



FUND HIGHLIGHTS

*The Community Foundation welcomes 31 new funds this year.
Although we are proud of all of our funds, space permits only a few to be highlighted.*

MARJORIE L. & ARTHUR P. MILLER, JR. **FUND - established 1995**

The Millers established a Fund at the Community Foundation to award in perpetuity an annual grant which encourages communities and non-profits to preserve and protect natural resources such as streams, woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife areas.

The focus of the Miller Fund is to provide nonprofits with the resources to complete a project that is specific, tangible in nature, and that provides a measurable sense of accomplishment. The Millers believe that seeing a project come to fruition substantiates an organization, its members and its volunteers, validates their hard work, and provides evidence of tangible success.

Each year, the Miller Fund awards one challenge grant to a local nonprofit that has creatively responded to the need for open space preservation and environmental protection. Recipients of each challenge grant must include incentive or funds-matching in their plan. The Miller Fund supports the creation of parks, trails, and recreation areas. It also encourages environmental education in schools and by nonprofits, research and publication about significant environmental issues, volunteer and leadership development, and demonstration projects with wide application.

Grantees include Camphill Village-Kimberton Hills which cleared the pollution and debris from an overgrown tributary to French Creek and planted native vegetation to establish a free-flowing stream; Green Valleys Association for its Welkinweir Interpretive Trail; Maysie's Farm Conservation Center's sustainable agriculture program for its interns so they could visit and study about other local ventures; the Red Clay Valley Association to help complete the Red Clay Greenway Trail in Kennett Square; Community Gardens for new plantings at a Coatesville Habitat for Humanity site; and Kennett Township Land Trust for the completion of its wildlife sanctuary. True to the donor's charitable intent, projects funded have been for specific, relevant and applicable ideas.

The Millers, who are the authors of seven books on environmental and historical topics, are also active on many area nonprofit boards and in local community groups. Marge Miller served many years on the Chester County Parks and Recreation Board, and on the boards of the American Red Cross Retiree Association, Chester County 2020, Maysie's Farm, and the Main Line Symphony Orchestra, to name just a few. Art Miller has served on the board of Delaware County Press Club and sings with the Bryn Mawr Mainliners barbershop chorus. The Millers are frequent lecturers at Elderhostels, speaking on Trails Across America, the national scenic and historic trail system. They also lead hikes around the Delaware Valley for the Main Line School Night Hiking Club.

STANLEY'S DREAM - established 2004

Like so many 12-year-olds, Stanley Edwards had a dream: his dream was to attend college. Unlike many 12-year-olds, achieving his dream was complicated by the battle he was fighting against brain cancer.

Stanley, a gifted student and promising athlete who excelled in basketball, football and golf, was diagnosed with a brain tumor at age 12. He was in 7th grade. Due to location of his tumor, the surgery to remove it resulted in the onset of learning disabilities as well as paralysis of his right arm and leg, making school more difficult and forever preventing him from participating in the many sports he loved.

Despite these unthinkable obstacles, Stanley persevered towards his dream. After seeing the movie "Rudy," the true story of a young man who beat insurmountable odds to attend and play football at Notre Dame University, Stanley resolved that he would not only attend college, but that he would attend Notre Dame.

Unexpectedly, in 2001 the Edwards family learned that Stanley's tumor had returned. After enduring learning disabilities, permanent paralysis, chemotherapy, intense physical, occupational and speech therapy, and the eventual loss of his sight, Stanley passed away in January of 2002 at the age of 14. He was a freshman at Henderson High School. But more than what he had lost, his family remembers what he managed to courageously sustain: his wit and sense of humor, his hope and faith, his strength and dignity, his zest for life, and his ability to inspire all who met him. And of course, they remember his dream.

Stanley's family created Stanley's Dream to continue his legacy and make Stanley's dream to attend college a reality for students at Henderson High School. Stanley's Dream provides college scholarships to Henderson seniors and supports The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (where Stan was treated), as well as Childhood Brain Cancer Research.

In a poem by Stanley's mother entitled "For Stan," she writes: "God strengthened you, he strengthened us, we know we'll see you again. But until that day, until we go, your legacy helps ease our pain."

To learn more about Stanley, his dream and the legacy he left, visit www.stanleyaustinedwards.org.