

Connecting people who care
with causes that matter, so their
philanthropy makes a difference
Now & Forever.



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Inside back cover photo of Dr. Mildred Joyner at the Frederick Douglass Memorial Statue, courtesy of West Chester University



PHILANTHROPY

*Active effort to promote human welfare.
Goodwill to members of the human race.*

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LOOKING AHEAD

Finally, things are looking up in the world. Although still incredibly divisive, the tone is shifting.

At the 2024 Paris Olympics, **cultural exchange, national pride, civic pride, and sustainability** were on full display. The results are spectacular:

- Athletes and spectators explore **food, fashion, music, art, architecture, languages, traditions and customs**
- Participation is irrespective of **social background, gender, race, sexual orientation or political belief**
- Athletes serve as **positive role models**, especially when we learn about the trials and tribulations they have overcome
- **Civic and national pride** increase with athlete and host city accomplishments
- **Environmental awareness** is raised--water pollution levels, carbon emissions, waste generation and energy usage.

Amidst all the camaraderie, diversity, joy and super-human achievement, seemingly diminutive things make a significant impact.

For example, the Olympics' **"Have a gourde day"** campaign encourages people to carry gourdes (reusable water bottles) to access free drinking water. This upholds the belief that small actions combine to make a difference in our world.

In Chester County, we witness local champions of the community, big and small, in a wide array of areas: culture, heritage, social justice, mentoring, civic engagement, and environmental protection. We are honored to share just a few stories with you in this annual report:

- Steven Chandler Ericson Foundation scholarships are a testament to **one person's all-too-short life making a difference**
- Denise Antonelli Esq. has **opened doors to fulfill a family's desire to leave a lasting legacy** on the community they cherish



- Emeritus Hon. Dr. Clifford DeBaptiste's Visionary Award shines a light on community leaders who build **bridges to create pathways for the next generation to excel**
- Nancy and Mike Pia focus their Foundation's mission on kindness at its core, knowing that **gratitude, empathy, compassion, altruism and cooperation** benefit the giver and receiver, individually and community-wide.

At the Community Foundation, generosity continues to grow.

- 16 new funds were created this past year
- We are entrusted with 438 funds totaling \$118+ million
- The overall average fund size increased to \$240,000
- We granted \$4.6 million this past year: 768 grants at \$3.9 million and 245 scholarships at \$712,000

We are inspired by your strong support and encouraging voices as we bring about positive change for all those who live, work and enjoy Chester County, **Now & Forever.**

Have a gourde day! Onward!



Zebulun Davenport Ed.D.
Chair of the Board

Karen A. Simmons
President/CEO

Philanthropy at its core means '**love of humanity**' from Ancient Greek φιλανθρωπία philanthrōpía

philo = to love, in the sense of caring for, nourishing, developing & enhancing

anthrōpos = humankind in the sense of 'what it is to be human' or 'human potential'

DOOR OPENER AWARD



DENISE M. ANTONELLI ESQ.

The Chester County Community Foundation spotlights attorney Denise M. Antonelli Esq. of Gawthrop Greenwood, PC, for opening the door to legacy philanthropy.

As the first woman to receive the Chester County Community Foundation's Door Opener award, attorney Denise Antonelli has achieved a milestone on multiple levels. The distinction comes as her esteemed law firm celebrates 120 years in service to the community, one-quarter of which have been spent working with the Chester County Community Foundation.

"Long-standing relationships are the cornerstone of both the Foundation and Gawthrop Greenwood, so it's a particular honor to be recognized in this way and at this time," says Antonelli.

Antonelli's trusted relationship with a 25-year client supported by generations of Gawthrop attorneys recently took a new turn when the client sought to **make a lasting regional impact** and have the **family name remembered** in our community for generations to come. Antonelli explored a variety of charitable vehicles with her client.

When learning about the work of the Chester County Community Foundation, the client felt a kinship of sorts: a values-fit.

Antonelli explains, "I've witnessed the Community Foundation's **30-year track record as a trusted steward**, diligently reviewing charitable nonprofit grantee prospects and prudently investing funds to endow the charitable sector for perpetuity. The Chester County Community Foundation knows that its reputation is earned each day as it follows the wishes of its legacy donors, forever."

When it comes to charitable gift planning, estate planning attorneys tend to be crucial gatekeepers in this multi-faceted process. Accountants, investment managers and financial advisors provide the all-important asset valuations and experienced opinions. Estate planning attorneys help clients review and prioritize their legacy desires comprehensively, securing asset value and ensuring the smooth, efficient transfer of hard-earned assets to heirs: family, friends, and community charities.

The Community Foundation highlights attorney Denise Antonelli, of Gawthrop Greenwood, PC, for her role in opening doors to legacy philanthropy. We are honored to be entrusted with her client's fund to support the community **Now & Forever**.

We Help You Find the Best Charitable Solutions

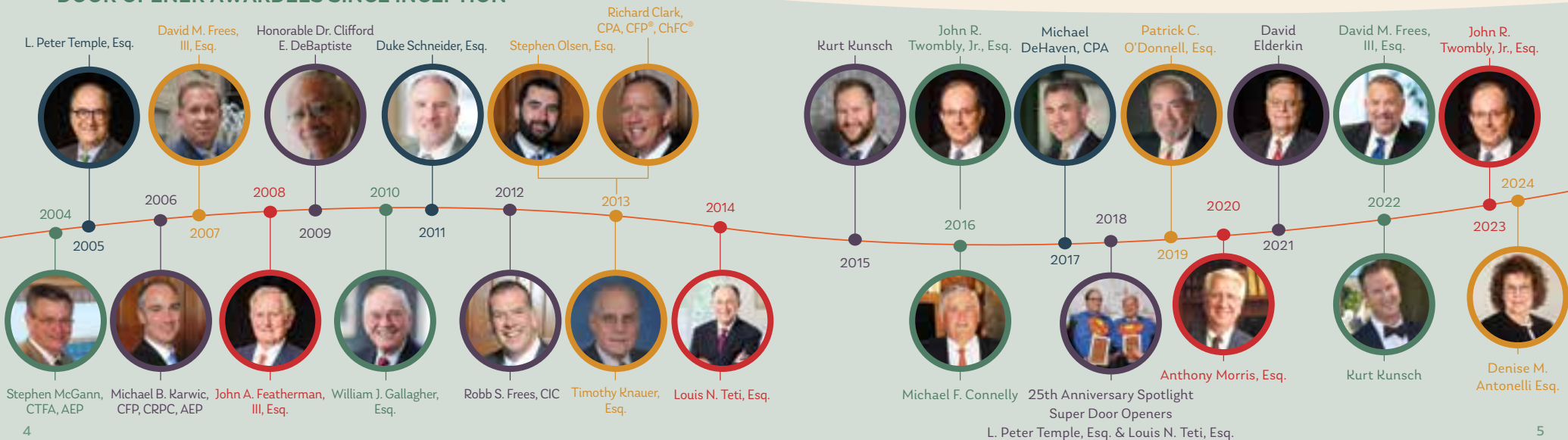
The Community Foundation is a philanthropy resource for estate planning attorneys, CPAs, wealth managers & financial planners:

- the client knows their own needs & desires
- the advisor understands financial & estate circumstances
- the Community Foundation understands legacy philanthropy



It's a winning partnership. The Community Foundation helps advisors and their clients customize philanthropy solutions for their specific situations, to help fulfill dreams of giving to the community, **Now & Forever**.

DOOR OPENER AWARDEES SINCE INCEPTION



EMERITUS HON. DR. CLIFFORD E. DEBAPTISTE VISIONARY AWARD

Established in 2022, the Visionary Award is bestowed upon community leaders who empower others to be the change they wish to see in the world. These servants of the community are:

- **Bridge Builders**, across institutions and systems
- **Door Openers**, creating a pathway for the next generation to excel
- **Visionaries**, seeing a world where equity and justice create communities where all can prosper, be nourished, be free, and be safe.



In 2024, the award's eponym, the Emeritus Hon. Dr. Clifford E. DeBaptiste, chose two winners: **Emeritus Professor Dr. C. James Trotman and Dr. Mildred C. Joyner, for expanding the educational impact of West Chester University's Frederick Douglass Institute.**

Since its 1995 creation, Founding Director Dr. James Trotman's name has been synonymous with WCU's Frederick Douglass Institute.

Dr. Trotman has authored two books on Frederick Douglass, in 2002 and 2011, and numerous refereed articles.

The Frederick Douglass Institute is a window to the world of knowledge, a catalyst for bringing systems of thought and expression, a light of hope and a place of encouragement for all who seek change. The Institute advances multicultural studies across the curriculum and deepens the intellectual heritage of Frederick Douglass, the former slave, distinguished orator, journalist, author and statesman.

In 2006 the Pennsylvania Historical Museum and Commission recognized WCU's connection with the great abolitionist and his life lessons for students.

In 2008 the National Park Service recognized WCU's Frederick Douglass Institute for its significance to the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

Dr. Trotman recounted a vision shared with longtime colleague and friend,

Dr. Mit Joyner: a statue to commemorate Douglass' frequent visits and last lecture on West Chester's campus on February 1, 1895—just 19 days before his death.

Dr. Trotman raised modest amounts of money and Dr. Joyner successfully reached out to large donors. Student donations had a significant impact: a dollar or two from a lot of students made a deep impression. The statue was sculpted by WCU Professor Richard Blake and unveiled on October 1, 2013.

Through the visionary leadership of Dr. Trotman, there now are Frederick Douglass Institutes at all campuses of the Pennsylvania State Universities System: the FDI Collaborative.

Dr. Mildred "Mit" Joyner's initial career at Chester County Children and Youth Services led her to become a professor of Social Work at WCU. She eventually led as Department Chair, while also serving on the Boards of DNB Bank and Chester County Food Bank. Dr. Joyner championed social workers, nationally and internationally.

"Dr. Joyner was a dedicated social worker and community leader," Dr. DeBaptiste

declared. "She knew that the work she was doing was wholly important to the greater good of the community and she never stopped putting in the effort." Although Dr. Joyner died in 2023, her legacy lives on in the thousands of students that she mentored and the many public, private and nonprofit organizations she served.

"Dr. Jim Trotman is a treasured friend. A pioneer in the West Chester community, he has done so much good for so many people throughout the region. It is with immense pleasure that I honor Jim and Mit with the Visionary Award," enthused Dr. DeBaptiste.

Both Dr. Joyner and Dr. Trotman have dedicated their lives to building a stronger, more prosperous community, empowering others to be the change they wish to see in the world. **Visionary. Now & Forever.**



FUND HIGHLIGHT

STEPHEN CHANDLER ERICSON FOUNDATION EST. 2010

2024 marks a significant milestone for the Ericson family: it has been 40 years since son and brother Stephen Chandler Ericson's untimely passing.

September 14th, 1984 started as a normal day for the Ericson family. 16-year-old Stephen was excited for his soccer game. Stephen made a breakaway and was one-on-one with the opposing goalie, about to score. A bolt of lightning and a clap of thunder appeared out of nowhere, surrounding Stephen. Stephen passed away with his family by his side on September 19, 1984, at 6:03pm.

Known for his **infectious positivity**, Stephen left a profound impact on those around him. In 1984, Stephen's mother and father, Laura and Joseph Ericson Jr., were moved to create a scholarship fund for college or trade school students that embodies Stephen's values: Christian / spiritual character, average academic performance, athletic ability, active in music, good sense of humor and school spirit.

The mission of the scholarship is three-fold: **with God, Turning Tragedy into Triumph; the Importance of Education; and Paying It Forward.** The goal is to inspire young people to recognize **the impact one person can make, a testament to Stephen's influence.**

Over the last 40 years, the Stephen Chandler Ericson Scholarship has been awarded to **45 students**. In 5 of those years, 2 awards were given, beginning with the West Chester Christian School and since 2012, Henderson High School. In 2010, Cynthia Ericson and her husband, Gary Beideman affiliated the Stephen Chandler Ericson Foundation with the Community Foundation, so that Stephen's Scholarship will now go on in perpetuity.

The scholarship has grown from **humble beginnings**, originally awarding a few hundred dollars to reaching **new heights** in 2024, awarding a \$14,000 scholarship!

This increase is thanks to the generosity of donors and sponsors. Their support has been crucial in ensuring that the scholarship makes a significant difference.

Cynthia and Gary oversee the day-to-day operations of Stephen's Foundation under the auspices of the Community Foundation. Cynthia attributes all the successes to her parents.

"Mother and Daddy wanted to make sure that Stephen was never forgotten and that other students could enjoy the academic successes that Stephen didn't have the opportunity to fulfill," says Cynthia.



"Mother and Daddy wanted to make sure that Stephen was never forgotten and that other students could enjoy the academic successes that Stephen didn't have the opportunity to fulfill,"

"I am continually **inspired by Mother's dedication** to Stephen's Foundation and all the hard work she puts in year after year. 2024 marks another milestone as we **celebrate Mother's 90th Birthday!** Her dedication is a cornerstone of the scholarship's success. We know that my brother Stephen and my father are incredibly proud."

As the Ericson Family and the Community Foundation mark these milestones, the Stephen Chandler Ericson Foundation remains a **beacon of hope and inspiration**, proving that, indeed, **"one life does make a difference."** **Now & Forever.**

FUND HIGHLIGHT

MICHAEL & NANCY PIA FOUNDATION EST. 2019

Born and raised in Chester County, Michael and Nancy Pia, their four children, Kristin Hayman, Lisa Reed, Amy Clark and Michael Pia Jr., and their seven grandchildren, have always been dedicated to helping others in the community. Their philanthropic efforts have been focused on **enhancing the lives of children and making a positive impact on families.**



Nancy, who was a teacher for most of her career, is also an accomplished artist and published author. She was instrumental in starting the YMCA's Kennett Montessori School, and she also created the Living Kindness program that was implemented in several local schools.

Michael has spent his entire career in the family mushroom farming business, South Mill Champs, one of the top 3 mushroom producers in North America.

Michael and Nancy established a private charitable foundation in 2002. As their philanthropy grew, it became more of a challenge finding causes consistent with their giving platform. After exploring options with several trusted community-minded friends and advisors, in 2019 they converted their private Michael & Nancy Pia Foundation to a separately managed medallion fund at the Chester County Community Foundation.

A guiding belief of the Michael and Nancy Pia Foundation is that all children deserve a life of physical and emotional wellbeing. Education, poverty alleviation, healthy food, safe affordable housing, and holistic health care are key.

The Pia's motto is simple: **"Lead with your heart."** "The love and appreciation that people give in return, and knowing I've made a difference in their lives, is more than enough to motivate me to continue to help," Nancy enthuses. Mike adds, "Time is as valuable as financial resources. Giving time and/or money to do something for the community goes a long way."

The Pia's intentional, generous gifts of time and money can be felt regionally by the organizations and causes they've supported in Southern Chester County and Northern Delaware.

Their four children are also community-minded, financially supporting local causes, serving on nonprofit boards, and volunteering for charitable organizations. Their young grandchildren are learning about philanthropy by having food drives, running



lemonade stands with proceeds going to charity, and holiday gifting to underserved children.

Integrating physical health with mental health and making it accessible to low-income families is very important to the Pias. In 2022, their funding created the Pia Center for Behavioral Health at LCH Community & Health Services. Behavioral health focuses on managing the daily challenges and stresses of life. Now, the LCH Pia Center provides telehealth appointments and in-person services in Oxford, Kennett Square, and West Grove.

"Knowing we have dedicated resources to help children and families in the Kennett area access high-quality physical and behavioral health services is a source of great satisfaction in our philanthropic journey," Nancy says wholeheartedly.

In 2024, the Pias provided lead funding for Kennett Area Community Service to build a new, expanded site on 6 acres of land donated by the Pias. Bordering Kennett and New Garden Townships, KACS' new location will be more accessible for the 5,000+ neighbors who this year alone have obtained 820,841 pounds of food. It will also have more space for deliveries, inventory, volunteers, staff and community engagement. The site will be large enough for other nonprofit satellite locations, so that people can access a fuller circle of care.

The capital campaign is now underway, and donations are greatly desired. **"It's a community effort. All hands and hearts are needed for the campaign's success,"** urge Mike and Nancy.

The Pia's are continually scanning the community for new philanthropic projects and are eager to see what the future holds for their foundation. So is the community.

For Good. Forever.



CHARITABLE LEGACY FUND BENEFITS

Community Foundations were created so that anyone can be a legacy philanthropist, making charitable grants **Now & Forever**.

- **PERMANENCE:** The Foundation's trusteeship ensures that your Charitable Fund perpetually meets relevant needs
- **COMMEMORATION:** Your name, the name of loved ones, and/or your family values live on through your Charitable Fund
- **GRANTMAKING EXPERTISE:** Immersed in ongoing community needs research and charitable impact, the Foundation discerns charities throughout the U.S. that address your particular interests and core values
- **STEWARDSHIP:** The Foundation closely monitors financial investments, and fully accounts to the community via our annual report, audit, and IRS Form 990

CHOOSE ANY OF THESE TIME HORIZONS FOR YOUR CHARITABLE FUND:

- **Endowed Funds** grant out up to 5% annually for perpetuity, so you can help strengthen community charities forever
- **Quasi-Endowed Funds** grant out up to 20% annually, which means the principal will be diminished after several years
- **Provisional Funds** can be granted out up to 100% at any time

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION CORE CHARITABLE FUNDS

- **Social Justice Fund** supports work to obtain equitable economic, political & social opportunities for all
- **Arts Forever/Culture Builds Community** awards grants to arts, culture & heritage causes
- **Fund for Chester County** awards grants to Chester County charities selected by our Grant Panels
- **Operating Endowment** supports our core mission to grow legacy philanthropy throughout the region
- **Lincoln Building Fund** supports renovations and repairs of the Foundation's historic 1833 headquarters

TO CREATE YOUR LEGACY FUND, CONTACT:

Karen Simmons, President/CEO • (610) 696-8845

Jason Arbacheski, CAP, Gift Planning & Stewardship Director • (610) 696-2628

MINIMUM TO CREATE
ENDOWED FUND

\$25,000

AVERAGE
FUND SIZE

\$240,000

Any gift amount can be added to existing funds

TYPES OF FUNDS

Field of Interest Funds

- Impact a targeted geographic region or issue area: arts, culture, heritage, historic preservation, education, environment, health, human service, religion
- Flexibility exists to meet ever-evolving community needs

Donor Advised Funds

- Establish a Foundation without incurring administrative operating and compliance filing burdens
- Capitalize on the Community Foundation's philanthropic due diligence and nonprofit field research
- Enable individuals, families, community groups, and businesses to maximize philanthropic impact

Nonprofit-Designated Organizational Endowments

- Select specific nonprofits you care about, and establish Endowments for them
- Community Foundation manages the investments, helps the nonprofit grow its endowment by attracting more endowed major and planned gifts, and monitors for accountability

Scholarship Funds

- Support students pursuing education beyond high school
- You determine guidelines for candidate selection (field of study, financial need, geography)
- Community Foundation ensures IRS compliance and student accountability

GIVE NOW & LATER: LIFETIME & FUTURE

- Establish a charitable fund **now**, so you can see the impact of your generosity on community charities
- Arrange in your will to leave a planned gift to your charitable fund **later**, when you have no further use for money

The Community Foundation accepts a wide variety of gifts including:

- Cash
- Publicly traded securities
- Closely-held and pre-IPO stock
- IRAs
- Real estate
- Life insurance (w/CCCF as owner &/or beneficiary)
- Remainder of a Charitable Remainder Trust
- Remainder of a Pooled Income Fund
- Lead gift of a Charitable Lead Trust

