

Chester County
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Jordan Award for Lifelong Philanthropy
significant, comprehensive philanthropic achievements

Eva L. Verplanck, Ph.D. of Kennett Square



The Jordan Award is bestowed annually to an individual who has made an enduring, long-term impact on a wide array of causes throughout Chester County; and through their leadership has given of their own time and resources, as well as inspired others to give for the long run.

This year's Jordan Award winner is Eva L. Verplanck, Ph.D. of Kennett Square. Verplanck's commitment to community improvement has deep roots. Verplanck earned her Ph.D. in Chemistry from Yale in 1947, and then obtained a position at the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences focusing on the organic chemistry of natural products.

As Verplanck 'settled down' in the Kennett area to raise her family, she increased her community volunteerism and philanthropy. Due to her detailed, professional nature, Verplanck became an extremely studious, serious volunteer. She studied nonprofit fundraising, management, and governance in great depth, and she became an astute observer of human nature, team interaction, and group decision-making. Early on she realized the dire need for volunteers to become involved in fundraising, and she became a fundraising advocate and role model.

Verplanck has served in leadership positions and inspired others to give financial support to a wide array of causes. Verplanck has repeatedly been re-invited to serve on Boards throughout the decades, including the United Way of Southern Chester County; Neighborhood Health Agencies; Chester Council of Home Health Agencies; YWCA New Castle County; YWCA of the USA; YWCA of the USA World Service Council; Planned Parenthood of Chester County; Red Clay Valley Association; Kennett Area Park Authority; Quintin E. Primo Lecture Series; and Christ Church. Verplanck is an emeritus Board member of the Chester County Community Foundation. Clearly, Chester County has benefited for decades from Verplanck's knowledge and capable leadership.