

philanthropy awards

The Chester County Community Foundation established “Let Your Legacy Make A Difference Awards” to highlight philanthropic good works and inspire more throughout Chester County. Philanthropy is defined as “active efforts to promote human welfare as manifested in donations of money, property, or work to needy persons or to socially useful purposes.” Legacy philanthropists give of their own time and resources, as well as inspire others to give for the long run.

DR. HENRY A. AND BARBARA M. JORDAN AWARD: Eva L. Verplanck, Ph.D.



The Community Foundation created the Jordan Award in 1999 to honor the philanthropy of Dr. Henry A. and Barbara M. Jordan of Chester Springs. 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.

The 2007 Jordan Award winner is Eva L. Verplanck, Ph.D. of Kennett Square. Eva's commitment to community improvement has deep roots. Eva earned her Ph.D. in organic Chemistry from Yale in 1947, and then obtained positions at Yale the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.

As Eva ‘settled down’ in the Kennett area to raise her family, she increased her community volunteerism and philanthropy. Due to her detailed, professional nature, Eva became an extremely 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.

Eva has served in leadership positions and inspired others to give their time and financial support to a wide array of causes. Eva has served on many boards throughout the decades, including the United Ways of Southern Chester County and of Delaware;

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 Christiana Hundred.

In 2000, during her first year of service on the Community Foundation Board, Eva was asked to chair the Development Committee. Her expertise in nonprofit management, governance, and fundraising became quickly apparent, and after her first year of service, she was elected Chair of the Board for a two-year term from 2002-2004. During her tenure as Chair, Eva led with a clear and focused vision. She tenaciously kept the Community Foundation focused on its long-term legacy building mission and increased the number of people who are involved with the Community Foundation. After serving as Chair, she continued to serve on the Board to finish out a six-year term. Eva has been key in cultivating major donors, serving as a stellar ambassador for the Foundation. In recognition of her outstanding service, she was named an Emeritus Board Member in 2006. As an Emeritus Board Member, Eva's main objective has been to spread the philanthropy story and to tout the Foundation's role in Chester County.

Clearly, Chester County has benefited from Eva Verplanck's knowledge, energy, attention to detail, and capable leadership.

JORDAN AWARD HONOREES

2000	Elizabeth Moran of Paoli
2001	Gordon B. Hattersley, Jr. of Berwyn
2002	Aaron Martin of Kennett Square
2003	Charles L. “Skip” Huston, III of Chester Springs
2004	Penelope “Penny” Wilson of Malvern
2005	David M. Frees, Jr. of Phoenixville
2006	Moiria & Kenneth Mumma of Chester Springs
2007	Eva L. Verplanck, Ph.D. of Kennett Square

The Community Foundation accepts nominations for Legacy Awards throughout the year. Decisions are made each summer.

To receive a nomination form, contact the Community Foundation at (610) 696-8211 or www.chescocf.org.