range of charitable programs in Hampshire County.

Other Community Foundation Funds

Agency

Rotary Club of Romney Endowment Fund

Donor Advised

Erin Michele Pancake Memorial Fund * El Dorado Fund

Designated

Hampshire County Energy Express Fund * Hoy Shingleton, Sr. Youth Fund

OK Hampshire County Warm the Children Fund * Slanesville Presbyterian

Angel Fund

Field of Interest

Hampshire County Education Fund

Scholarships

Rae Ellen Scanlon McKee Scholarship * Wilda Michael Memorial Scholarship

R. L. Johnson, Jr. Scholarship

Jerry Shingleton Scholarship * Bill and Fran Wylie Scholarship

Learn More

Want to know more about the Community Foundation?

Visit our website - www.hampshireccf.org You'll find lots of information about the Hampshire County Community Foundation, as well as our lead foundation, the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation, and our sister affiliate in Hardy County.

Ask to be added to our email list to receive announcements about grants and other HCCF programs and events.

Follow us on Facebook - Search for "Hampshire County Community Foundation".

Invite us to a Meeting - We would love the opportunity to talk to your board or general membership about our work in the community. Call or email Amy at 304-822-7200 or apancake@ewvcf.org.