

SHORE

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2020

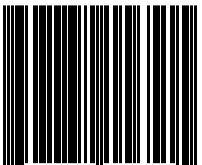


STRONGER TOGETHER

The inspirational stories of six community responders whose creative solutions help the needs in our communities

From left to right: Beth Anne Langrell, For All Seasons, Inc.; Rabbi Peter Hyman, Temple B'nai Israel; Marilyn Neal, Neighborhood Service Center; David Harper, Chesapeake College; Beth Brewster, Caroline County Public School Food Service; and Valerie Albee, Mariah's Mission

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SHORE MAGAZINE SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER

FEATURES



PHOTO BY STEPHEN WALKER

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STRONGER TOGETHER

Public and private agencies solve community issues through creative solutions, matching private resources with public needs in communities across the Mid-Shore

By Amy Steward and Manning Lee

Sprout owner Ryan Groll and chef Wes Sampson continue to provide food resources to those in need.

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Dave Harper
Chesapeake College

Beth Brewster
Caroline County Public School's Food Service

Valerie Albee
Mariah's Mission

COVER PHOTOS
by Stephen Walker

Cover photo-illustration compiled by Laura Goode

Special thanks to the Academy Art Museum for hosting our cover photo series outside their new atrium.



WHERE THE STORIES ARE

MAP ILLUSTRATION BY LAURA GOODE

EDITORS' NOTE



Planning meeting at Rude Burger in Easton: Amelia Blades Steward, Maire McArdle and Manning Lee

As we begin to enter the new season of fall, we are reminded of new beginnings. While 2020 has challenged us beyond our wildest imaginations, it has also made us Stronger Together in unimaginable ways. In this issue of *Shore*, we celebrate the citizens who have forged new pathways to feed the hungry, shelter those without homes, show compassion to those suffering from addiction and mental health issues, help the unemployed find jobs, and restore the faith in our communities and government despite the challenges that have arisen. These “community responders” are our boots on the ground, helping others to navigate uncertainty and find hope.

While COVID-19 has rocked our worlds, it hasn't taken away the spirit of giving and of loving our neighbors. Organizations, agencies, and local businesses have joined forces to tackle some of the hardest social issues we have faced. Learn how the local business Sprout partnered with local farmers to feed the hungry in our communities. We also share how the Hopeful Campaign is inspiring citizens to support the MSCF's COVID-19 Response Fund addressing the areas of health, homelessness, and hunger during the pandemic. The campaign's colorful marquee-style art sculptures mounted on buildings throughout Easton's downtown will travel in the coming months to bring hope to other communities on the Mid-Shore. At the heart of the philanthropy behind these heroic efforts is Mid-Shore Community Foundation (MSCF), the non-profit charity serving the five counties on the Mid-Shore. Learn how this growing organization is supporting the non-profits in the region to restore the quality of life we have come to appreciate here.

As we examine the issue of social justice, we talk with an author and anthropologist Alexandra Hamlet about how our culture is evolving and how data collection and analysis can guide good policy as our nation wrestles with these complex issues of economic parity and race relations. Nancy Tankersley, through her Artists for Justice exhibit on July 4 in Easton, opened the conversation for healing to begin to occur. On a lighter note, we follow the entertaining antics of local florist Sarah Campbell-Angers as she competes in the Netflix series “The Great Flower Fight.”

This issue's departments take us on stage with Easton's songbird Loreal Lewis who combines R&B, country, and hip hop in her recent debut song and music video. In Live Well, Amy Jo Davison, D.O., brings wellness to people suffering from health challenges related to musculoskeletal issues, including Parkinson's disease, movement disorders, neuropathy, post-surgery scar tissue, scoliosis, anxiety, ADHD, and more between her practices in Easton and New York. Finally, Foxy's Harbor Grille in St. Michaels has a new look and new menu, with the addition of Chef Mark McGrogan, and promises to continue its outdoor waterfront bar and dining well into the fall months.

And fall wouldn't be fall without some great outdoor activities like corn mazes and bike trails. We hope you can find ways to gather safely with family and friends outside around a fire pit or kayaking down one of our picturesque creeks and rivers to see the waterfowl arrive. This is one of the most special seasons on the Eastern Shore.

Stay safe and healthy,
**Amelia Blades Steward
and Manning Lee**
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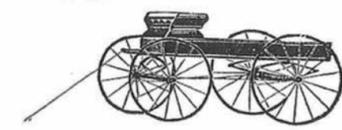
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FUNERAL HOME, P.A.

Helping Families Heal

By: Ryan Helfenbein



Ask the Undertaker

My good friend was just telling me about an experience he had while buying a new family car. He was telling me that he and his wife did their research and decided on a make and model that would fit their needs and ensure their comfort and safety. At the first dealership they visited, the facility was immaculately clean, and the representatives were dressed very professionally. They were made to feel welcome with the offer of a beverage, and the representative took the time to educate them on the advantages of each of the available models to be sure they made the selection with which they'd be the most satisfied. My friend mentioned to me that the dealership also offered 'extras' to their customers, such as loaner cars when repairs were needed, free oil changes and availability to answer questions as they may arise for as long as they owned the car. When it was time to talk price, however, my friend was discouraged to find that the cost of the car was a bit higher than he had seen elsewhere. He and his wife left the dealership, and went to the local competitor, who frequently marketed their 'low, low prices'. After all, what could the difference be when the cars are the same?

When they entered the second dealership, the difference was immediately apparent. The facility was in need of a tidying up and frustrated service department clients were impatiently waiting for their cars to be repaired. After what seemed like a long time of roaming the showroom alone, they were approached by a salesperson wearing jeans and a t-shirt, snapping his gum, and looking harried. They didn't even wait for his pitch but left and returned to the first dealership. Why? Because they felt that the initial transaction and, if they ever had a concern or needed a repair in the future, would be professionally handled with their convenience and comfort in mind.

You may be wondering why an undertaker would share this story with you. Well, the lesson my friend learned applies to final farewells just as it does many other major purchasing decisions. Price seems to be everywhere in front of us today, but the reality of what is being done for us is often not. Recently, I attended a virtual meeting with experienced funeral directors from all over the states, and a major point of discussion was that what is requested from death care providers should not be about disposition alone; the experience of what happens before, during and after the immediate loss is what matters most. It was clear from the discussion of this experienced group that how one is respectfully laid to rest and how the survivors

are cared for during the process is what the major focus should be, and that these concerns should be the most paramount roles and responsibilities of an undertaker.

One of these directors relayed a story about a customer that had challenged his firm on pricing. The undertaker explained to the caller that while anyone could dispose of a deceased, either through cremation or burial, the difference is in “how the deceased is cared for during the process and how the family receives guidance through the loss.” The customer was reminded that part of the quality service for which she was paying involved trained associates that would come to the place of death in a timely fashion and carry themselves with professionalism as they brought her mom into their care, transporting her with respect as if she were their own, and oversee an individual and dignified disposition in the time frame that best suited her family. At this point another director chimed in with his brief experience of working in one of the warehouse discount cremation companies that operates out of a business park. He shared how the business' focus was solely on volume, and in no way did care or compassion factor into the daily activities. He went on to describe how the equipment was in disrepair, the staff came to work in whatever they had to wear, and that the deceased in their care were seen as work – not someone's mother, sister or child. His comment was, “When you charge nothing for something, something has to give!” I was, not alone, in a state of disbelief.

As Warren Buffet has noted, “Price is what you pay. Value is what you get.” When it comes time to select a provider for your final farewell, take the time to ask questions about the value of the assistance that will be provided. It is always important to discuss price, but we also need to gain a clear understanding of what we might be sacrificing. Will someone care for your loved one as if you were watching every second? Will they conduct themselves with professionalism during your time together, offer an education on the steps associated with your requests and provide guidance in areas that were not even considered? If you have questions, weeks or even months down the road, can you call them to find answers? As my car buying friend found out, peace of mind often comes at a cost. And as he stated, “in the long run it is well worth the added expense.” This especially holds true when it comes to a purchase, like a final farewell, that can only ever be done once.



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PICTURE THIS



REPTILE REFLECTION

A turtle enjoys the late summer sun off the banks of the Tuckahoe River.

PHOTO BY MAIRE McARDLE



PHOTO BY GREG MUELLER

CROSS ISLAND TRAIL IN KENT ISLAND

"A great route for a family outing"

Maryland's Cross Island Trail spans Kent Island, east to west, in Queen Anne's County — the largest of the Chesapeake Bay islands. Highlights of the trail include exceptional views, native plants, a historic graveyard, farm fields, and glimpses of a distant lighthouse. A long wooden bridge connects the forests to the water. Pack a picnic and stop along the way or enjoy a meal at one of the restaurants at Kent Narrows. This trail is a great way to sample the landscape of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

LENGTH: 6 miles

TRAIL END POINTS: Terrapin Nature Area and Kent Narrows (Kent Island)

TRAIL SURFACES: Asphalt

TRAIL CATEGORY: Rail-Trail (abandoned rail corridor)

ACTIVITIES: Walking, Biking, Inline Skating, and Mountain Biking

HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY:

Wheelchair Accessible

OPENED: 2001

Hours: Dawn to Dusk (Open year-round)

FEES: No fees for using the trail

To reach the start at Terrapin Nature Park from the Eastern Shore, take US 50 west to Exit 37 (last exit before crossing the Chesapeake Bay Bridge) and turn right onto State Route 8. Follow SR 8 to the Chesapeake Bay Business Park and turn left. Follow the road to the right around the circle until you come to Terrapin Nature Park. There is ample parking and portable toilets are at the trailhead. The beach is temporarily closed to non-residents. To reach the start at Kent Narrows, take US 50 west to Exit 41 (SR 835/Kent Narrows). The best place to park to is in the lots under the western or eastern sides of the Kent Narrows Bridge or in the public lots at the Chesapeake Heritage & Visitor Center which serves as a trail head and a Chesapeake Bay Gateway hub.



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SHORE TIME



APG FILE PHOTO

CORN MAZE DAYS

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Councellfarms.com

OPEN Everyday September

PRICE: \$5 per person, which includes all activities

COVID-19 Safe Space

The two-acre corn maze is geared toward families with younger children, according to co-owner Chip Councell. It is not really difficult and takes about half an hour. "We want kids to have fun and not be frustrated," he says.

Two watchtowers in the maze offer not only a higher vantage point but also slides that go back down into the maze. After families get out, they can enjoy 25 other fun activities from duck races to lassoing plastic steer to shooting scarecrows with tennis ball slingshots.

COMPOSED BY MANNING LEE

FAMILY AFFAIR FARMS

30091 Rabbit Hill Road
Easton, MD 21601
Familyaffairfarm.wix.com

COVID-19 Safe Space

Calling all Corn Maze Investigators... Come get lost and solve the mystery at Family Affair Farm's three-acre interactive corn maze. Open weekends, Sat. & Sun, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. mid-September through October. Games and fun for the young and old. Takes about an hour.

FLASHLIGHT NIGHTS: Friday & Saturday Nights from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Grab your family, friends, and flashlights for a fun night in the maze.

Admission :
Ages 2 & under - Free
Ages 3 to 12 - \$5
Ages 13 to 99 - \$10

THE MARYLAND CORN MAZE

389 Gambrills Rd, Gambrills, MD 21054
OPEN Saturday, September 19th
Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Sundays 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
mdcornmaze.com

COVID-19 Safe Space

For those looking for the ultimate Corn Maze experience and don't mind the wayfaring across the bridge to Anne Arundel County...Great for tweens and teens. This year the maze will feature a Harry Potter theme with Harry Potter themed activities.

FUN THINGS TO DO IN THE FARMYARD:

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Waterfront on Shipyard Creek

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\$599,997 MDKE116676



2 Houses for the Price of One!!

Brick owner on level 2.2 acres with space for a garden, swimming pool or a tennis court! Conveniently located just minutes to the Bay for boating, swimming, fishing and beautiful sunsets. Detached garage, 2 bay 38' x 26' steel building with 12' high doors for boat & RV storage. The bonus house is an additional parcel with a 2 story home that can be used as a guest home or rental income with renovations. The main home is charming, wood floors, fireplace, whole house AC/heat.

\$279,900 MDKE115332



Waterfront/ Water Access

Natural setting on a pond with wonderful views from the beautiful sunroom. Take a look at this immaculate condition home with first floor master ensuite, hardwood and tile floors, master bath has a separate shower and tub. Open concept family room/dining/kitchen. Large two car garage with plenty of storage and a full dry, walk out basement to patio area. Beautiful landscaping easy to maintain. Close to Chester River Yacht and Country Club!

\$489,000 MDKE116940



Well Cared for Home!

Nice clean two bedroom home that has been well cared for through the years. Nice kitchen with room for a dinette table. Enclosed front porch is bright and sunny with a lot of windows and a great area for a couple chairs and perfect for enjoying some peaceful time. Outside is another plus with a garage and 12 x 24 shop area. Fenced in yard with an entrance from a side gate.

Nice home! Easy to show!
\$154,000 MDKE116468



Relax Here!

Great four bedrooms, 2.5 bath home with recent updates. Master bath was updated in 2020 and the kitchen completely in 2016. Wood floors on the first floor and a wood burning fireplace in the family room overlooking a great backyard with deck, firepit, grilling area and room for pets, friends and good times. Located in the original section of Coventry Farms there is NO HOA and no font footage free. Come see this home!

\$299,900 MDKE116560



Close to Water Front

This beautiful three bedroom cottage with wonderful water views of the Chester River. Settle today...entertain tonight. House is turn key, move in condition with furniture conveying with house. Must see, located in Queen Anne's County with lots of charm! Perfect size and in immaculate condition! Sellers are offering a one year home warranty plan NEW ROOF, power washed, mature trees and beautiful setting!

\$246,500 MDQA139446

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PERSONAL REACTION

A group of artists led by Nancy Tankersley created original portraits to draw attention to racism

BY MAIRE MCARDLE | PHOTOS BY STEPHEN WALKER



If you stayed in town on the 4th of July and happened to notice the colorful sidewalk posters along South Aurora Street in the historic Hill neighborhood in Easton, you may have been curious enough to step inside the fenced courtyard to see what was going on. In a glance, you would have realized that there was a display of painted portraits carefully hung along the inside of the wooden enclosure, each labeled with the name of the subject and the artist. Twenty-five paintings of Black men, women and children who have died due to racial injustice were represented under a canopy of trees. You would have heard strands of soulful accordion playing; murmurs of conversation amid a solemn, respectful shuffle of face-masked visitors. Personal reactions to these visual

Above: A display of 25 portraits hung along the fence at 11 S. Aurora Street on July 4. Local artists created the likenesses of Black people who have lost their lives unjustly due to the color or their skin. Right: accordionist Randy Nielsen played softly as visitors viewed the paintings.



PHOTO BY STEPHEN WALKER



The arrangement, shown in alphabetical order by artists' names, are the portraits painted by local Easton artists as a statement to bring attention to Black lives lost due to racial injustices. These paintings will be on exhibit at the Dorchester Center for the Arts from Sept. 4-26, 2020; opening reception on Sept. 12, from 5:00-7:30 p.m.



ERIC GARNER
by Jane Anderson



SANDRA BLAND
by Diana Dardis



TRAYVON MARTIN
by Mary Ford



AHMAUD ARBERY
by Rhonda Ford



BREONNA TAYLOR
by Joan Hart



ADRIAN MEDEARIS
by Betty Huang



PHILANDRO CASTILE
by Laura Kapolchok



EMMETT TILL
by Adam Kernan-Schloss



ATATIANA JEFFERSON
by Kathy Kopec



AKAI GURLEY
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TAMIR RICE
by Mignonne La Chapelle



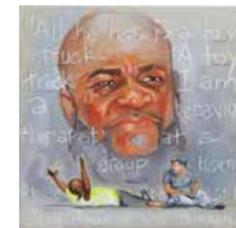
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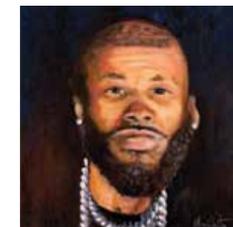
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by Nancy Tankersley



BIRMINGHAM BOMBING
by Katie Theeke



SEAN REED
by Stephen Walker



PHILANDRO CASTILE
by Stewart White



ANTON BLACK
by Lori Yates



TERRANCE FRANKLIN
by Arlene Zachman

ART BEAT

BELOW, left-right: The family of Anton Black, whose portrait was part of the display, arrive at the showing in the later afternoon and pose near his portrait with local artist, Lori Yates.

BOTTOM: Nancy Tankersley, the host and organizer of the show, stands behind her painting of Hattie Carroll, who was memorialized in the Bob Dylan song, "The Lonesome Death of Hattie Carroll," and Katie Theeke's illustrative painting of the little girls who died in the Birmingham 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in 1963.



statements were exchanged. "It felt kind of like a wake," said a man as he was leaving.

The rally on Marlboro Street after George Floyd died inspired this art show. Nancy Tankersley, an Easton artist, had a personal reaction that day — her self-admitted guilt of not "getting it" until she witnessed Black residents driving by waving and thanking everyone who had gathered for justice. This was the moment Tankersley resolved to use her art and community connections to make a visual statement as a gesture to the Black community.

In the days and weeks that followed George Floyd's death, the world was in an uproar. Protests, looting, injuries, and arrests made headline news while the nation was locked down due to the continuing spread of COVID-19. The idea of creating a quiet tribute amid the turmoil evolved to become a pop-up art show at Tankersley's fenced courtyard.

Tankersley sent out an email to introduce the idea of painting portraits of Black victims of police injustice to a group of her students. The response was overwhelming. Artists for Justice (AFJ) was formed. Each artist chose a story to tell through their portrait and then wrote a short synopsis about the person, their death, and what they were feeling while painting their faces. The need to share the stories became just as important as seeing the portraits. Local artist, Mary



Ford, compiled all the writings into carry-along binders so viewers could read what happened as they viewed each painting.

Early on the morning of a humid July 4, a group of volunteers carefully tacked up the portraits on the fence, brought in a bucket of icy bottled water, and set up a table with the binders and hand sanitizer bottles. A revolving presence of participating artists offered greetings and guidance throughout the six-hour art show.

At the end of the day, the family of Anton Black arrived to see their boy's portrait and to meet the artist who painted it. Heartfelt conversations were quietly exchanged; words of hope, kindness, and forgiveness yielded emotional moments reflected in tear-filled eyes peering over facemasks.

Reflecting days later, Tankersley said, "Now is the time to address racism. So much is based on fear of what we don't know about each other. From the first breath as a human, we are all the same." She has resolved to "keep doing this, to keep the focus narrow, share these portraits and add new artists, especially artists of color and allow Artists for Justice to grow organically," which it already has in the past eight weeks since July 4.

Shelton Hawkins, an Easton resident and artist who teaches art in Charles County, contacted Tankersley commending her "for putting together such a powerful show for our community." Hawkins continued, "I think it's important that we use our platform to shed light on what's going on in the world today."

Hawkins, along with Miriam Moran, are two of the three new artists of color joining the painting group. Moran, an active artist in Cambridge, shared how she has used her art to bring people together. "My latest design is the mural on Race Street. I hope you have a chance to visit and see how our community and I have come together, using our art as a voice for unity. I really appreciate you and other artists who are paying tribute. It's so definitely needed."

An Artists for Justice Facebook group has formed and a month-long art show featuring the original group of paintings plus new paintings from artists who have joined since July will be on display September 4-26 at the Dorchester Art Center, located at 321 High Street, Cambridge, MD 21613 (410) 228-7782.

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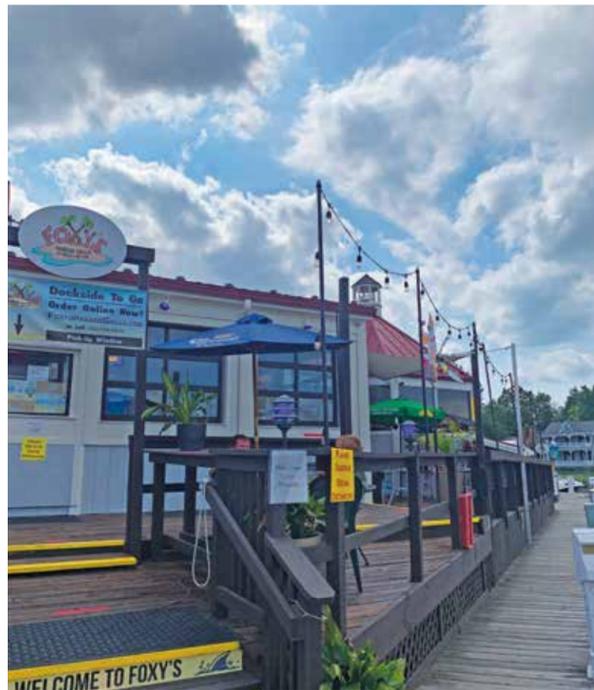
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SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

Foxy's turns up the vibe with a new chef, new menu items and expanded indoor-outdoor space

Foxy's Harbor Grille has a 20-year history of bringing an island vibe to St. Michaels harbor with the perfect setting for making great memories at its outside waterfront bar and grill. Guests come from all over the world to enjoy the picturesque setting — arriving by boat or from a leisurely walk through the historic town — to kick back while the brackish air mixes with the delicious scents of food grilling, and the sounds of live music and harbor activity fill the air.

Foxy's took that vibe to another level this past winter with a big expansion and renovations into the adjacent property. Owner and operator Terye Knopp took on the lease this past December for the property most locals referred to as “the old Town Dock restaurant.” The new space expands Foxy's kitchen and menu and adds two indoor bars, a private gathering space, and more indoor and outdoor seating for guests. One of the best spots to



ABOVE RIGHT: Owner Terye Knopp pauses for a cool drink after overseeing months of expansion and improvements at Foxy's Harbor Grille. **The two INSET PHOTOS** show the inviting exterior of the waterside restaurant and bar.

enjoy a refreshing libation in addition to the original Foxy's is at the long, waterfront bar, complete with roll-up glass doors to bring the outdoors inside.

Knopp used the winter months and the help of family and friends to refurbish and refresh the expansive restaurant's space before their planned March 18 opening this year. The renovated space includes bright tropical colors that come with a fresh coat of paint, a new gift shop, upgraded electricity, new ceiling fans, and more. Many of Foxy's favorites are still on the

menu, with chef-inspired entrees like pan-seared softshell crabs, blackened Mahi, and grilled curried vegetables tantalizing your taste buds.

Knopp says she can seat 400 people in normal times, which now gives ample space for social distancing between two floors of seating areas and a covered waterfront deck. The private, upstairs room with picturesque views of St. Michaels harbor had been booked for three straight months with rehearsal dinners, bridal showers, after-wedding parties, birthday

parties, family reunions, corporate events, and more. All canceled at the beginning of the COVID pandemic, with the private room's ample distancing space now creating new bookings.

Knopp also added more local talent to her team this past winter, including Chef Mark McGrogan, Sous Chef Erin Mayer, Food & Beverage Manager John Chiusano, Front of the House Manager Mike Campbell, Bar Manager Samantha Jenkins, Facilitations Manager Brad Krantz, and Operations Manager Melanie Steffi.

BY TRACEY F. JOHNS
PHOTOS BY STEPHEN WALKER
AND MAIRE MCARDLE

TASTE BUDS

“We were planning for a big grand opening and were shut down within 48 hours due to COVID,” Knopp said. In addition to celebrating Foxy’s major expansion, this year had big events planned to mark Foxy’s 20th anniversary, and Knopp’s 10th anniversary owning and operating the island-vibe restaurant and deck bar.

Instead, Knopp says she and her staff “leaned into each other,” while the community wrapped their arms around them with compassion and support. Knopp and her staff took nearly \$20,000 in ordered food and liquor for the opening event and stocked the freezers and bars. All the fresh produce was given to staff members. Together, they planned various scenarios for a safe re-opening, while anticipating and following Maryland Governor Larry Hogan’s phased re-opening plan announcements each Wednesday.

“My managers were here every day, ready to act on the latest quarantine lifts,” Knopp said. “In the beginning, no one imagined we’d be closed for 90 days.”

She says they re-opened with carryout only on Memorial Day weekend and resumed outdoor dining with social distancing the week after. Indoor seating was re-introduced with social distancing measures by the end of June.

“While we were closed, we participated in the Feed the Frontline initiative, started by local restaurateur Chris Agharabi,” Knopp said. “We joined other local restaurants to help feed and serve our first responders by making more than 50 lunches for people at the St. Michaels Volunteer Fire Department, Choptank Community Health, and the Town of St. Michaels Waterworks Department. It was a great way for all of us to come together in service. Something at the heart of everything we do here.”



“Now, it’s great to be back. And we’re committed to celebrating Foxy’s 20th anniversary this fall — in whatever shape or form that will be — with a nostalgic celebration including \$5 martinis and more.”

Foxy’s island vibes, great food, and live music may draw boaters and guests from throughout the world. Most important, however, are the locals who stay as loyal patrons and employees to the 20-year old restaurant and bar.

“Despite the impacts of COVID to our business, I know we’re still very lucky,” said Knopp. “It’s a less difficult hill to climb when so many people and other businesses are routing for you.”

www.foxysharborgrille.com

125 Mulberry Street

St. Michaels, MD

(410) 745-4340

Open Sunday-Thursday: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday & Saturday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.



OPPOSITE: New chef Mark McGrogan proudly presents some new menu items like pan-seared blackened mahi, conch fritters and key lime cheesecake. ABOVE: Refreshed and expanded, the indoor-outdoor seating areas invite patrons to relax and enjoy the food and the harbor view. When it’s nice weather, there are rollup glass doors for a comfortable waterside dining experience.



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FLOWER DIVAS

Local floral designers debut on Netflix **The Big Flower Fight**

BY MANNING LEE



Amid our shelter in place order, I took full advantage of sheltering in place...mostly in the place in front of my TV. I caught up on all the ‘important’ new Netflix shows watching some twice. I came to the same conclusions that every other binge watcher had...Carol Baskin definitely killed her husband.

In between binge watching shows on Netflix, I also did the other thing I’m really good at...Facebook! Scrolling through my newsfeed one day, I spotted my Facebook friend, Sarah Campbell-Angers’s status. Although we’d never met in person, I’ve watched Campbell-Angers’s career blossom from afar.

She’s a renowned wedding florist and has launched several of her own wedding businesses. Campbell-Angers, who lives in Caroline County, started Intrigue Design and Décor, in which she ran weddings and social events all up and down the East Coast. I’d seen her statuses over the years where she’d be on the news as a floral expert. She was always so cute, known for donning a floral apron as her trademark. She’s bubbly and full of energy. I’ve always been a fan. She’s like Martha Stewart, but only with pizzazz! She’s exhausting to

watch, yet vibrant and quite inspiring.

For the past several years I’ve observed her different Facebook statuses where she travels with her new business called Intrigue Teaches. Campbell-Angers and her Communications Director, Jordan Marx, travel from state to state now running workshops as well as running online classes training florists how to start, run and thrive in the upscale wedding florist industry.

I watched her live on Facebook, where she announced that she was a contestant on a new show called “The Big Flower Fight.” I thought, “A new Netflix series, plus it has someone I know!” I wasted no time tuning in and watching the entire season. It was an upbeat, intense, competitive, and creative outlet for florists, artists, landscaping designers, and photographers.

Each episode, the teams were challenged to create sculptures from different plant and floral materials. I watched Campbell-Angers and Marx. I loved them both so much and I became their biggest fans. I somehow managed to catch up with Campbell-Angers and her dynamic Communications Director/Partner, Jordan Marx, and spoke with them about their time on the show.



THIS PAGE: Sarah Campbell-Angers models her personal line of floral aprons.

OPPOSITE: Jordan Marx, Sarah’s Communications Director and partner in *The Big Flower Fight*.

SHORE PROFILE

QUESTION: How did you get to be a contestant?

CAMPBELL-ANGERS: One of the casting directors reached out to me via Instagram. But before I got the call, three other people that day told him that he needed to call me. I learned I needed a teammate. I started looking for a florist friend who would join me.

MARX: It was the middle of wedding season and it's difficult to find florists who have three months off to film a TV show. Secondly, she was kind of stressed about, "OK if I get up and walk away from my business and I'm in the UK doing a TV show, who's going to run the business?" I chimed in and I said, "you know, Sarah, if you brought me along with you we could still do business and also a TV show." The problem with that is I had zero hands-on floral experience. The show producers loved the idea and they said, "Oh that could be fun." They said, "You can bring her, and we'll see what happens."

QUESTION: Did you work well together?

CAMPBELL-ANGERS: I think we did. We had to change our dynamic up a little bit. In real life, we have a boss-employee dynamic and in the show we were more partners. I missed having a florist as a partner, but I really liked having someone who supported me the way Jordan did. She knew all the things I liked. She knew what I knew how to do. When it came to the dress challenge, Jordan knew instantly what materials I was going to want to work with without having to communicate.

QUESTION: What were your favorite projects?

MARX: I love the storm it was very different. It was Sarah's least favorite, but I loved the storm because it was one of the only designs



that I actually felt like I knew what I was doing as someone who had no experience. The storm was the one I felt like we did a great job on and I knew what to do and that made me feel good.

CAMPBELL-ANGERS: The reason I didn't love the storm so much is because even though it was the one we won "Best in Bloom" for, it was a design that I could do in my sleep. The one that was more challenging to me was the one the judges did not like. It was the lemur in episode three. The

reason I liked it so much was because when we walked into that challenge I had never touched potted grass. I didn't know there were so many kinds of grasses. We just sat there and stared at the structure and talked with two other cast members to see what the heck we were going to do. We just started doing it and had no expectation. I thought we were going to go home because I had no clue what to do. When we completed it maybe it wasn't perfect, but it was beautiful. It looked a little more like a cat than a lemur, but I'm OK with that.

QUESTION: When you've been working on a project, the clock is ticking, the experts come to speak with you. They start questioning what you're doing in disapproval. Do you feel their disapproval? What does it feel like?

CAMPBELL-ANGERS: We were under such pressure and already in the middle of our plan. We didn't have time to change our work. So yeah, it was hard. There are a couple of times that I wish I could have listened to them.

MARX: There just wasn't enough time to do what they were asking or there wasn't enough product (flowers) or we didn't have the right tools. These professional judges were looking at our structures from an outside perspective, not necessarily as a contestant. I think because there's never been a show like this in the floral sculpting world that, sometimes, the connection between what was possible and what wasn't possible wasn't actually there.

QUESTION: How has your floral designing improved since the show?

CAMPBELL-ANGERS: I'm definitely changing the way that I look at plants. I'm not just thinking about flowers. Before I would only use flowers now in my installations. Now, I'm bringing in some living plants and I'm just thinking about my space differently. I think I learned a lot of new techniques and skills that we're teaching in our workshops.

MARX: I don't think it would be possible for Sarah's installations to improve because, as far as making floral installations, she really is the queen of the game already.

Campbell-Angers and Marx undoubtedly enjoyed their three months on set. I'll provide no spoilers in how they finished the competition. From a professional Netflix watcher sitting and watching from home, they did a fabulous job and made the Eastern Shore proud! It's a great show and I recommend it for all viewers. Now, I think I'll go back and watch it again!! 📺



ABOVE: Sarah places the perfect finishing touches at a Chesapeake Bay Beach Club wedding

OPPOSITE TOP: Contestants of *The Great Flower Fight* gather in front of the dome to receive instructions for the day's challenge

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: Jordan Marx and Sarah Campbell-Angers explain their floral design to the hosts and the resident judge of *The Great Flower Fight*



Illustration: Getty Images

STRONGER TOGETHER

Public and private agencies solve community issues through creative solutions, matching private resources with public needs in communities across the Mid-Shore

BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD AND MANNING LEE

PORTRAITS BY STEPHEN WALKER

W

When a need arises in our communities across the Mid-Shore, there are people who go to work to solve the problems. Like emergency responders, these “community responders” are the boots on the ground connecting people to much-needed assistance when the call goes out. Whether it is hunger, shelter, mental health, jobs, recovery, or spirituality, we are blessed with leaders who step forward to partner with others and to meet the issues head-on. Sometimes the issues are easily solved by partnering with like organizations and other times, these leaders must craft creative solutions to achieve their goals.

While there are many of these “community responders” on the Mid-Shore, we chose a few this year who have gone above and beyond in making us feel safe, secure, cared for, and optimistic about the future that stands before us due to the particularly challenging issues created by COVID-19. The silos which sometimes existed in our communities regarding who provides which services have all but disappeared as nonprofits step up “together” to solve the myriad of problems created by the pandemic.

We are fortunate on the Mid-Shore to have funding for these community initiatives through the Mid-Shore Community Foundation (MSCF), a nonprofit charity, which serves as the connector between private resources and public needs. The Foundation’s primary goal is to enhance the quality of life throughout the Mid-Shore region. The nonprofit has played a critical role in helping to address some of the most challenging community issues the region has faced in decades. We salute the efforts of our community members who have proven through these trials that we are truly “Stronger Together.”

community responder

Beth Anne Langrell

In March, Beth Anne Langrell, CEO of For All Seasons, Behavioral Health and Rape Crisis Center, and her staff decided that no matter what would present itself, people would always have a place to go for counseling. They put their heads together and devised their COVID-19 strategy. Seventy-two hours later For All Seasons had metamorphosed from an in-person counseling center into an agency seeing clients both in person and through teletherapy. That would be the first of several changes that the community responders of the mental health front line in Easton would identify to meet the needs of our community.

For All Seasons has 24-hour and English and Spanish hotlines for those who are facing a mental health or sexual assault crisis. During the shut-down and in the months following, many people realized that they weren’t doing ‘okay.’ Out of necessity, For All Seasons implemented additional crisis appointments, to help people with the anxieties and stresses they were experiencing during this period of time.

Since the start of the pandemic, For All Seasons has taken on the needs of over 350 new patients. “The pandemic has impacted everyone’s mental health. We recognize that everyone is experiencing COVID differently. Our COVID appointments have become critical to supporting the mental health of our community. People who may or may not have sought mental health treatment before are reaching out because they need a different level of support during these uncertain times,” Langrell said.

“I’m a huge proponent of believing in having grace in everything that we do. Especially now, we need to be kind to ourselves, as well as to others. We are all experiencing this differently and we have to give ourselves permission to recognize that we may need something different than we needed six months ago. It’s ok for each of us to say to one another, ‘Hey, I’m not doing okay today.’ For All Seasons will be there in that moment,” she added.

For All Seasons

MISSION: Providing therapy, advocacy, psychiatry, and education to Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne, and Talbot counties regardless of ability to pay.

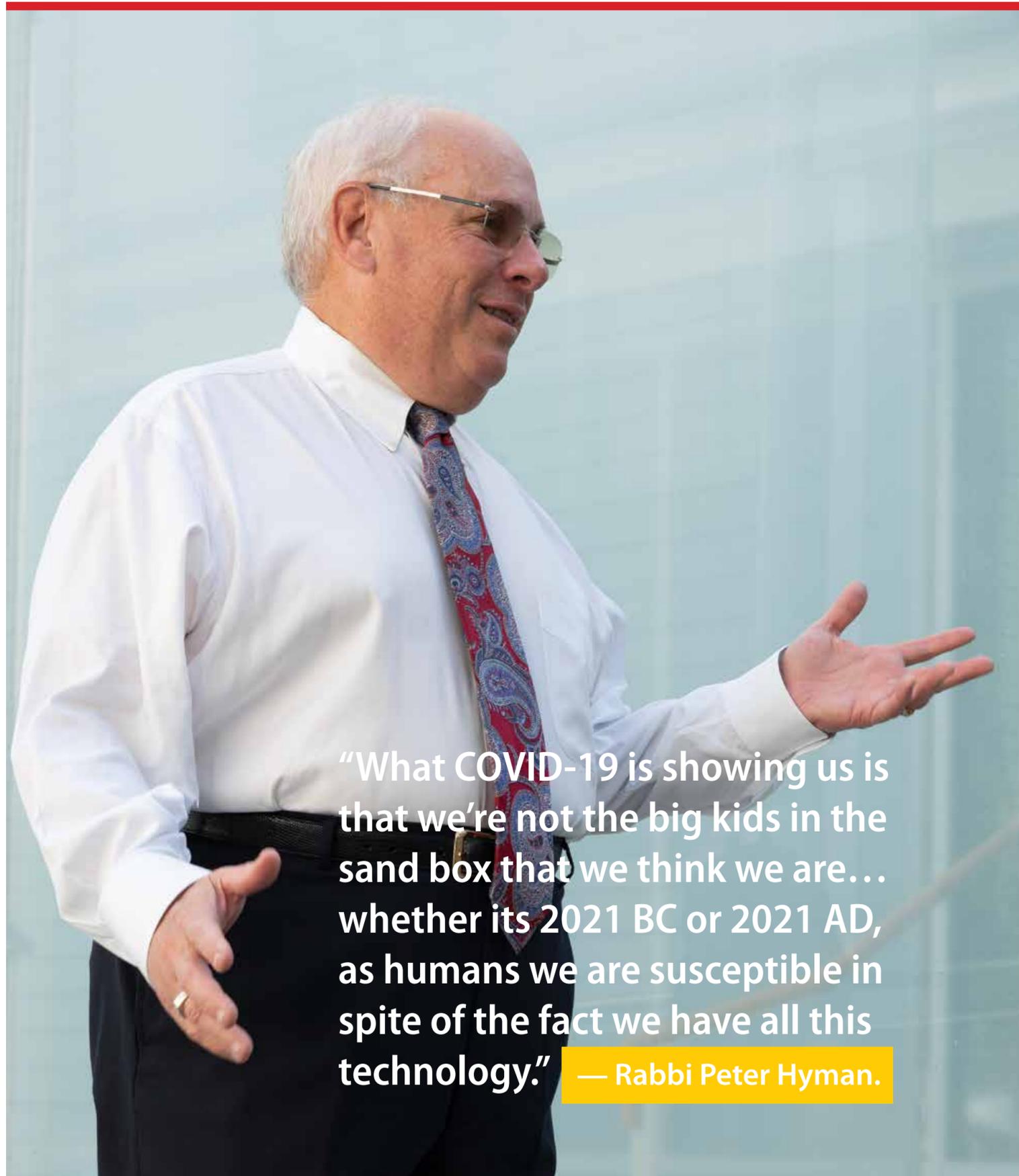
ADDRESS: (Main Office) 300 Talbot Street, Easton, MD 21601

WEBSITE: forallseasonsinc.org

PHONE: 410-822-1018



“At times, as a society we have a tendency to shame people or to judge people before we are able to take a step back and reflect that everybody’s experiencing something different and that we all come from a different place.” — Beth Anne Langrell



“What COVID-19 is showing us is that we’re not the big kids in the sand box that we think we are... whether its 2021 BC or 2021 AD, as humans we are susceptible in spite of the fact we have all this technology.” — Rabbi Peter Hyman.

community responder

As a community responder in the spiritual front lines, Rabbi Peter Hyman led the charge in helping his congregation and others with the spiritual nature of our place in the COVID -19 crisis and through other recent well-known national events. Most notable was his participation in his synagogue a unifying gathering of all faiths during the Charleston shooting several years ago.

When asked how difficult it was not to gather and be unified in the synagogue, he noted, “I was able to get to one protest in town,” he added. He felt encouraged by every element of our community. “I saw Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Islamic Society as well as members of the Synagogue come to the table with shared wisdom and values. It is energizing and powerful to see a full palette of the community participating with both the young and old coming together for the George Floyd protest,” he expressed.

In preparation for one of the first teachings during the shutdown, Hyman searched the “Torah” for wisdom on Egyptian plagues as well as other plagues in scripture. “I shared with my congregation the term, ‘Pikuach Nefesh,’ which is explained by several Talmudic Rabbis who speak of this principle, ‘If you’ve been exposed and want to go to Synagogue for worship, you may not because you may not endanger yourself or others even if the notion of the motivation is noble.’ You may not do it because the end result is you’re going to cause damage, hurt or possibly cause death,” reported Rabbi Hyman.

“I just looked at the Jewish responsibility. This shutdown is and was not a religious principle, but a health issue. From a Jewish perspective, its everybody’s responsibility to be protective of one another and themselves. That wisdom comes from the “Torah” and any scripture. If you’re dead, then you cannot participate in any worship,” he explained. Rabbi Hyman believes it is in our best interest to listen and adhere to the guidelines given to us by those charged with our care.

Temple B’nai Israel

MISSION: Temple B’nai Israel is the center of a warm, inclusive and progressive Jewish community. Its membership reflects and welcomes into the Temple family the rich diversity in contemporary America. Temple B’nai Israel celebrates the beauty of Jewish holidays, rituals, culture and programming as a united community.

ADDRESS: 7199 Tristan Drive Easton, MD 21601

WEBSITE: Bnaisraeleaston.org

PHONE: 410-822-0553

STRONGER TOGETHER



Pictured are the 2019 MSCF Scholarship Recipients. This fiscal year the MSCF scholarship program awarded over \$1 million to 118 local students for dual enrollment, two- and four-year degrees and trade certifications.

MID-SHORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Connecting Private Resources to Public Needs

Matching private resources with public needs is what makes communities strong and able to withstand disasters like pandemics, hurricanes, floods, and other unforeseen challenges. Such was the case when COVID-19 arrived in mid-March and the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, Inc. (MSCF) stepped up to address the myriad of needs facing individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations in the five counties on the Mid-Shore.

Established in 1992 with a \$236,000 bequest, MSCF is a 501 (c)(3) public charity that serves individuals, associations, and nonprofit organizations in Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s and Talbot counties. Its mission is to connect private resources with public needs to enhance the quality of life throughout the Mid-Shore region. As part of the organization’s commitment to build a strong and just community, it provides millions of dollars every year in scholarships, grants, and charitable programs.

“One of the beauties of a community foundation is that we are built to pivot and meet the changing needs in the community when unforeseen circumstances happen,” states Robbin Hill, Chief Program Officer at MSCF.

The Foundation has matured to become one of



Mid-Shore Community Foundation

ADDRESS: 102 East Dover Street,
Easton, MD 21601
WEBSITE: www.msfcf.org
PHONE: (410) 820-8175



ABOVE: The Mid-Shore Community Foundation offers trainings each year for local nonprofits. Pictured is Johnny O'Brien, founder of Renaissance Leadership, providing leadership development training.

LEFT: Pictured are staff of Mid-Shore Community Foundation, left to right, are: Coco F. Provance, Program Assistant; Francesca P. Wiseman, Program Assistant; Heather B. Pickens, Marketing & Communications; Robbin F. Hill, Chief Program Officer; and W.W. "Buck" Duncan, President.

the most significant foundations in the State of Maryland, holding \$93.4 million in total assets for the Mid-Shore Region. In 2019, the organization processed \$5.6 million in contributions and distributed \$4.9 million in grants, scholarships, and charitable program expenses through 435 funds.

"The generosity of the five counties, which share the Mid-Shore Community Foundation's mission to improve the quality of life here, has been critical to the growth of our organization. We have supportive and talented volunteers, including our Board of Directors, county advisors, and committee members, who continue to guide and assist us in our operations. We are grateful for their dedication and service," comments Buck Duncan, President of MSCF.

"This year, we were in a position to step up and address the coronavirus disaster ourselves with a \$100,000 grant from our board to establish the COVID-19 Response Fund. We haven't always had that financial capability," Hill said.

According to Hill, with \$100,000 to start the COVID-19 Response Fund, the organization could proudly ask others to help. She adds, "Choptank Transport, Shore Bancshares, Avon Dixon, and Preston Automotive Group are the businesses that immediately joined our effort."

To date, the COVID-19 Response Fund has raised over \$800,000. The MSCF Grants Committee oversees the COVID-19 Response Fund and makes grant recommendations. Initially, 20 volunteers from across the five Mid-Shore counties reviewed grant requests weekly. The pace has slowed some with reviews now happening every two or three weeks. From the first grants on April 15 through June 30, COVID-19 Response Fund grants went almost exclusively to organizations providing basic human needs — like Easton's Neighborhood Service Center and the Caroline County Public Schools food initiative. A new funding source for the

fund is the "Hopeful" campaign, which is utilizing public art sculptures to spread hope and to raise awareness of the needs related to hunger, homelessness, and health on the Mid-Shore. (See page 37 for more information.)

Hill explains that one exciting piece of the COVID-19 campaign has been the participation from the Foundation's donor-advised funds. A donor-advised fund (DA fund) is created by an individual, family, or group with a shared interest in supporting charitable efforts. The funds allow MSCF to give local nonprofits money to meet their needs by alerting donors to the charitable efforts and organizations serving Mid-Shore residents.

"When we pivoted for COVID-19, we

ended the October 1, 2019 grants cycle and started the COVID-19 cycle. Nonprofit organizations serving the most affected populations in our community could apply through a simple online request for a grant of up to \$5,000 for COVID-19 related expenses. By June 30, we had distributed over \$500,000 to 67 local nonprofits and had raised another \$300,000 to continue and expand the program. The Edgewood Fund, a new DA fund, helped with our October 1 grant cycle and immediately stepped up with an interfund grant of nearly \$100,000 to our COVID-19 Response Fund," Hill said.

"Several other DA funds made donations to the fund, including Reade W. and Mary P. Corr and the Arthur B. Kudner, Jr. Fund,

which supported the COVID-19 campaign with recovery grants to Washington College and Kent School and \$198,000 to the COVID-19 Response Fund, assuring our ability to continue to support our mission partners."

Duncan adds, "The COVID-19 grant fund has been one of the most worthwhile projects we have done because the pandemic has affected everyone in our communities in some way. People are happy to have a way to help others by donating to the fund."

While juggling the needs caused by COVID-19, the staff at MSCF still had to get their regular scholarships and grants out to the community. For the first time this fiscal year, the MSCF scholarship

program awarded over \$1 million to 118 local students for dual enrollment, two- and four-year degrees and trade certifications. This is tremendous growth from the early years when \$100,000 in scholarships were awarded. The scholarships have also grown to support both high school and adult students wishing to continue their education in automotive technology, welding, aviation mechanics, radiology technology, and culinary arts.

"It takes nearly 100 volunteers to make the scholarship program work. When COVID hit, the meetings were already scheduled, so we forged ahead by phone and got the scholarships awarded. We even mailed the award letters early this year to share the good news with students

and their parents, knowing the difficult financial situations that faced many of them," Hill said.

In 2019, MSCF awarded \$2.2 million in grants and fiscal sponsorships supporting Mid-Shore youth through scholarships, education, and youth development. Support for basic human needs represented \$1.3 million of the total distributed. Grants to Mid-Shore nonprofits supported the following areas: environment (\$47,092), animal care (\$94,201), community development (\$167,697), historic preservation (\$251,381), arts and culture (\$371,252), health/disability (\$417,821), youth development (\$481,076), education (\$750,935), and scholarships (\$969,783).

"The organization's growth and success have been built on its efficiency of operations. The staff at MSCF is exceptional in serving our donors and nonprofits. The staff continues to amaze me with their creative solutions and ideas in matching donor funds to nonprofit needs in communities across the Mid-Shore," Duncan said.

Another important role that MSCF plays in the community is offering nonprofit training programs that have been particularly valuable through COVID-19 as nonprofits had to figure out how to deliver their programs and services virtually. Hill recalls, "Things happened so quickly and turned their worlds upside down. We were able to offer three sessions of a free four-week virtual training for 70 nonprofits on the Mid-Shore. Many nonprofits told me that just knowing others were struggling



Kathy Bosin, a nonprofit consultant and freelance grant writer, presented a session, "Demystifying Grantwriting for Kent County Nonprofit leaders."

too was helpful to them. We hope the nonprofits use the information shared to develop new strategies for operating their organizations."

"The educational component of our mission has always been important to us. The healthier our nonprofits are, the more we can all do for others."

Upcoming educational programs offered by MSCF include a four-session Nonprofit Leadership Program for nonprofit staff, board members, and volunteers in September and October. Mid-Shore Community Foundation is partnering with the Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce and Queen Anne's County Local Management Board to host the e-training.

Looking to the future, Hill reports that MSCF has adopted a diversity statement which will certainly help to guide its funding going forward, stating, "We are proud to support community institutions that are directly tackling racism, equal opportunity, and social justice and reaffirm our commitment to listen and learn, and to deepen our support of those programs in order to accelerate positive change in our community. Now is the time for us to come together in solidarity and redouble our efforts to create a strong and just community that provides equal opportunity for all citizens in the Mid-Shore Region."

For further information about Mid-Shore Community Foundation, visit mscf.org or call 410-820-8175. Applications for the COVID-19 Response Fund are available online and awarded on an ongoing basis. Applications for nonprofits for the regular grant cycle are available online with a submission deadline of October 1, 2020.

community responder

Marilyn Neal

As a community responder during the COVID-19 crisis, Marilyn Neal, Executive Director of Neighborhood Service Center (NSC), and her staff stormed headfirst into the COVID-19 shutdown. They tasked themselves with working through the community's massive need for food distribution to combat the county's 10% poverty rate. "Our number one goal was survival. We wanted the people to know that we're here to take care of them. If I'm running, then my staff is running too and my staff rocked throughout the whole shutdown," exclaimed Neal.

During COVID-19, NSC served 777 households during the month of April, an increase from roughly 125 households monthly before the COVID-19 shutdown. They were able to reach those goals collaboratively with help from Jan Willis of the Talbot County Local Management Board who helped supply the volunteers and support needed to make such an operation work like a well-oiled machine.

In addition to food distribution, NSC staff worked tirelessly, challenged to solidify the needs of their clients not covered by government grants. With the unique nature of this shutdown, families who had been perfectly stable in February 2020, only one month later in March 2020, found themselves unable to make ends meet, but yet remained unqualified for government funding.

Neal and her team endlessly sought help from the greater Easton community to secure monetary donations with fewer guidelines and restrictions than government grants. NSC succeeded in helping those families who otherwise would have fallen through the cracks. Under Neal's leadership, the agency secured funding so clients and their families would have homes to shelter in during the shelter in place. "Through these private donations, we not only were able to keep clients in their homes, but also able to take care of some clients' sewer, water, electricity, and internet services to help take the stress off of the parents," explained Neal. "If the parents are less stressed, then they are better parents," she said. Better parents make stronger families.

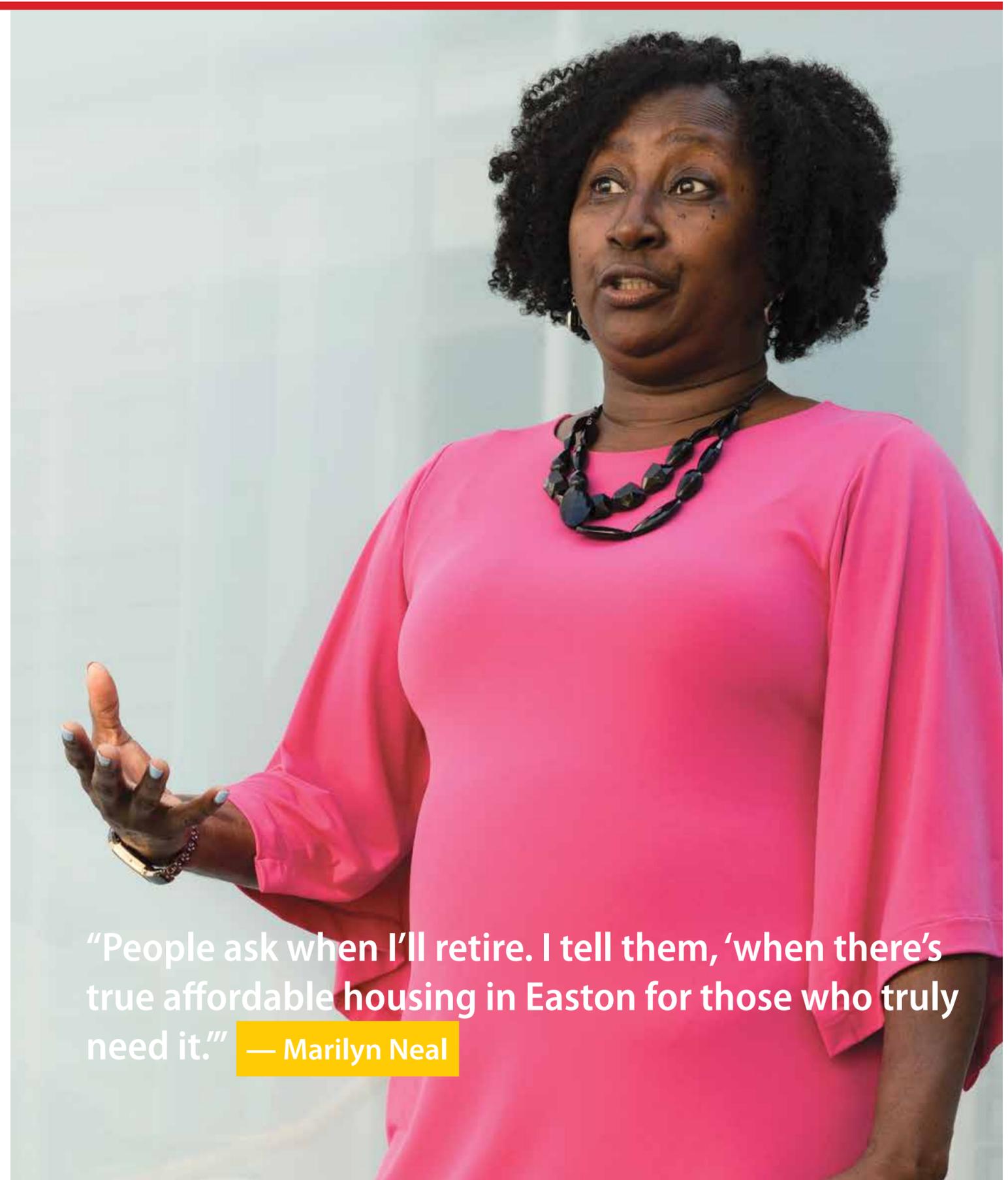
Neighborhood Service Center

MISSION: Improving the quality of life both socially and economically for low-income residents in Talbot County by equipping them with the tools and potential for becoming self-sufficient.

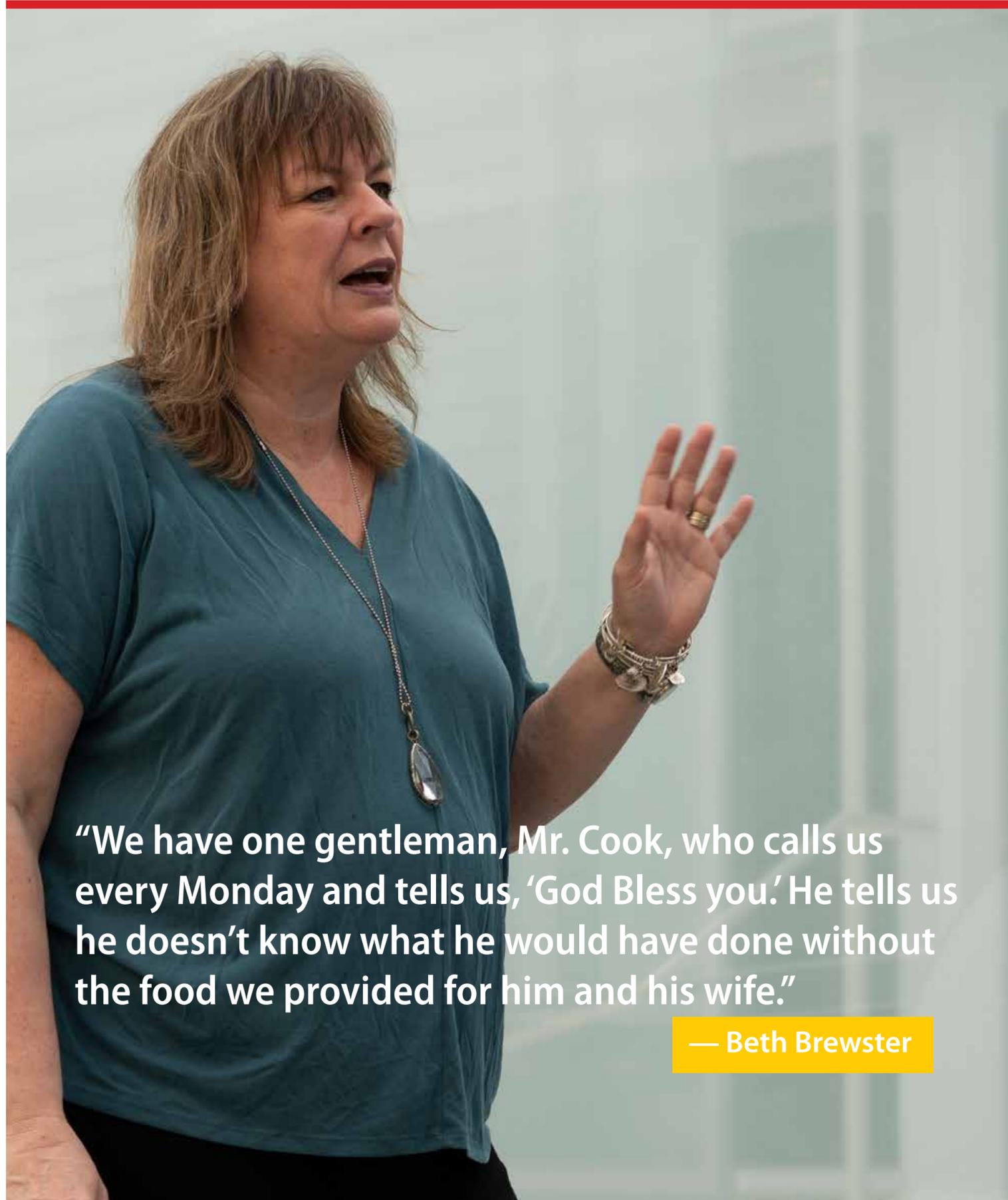
ADDRESS: 126 Port Street Easton, MD 21601

WEBSITE: nsctalbotmd.org

PHONE: 410-822-5015



"People ask when I'll retire. I tell them, 'when there's true affordable housing in Easton for those who truly need it.'" — Marilyn Neal



“We have one gentleman, Mr. Cook, who calls us every Monday and tells us, ‘God Bless you.’ He tells us he doesn’t know what he would have done without the food we provided for him and his wife.”

— Beth Brewster

community responder

Beth Brewster

At the onset of the COVID shutdown, Beth Brewster, Caroline County Public School’s Food Service Supervisor and her amazing team of 32 affectionately called “Lunch Ladies” wowed the Caroline County residents with nothing short of heroic and monumental food distribution.

Beginning on March 19th, Brewster and her team got to work keeping in mind that 65% of the student population participates in the free and reduced lunch program, and 69% participate in their universal breakfast program. Quickly, the “Lunch Ladies” devised a plan to reach and feed the one in four food insecure children in the third poorest county in Maryland.

Before the pandemic, they fed 270 to 300 students daily. At the height of the operation, they fed 1100 to 1300 kids totaling 3,600-3,800 meals a day. They distributed the grab and go meals in their drive-thru service, through door-to-door delivery, and bus delivery to the more poverty-stricken areas in the county.

In addition to feeding the children, they responded to the 10% of the county’s food insecure elderly population. With the senior centers closed, seniors were unable to leave their homes safely or to cook for themselves, Brewster’s team delivered grab-and-go meals to the seniors, as well as the children.

Brewster and her team receive much of the credit for stepping in and organizing, but the work was made perfect with the collaborative efforts of Caroline Helping Hands who runs the backpack program, by Joanna Reedy and Giving Grace Food Pantry from Trinity United Methodist Church and by Aaron’s Place run by Cheryl Beluah.

To view a video compiled by Rob Simmons about the program: <https://bit.ly/32ZvBKn>

Caroline County Public Schools’ Food Distribution

MISSION: Chesapeake Culinary Center is not only a non-profit organization that provides job-training for the culinary field, it is also a full-service catering business

EMAIL: info@carolineculinaryarts.org

WEBSITE: <http://www.carolineculinaryarts.org/>

PHONE: (410) 479-2144



DOCK STREET FOUNDATION

Feeling *Hopeful*

What makes us hopeful? Acts of kindness, a friend’s smile (no hugs for now), seeing our younger generation making a difference, a loving and caring community — all these things give us hope as we face new challenges. With the added stressors of COVID-19, some people are losing hope, but thanks to the efforts of Dock Street Foundation, the message of hope is glowing on the streets of Easton to remind us not to give up, to care for our neighbors, and to believe in ourselves, our community and our country.

When Richard Marks of Dock Street Foundation saw the *Hopeful* creation on top of a non-profit artist-run studio and gallery in Portland, Maine, he and his wife, Amy Haines, discussed possibly installing such an art sculpture in a highly visible area in Easton. They contacted the artist, Charlie Hewitt, through the Kempner Art Gallery in NYC. Charlie’s mixed-media work incorporates marquee-style lighting into a retro-inspired sign illuminated in colorful hues. His work has been collected by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, MOMA, the Whitney, the Brooklyn Museum, New York Public Library, and Library of Congress. In 2012, his sculpture “Urban Rattle” was installed along NYC’s now-famous High Line walkway.

Wanting the sculpture to do more than just uplift that town they love, the Dock Street Foundation team talked with the Mid-Shore Community Foundation



TOP: Thompson Park celebration featured Maine artist Charlie Hewitt who created the Hopeful art sculpture, with Richard Marks of Dock Street Foundation, which helped to purchase the sculptures.

BOTTOM: Volunteer Madeline Langfitt unveils the Hopeful art sculpture at the corner of Washington and Dover Streets with help from her dad Dr. Mark Langfitt.

about a collaboration in support of their COVID-19 Response Fund that awards grants to non-profit organizations in the five-county area. The goal through *Project Hopeful* is to raise at least \$100,000 with all proceeds going to part of the fund addressing the areas of health, homelessness, and hunger during the pandemic. Donors are encouraged to donate online or text their donations to the fund. There are also masks and bumper stickers available for purchase.

With the support of a few very generous and “Hopeful” citizens of Talbot County, four of Hewitt’s signs were procured — three five-foot-long and one eight-foot-long — and are now installed in four prominent locations in Easton. Two of the signs are located at the corner of Washington and Dover Streets on the building housing Kiln-Born, one is on Harrison Street by the public parking lot, and the largest one is on South Washington Street on the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy complex facing Easton Hospital.

Charlie Hewitt drove down from his home in Portland, Maine, to assist with the installations and to speak at the unveiling ceremony in July, in Thompson Park in Easton. He shared with the audience that his creation a year ago came out of a dark place. He was feeling sad at the time about politics, about addiction in his community, and life in general. He said that he awakened to the idea as soon as he said to himself, “I am not going to accept that” and the word “hopeful” came to mind. He sketched a concept and took it to a sign company. He further explained, “There was a time when I was a boy and the great American highway was open to us. We would get in our cars and take these adventures down highways and roads to see parks, motels, food places, and these marquee signs would advertise their generosity, invitation, and their spirit. I became enamored with that time in America when I had access to the world.”

“Hopeful is not a gift — it’s a challenge. To be hopeful requires action, it requires commitment, it requires opening your eyes,



ABOVE: The largest Hopeful sign hangs on the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy building on Washington Street. RIGHT: The sign located on Harrison Street in Easton. The mixed-media work incorporates marquee style lighting into a retro-inspired sign illuminated in colorful hues.

it requires making decisions. It requires being part of something. It requires being passionately in love with your country, passionately in love with your family, and passionately in love with everyone in your community. That passion and that love I want back. I want a resurgence in my soul for that kind of life,” he added. “The sign is a piece of public art that I hope expresses faith, commitment, and love in our community. I hope that people will see this as some signal to carry on a dialogue or have a narrative with each other that says we care.”

A crowd of over 100 people joined Hewitt at the unveiling, along with representatives of Dock Street Foundation, Mid-Shore Community Foundation, Avalon Foundation, Talbot County Arts Council, and Discover Easton to kick-off the celebration of *Hopeful 2020* in Thompson Park. The event included the unveiling of two of the art sculptures and was accompanied by the music of Robbie Schaefer, a musician, songwriter, and playwright devoted to service through the arts. The Talbot Arts Council also announced their participation in the *Hopeful 2020* campaign by encouraging arts groups to consider new projects in music, fine arts, craft, poetry, and writing related to the theme of “hope” over the coming months.

Marks commented about the pandemic and how hopeful he feels personally, “I have great hope in people that they will figure things out. This pandemic has forced us to look at things differently and to appreciate



life more. I am incredibly optimistic that we will come out the other side of this smarter, wiser, and closer as a community.”

“It is so wonderful to be talking about the place of art in our lives and to have a demonstration of that. Art will change us. Art does change us. It is something to inspire us. We need more of that now,” stated Talbot County Councilman Pete Leshner.

Resident Brenda Wooden commented, “I think that there is hope for the community because we now see what we need to be for others. That there is help for people out there. This campaign can bring hope to them.”

Tori Gomez, a local student and *Hopeful* volunteer, added, “The title, ‘Hopeful,’ brings us together and shows how we can work together.”

At the *Hopeful* kick-off, Amy Haines read a poem, “To Be of Use,” by poet Marge Piercy, which had a stanza in it which seems to sum up the community efforts taking place across America:

*I want to be with people who submerge
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest
and work in a row and pass the bags along,
who are not parlor generals and field deserters
but move in a common rhythm
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.*

(“*Circles on the Water: Selected Poems of Marge Piercy*,” Alfred A. Knopf, 1982)

To date, Mid-Shore Community Foundation has raised over \$800,000 for the COVID-19

Response Fund. They are pleased to invite Dock Street Foundation as a partner in their ongoing efforts so the fund continues to encourage donations and support.

Hopeful signs will remain in high visibility areas in Easton until the end of the year.

HOW TO DONATE

Those interested in taking an action step can do so by donating to Mid-Shore Community Foundation’s Covid-19 Response Fund at www.dockstreetfoundation.org or by donating through your **phone bill** by **texting** Hope15, Hope25 or Hope50 for a \$15, \$25 or \$50 donation to 80100* or by donating by **credit card** by texting Hopeful to 56512.

Bumper stickers and masks are for sale to support the fund at the Hopeful Headquarters: Vintage Books and Fine Art in Easton at 4 North Washington St. and at Sprout in Easton at 335 North Aurora St., and in St. Michael’s at 114 South Talbot St.

OUR COMMUNITY'S FUNDS

Mid-Shore Community Foundation's Donor-Advised Funds

Donor-advised funds can be created by an individual, family, or group with a shared interest in supporting charitable efforts.

CAROLINE

Choptank Transport Community Foundation
Roberta B. Holt Fund
Joseph S. Mansfield, Sr. Memorial Fund
McMahan Family Fund
Nagel Family Fund
Women's Club of Caroline County Fund

Arthur H. Kudner, Jr. Fund
Marvin and Catherine Nielsen Fund
Audrey B. Pierce Fund
UBU Fund

TALBOT

The Allegra Fund
Andrew Family Foundation
Blenda W. and Bruce C. Armistead Fund
C. Paul Cox Family Fund
Daisy Fund
The Draut Fund
The Edgewood Fund
Ferree Fund
Hope Fulton and Joel C. Leuchter Philanthropic Fund
James D. and Gloria A. Gibson Fund
Granville Fund
Gratitude Fund
Jabez Fund
Katra Fund
Michael Marcell Memorial Fund
Mariah's Mission Fund
Merriewold Trust
Amelia and Charlie Mufson Fund
Bill and Judy Munn Family Fund
Providence Fund
Reynolds/Cristiano Fund
Ripple Fund
Jason Weldon Sherertz Memorial Fund
The Talbot Twelve Foundation Fund
Charles H. Thornton Family Fund
Melanie & Glen Todd Charitable Fund
Samuel S. and Sandra J. Tuttle Fund
Wells Family Fund
Wilke Fund
William L. & Bonnie B. Wilson Fund

DORCHESTER

George B. Todd Fund

KENT COUNTY

Two Feet on the Ground Fund
American Legion Post 192 Foundation
Chestertown Library Preservation Foundation
The Clifton Fund
Cold Day Fund
Reade W. and Mary P. Corr Fund
Elsberg Family Fund
Elsberg Family Foundation Fund
Margaret Herring Fund
Andrew and Leslie Price Family Fund
Doris R. Thompson Activities Fund
Clifton F. West, Jr. Fund
Wolin Family Tzedakah Fund

QUEEN ANNE'S

The Chestnut Knoll Fund
Marvin B. Coppage Children's Hunter Education Fund
Sener Durham Fund
Springbrook Fund

REGIONAL

Artistic Insights Fund
Edward H. Boyd Fund
CtC Family Fund
The Daughters' Fund
Fryling Fund

community responder

Dave Harper

The Herculean task of transitioning over 200 classes and 2,000 students to remote instruction to finish the spring semester was only the beginning of what the college accomplished in response to the COVID-19 shutdown. Dave Harper and his colleagues at Chesapeake College are community responders on the front lines of local education and workforce training, implementing strategies to get our community back to work.

Chesapeake College partners with local businesses, educational institutions, governments, and non-profits to support regional economic growth and recovery efforts. One of the hardest-hit segments of our workforce is the dislocated or "gig" worker. These are people like dog walkers, live music performers or anyone who may couple together their jobs with their talents, but who may not be incorporated as a business owner. These workers typically don't qualify for unemployment and other programs.

Dave Harper, Vice President for Workforce and Academic Programs at the college, described, "We work closely with the Workforce Investment Board, which oversees local American Job Centers. Dan McDermott and his team recently received a Dislocated Workers Grant, which supports dislocated workers. This grant will help provide courses such as Microsoft Office, Public Speaking, Business 101, and Accounting so that these workers will be able to build a resume and get back to work."

This fund pays for the instruction and also even a modest stipend for individuals. It gives the dislocated workers basic skill exploration so they not only can get back to work but additionally can qualify for better quality jobs. The Dislocated Workers Grant will be available for the next four years.

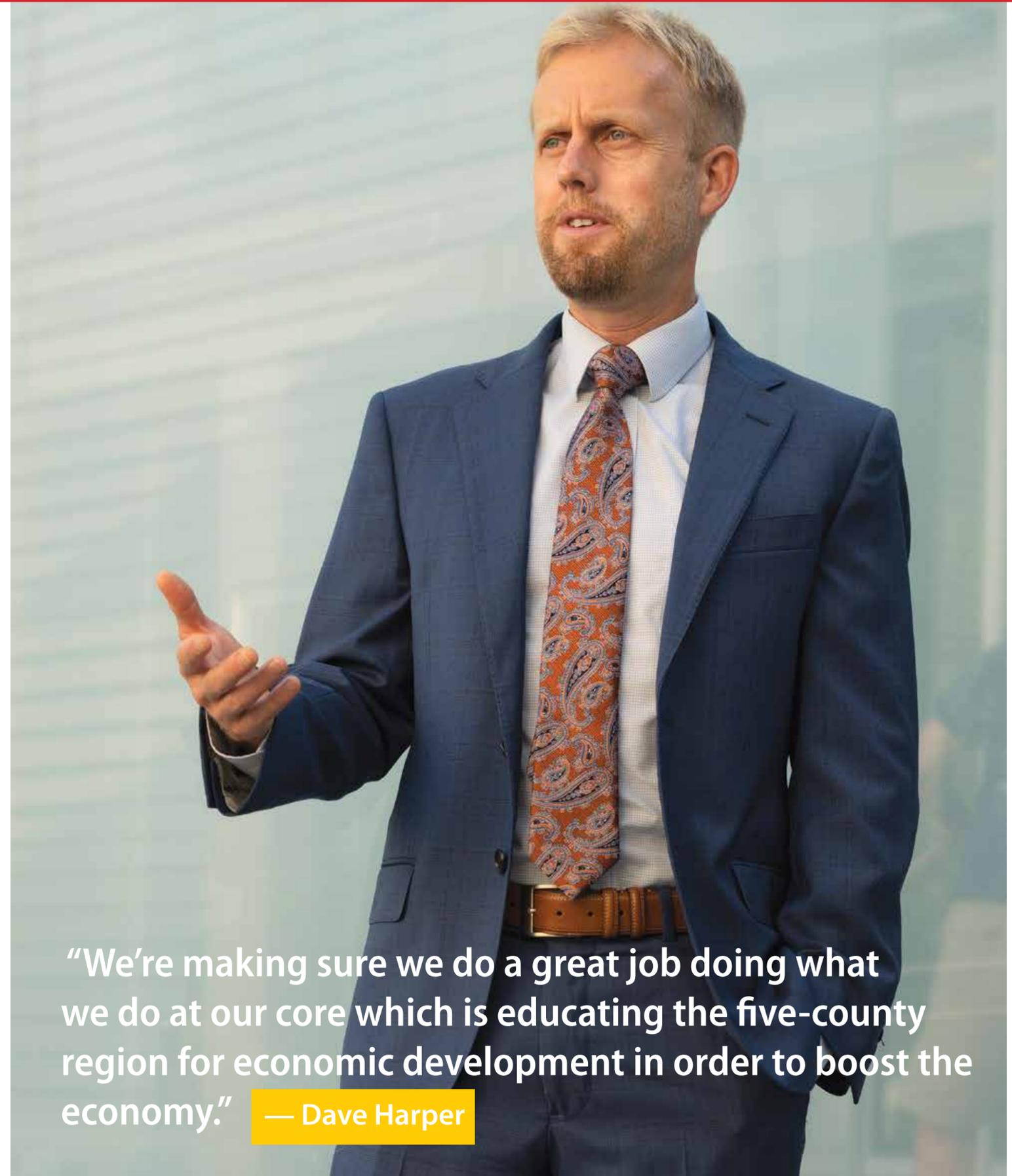
Chesapeake College

MISSION: Supporting workforce development by providing the courses and training needed to build a skilled labor force.

ADDRESS: PO Box 8, Wye Mills, MD 21679

WEBSITE: www.chesapeake.edu

PHONE: 410-822-5400



"We're making sure we do a great job doing what we do at our core which is educating the five-county region for economic development in order to boost the economy." — Dave Harper



“All this stuff I’m going through is making me realize how lucky I am to have you as my parents. You both could have written me off a long time ago, but you didn’t... You raised me the best way possible and one day you’ll be proud of me, I promise.”

— Valerie Albee’s daughter, Mariah

community responder

Valerie Albee

Valerie Albee is a community responder to those recovering from addiction. She and her husband, Rick, lost their daughter Mariah from an accidental overdose. In her grief, Albee formed a support group for parents who lost their children to substance use. “We all loved our children; they were good kids who often suffered from mental health issues and self-medicated,” explained Albee.

Out of that support group came Mariah’s Mission, a fund that allows Albee to honor her daughter’s memory by giving back to those in recovery. Mariah’s Mission seeks to empower those struggling with addiction by providing the resources needed to eliminate barriers to recovery and by encouraging changes that lead to a healthy and independent life.

The Mission’s current initiative, “Wheels for Change,” was birthed out of Albee’s desire to provide bicycles to residents of Talbot County recovery houses. Many of these residents arrive with limited resources. They are getting their lives together, but any real or perceived trouble often creates roadblocks. Transportation to and from work and meetings eliminates this potential situation.

Albee approached Ryan Hickey of Easton Cycle and Sport to join forces to provide bikes to the recovery houses. Hickey lost his brother Joe to a biking accident in Easton and sees his participation as a way to honor his brother’s memory. Hickey and his staff provide safety checks needed to repair and condition the gently used bicycles for each new owner.

Each participant may keep and maintain the donated bicycle while in the recovery house. To date, Wheels for Change has donated 21 bikes and maintains a waiting list for more gently used bikes.

To donate a gently used bicycle, or one needing minor repairs, contact Valerie by email: MariahMission2014@gmail.com or call Mid-Shore Community Foundation at 410-820-8175.

Mariah’s Mission

MISSION: Empowering those struggling with addiction by providing the resources needed to eliminate the barriers to recovery and by encouraging changes that lead to a healthy and independent life.

ADDRESS: 102 East Dover Street, Easton, MD 21601

WEBSITE: mariahsmision.org

PHONE: 410-820-8175

STRONGER TOGETHER

OUR COMMUNITY’S AGENCIES

COVID Response Fund Recipients & Donors

67 recipients, focusing exclusively providing basic human needs, received \$565,365 in grants from the COVID-19 Response Fund between April 15 and June 30:

\$565,365.00 GRANTS

- Aaron’s Place
- Baywater Animal Rescue
- Benedictine School for Exceptional Children
- Bridges at Worthmore
- Building African American Minds
- Cambridge Main Street
- CarePacks
- Caroline County Department of Social Services
- Caroline Human Services Council
- CASA of the Mid-Shore
- Channel Marker
- Chesapeake Center
- Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center
- Chesterwe Center
- Community Food Pantry
- Community Mediation Upper Shore
- Compass Regional Hospice
- Corsica River Mental Health Services
- Critchlow Adkins Children’s Center
- Crossroads Community
- Delmarva Community Services
- Dorchester Center for the Arts
- Dorchester County Historical Society
- Easter Seals
- Easton Volunteer Fire Department
- Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry
- FarmersWagon.org
- Food for Learning
- For All Seasons
- Freedom Rowers
- GAR Post #25 - SACRJ Food Initiative
- Gunston School
- Haven Ministries
- Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne’s Counties
- Humane Society of Kent County
- Kent Center
- Kent School

COVID Response Fund Recipients & Donors, continued

MD Community for Life Talbot
Mid Shore Community Mediation Center
Mid-Shore Early Learning Center
MidShore Meals til Monday
Mid-Shore Pro Bono
Neighborhood Service Center
New Beginnings Youth and Family Services
North Caroline Clergy Association
Pine Street Committee
Pleasant Day Medical Adult Day Care
Positive Strides
Queen Anne's County Local Management Board
Radcliffe Creek School
Rebuilding Together Kent County
Saint Martin's Ministries
Salvation Army
Society of St. Vincent De Paul
St. Michaels Community Center
Sultana Education Foundation
Talbot Community Connections
Talbot Hospice Foundation
Talbot Humane
Talbot Interfaith Shelter
Talisman Therapeutic Riding
Tilghman Area Youth Association
Washington College
Waugh Chapel United Methodist Church
Wye River Upper School
YMCA of the Chesapeake
YMCA of the Chesapeake - Dorchester County

Ms. Susan Chaffinch
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Mr. David DeLuca
Ms. Kathy Deoudes
Ms. Susan Devlin
Dock Street Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Dresher
Mr. Buck Duncan
Ms. Diana L. Duncan
Elsberg Family Fund
James D. and Gloria A. Gibson Fund
Ms. Nancy Gooding
Granville Fund
Ms. Heather Guerieri
Ms. Jeanne A. Halpin
Mr. Lance Harvey
Mr. Clement Hathaway
Jane and Robert Hellawell Foundation
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Mr. and Mrs. Fred Israel
Mr. Joe Holt
Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Kenney
Keith V. Kiernan Foundation
Ms. Linda C. King
Mr. and Mrs. John Kirby
Ms. Susan Klise
Mr. Arthur Kudner
Arthur H. Kudner, Jr. Fund
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Langfitt
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lawrence
Mr. Charles Lerner
Mr. George Lesmes
Ms. Catherine J. Liebl
Edmund Lindemuth and Melvyn Schofield
Endowment Fund
Mr. Thomas Louis
Ms. Becky Loukides
Mr. Berl Lovelace
Lowe's of Easton
Ms. Lynda L. Marshall
Ms. Barry Martin
C. Albert Matthews, Inc.
Mr. Sandy McAllister

Mr. and Mrs. Edward G. McDonald
Mr. John McGinnis
Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Miller
Mr. Paul Moorhead and Ms. Rebecca Otter
Mr. Fil Morrison
Mr. Jim Moses
Mr. James C. Mourlas
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice E. Newnam, III
Paris Foods Corporation
Ms. Rima Z. Parkhurst
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Ms. Cheryl Phillips
The Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce
Ms. Laurie Powers
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Price
Ms. Ellen S. Rajacich
Rauch Foundation
Dr. Margaret Rennels
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Reynolds/Cristiano Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rice
Mr. and Mrs. Curt Rich
Ms. Mary Robertson
Scatteree Partners L.P.
Mr. Rick Scobey and Mr. Bruce Ragsdale
The Seip Family Foundation
Ms. Eunice B. Shearer
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Sherman
Shore Bancshares, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Smith, II
Dr. Eva M. Smorzaniuk
Drs. Ronald and Nancy Sweet
Mr. and Mrs. Mario Tama
Ms. Tracie Thomas
George B. Todd Fund
Mr. David Tolley
Mr. Geoffrey A. Turner
Mr. Alfred Tyler
Ms. Tracy Tyler
Mr. and Mrs. William F. U'Ren
Dr. and Mrs. David P. Valliant
Ms. Mary Ellen Valliant
Mr. Moorhead Vermilye
Sarah H. Willis Charitable Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Mark D. Wilson
Dr. and Mrs. Douglas F. Wiseman
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THANK YOU!

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COURTESY PHOTO

ONE MEAL AT A TIME

Ryan and Emily Groll's Farm to Friends initiative is connecting the dots in our hungry community

BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD

PHOTOS BY STEPHEN WALKER

Above: Ryan Groll of Sprout with Tim Fields, General Manager/Operator of Baywater Farms in Salisbury, MD. The Farm to Friends program connects farmers who have product to sell with families in need. Right: Ryan Groll rolls out a cart of freshly baked bread at his location in Easton.

Five years ago, Ryan and Emily Groll of Easton were jobless and on Food Stamps. The couple started doing what they knew — making healthy food. While unemployed, the two used their degrees and backgrounds in kinesiology, cooking, and nutrition, to put together healthy meals for friends. Friends would buy groceries and they would do the cooking. Word spread and the couple did a feasibility study which showed that people would buy good food when it was convenient. In January 2016, they sold their car and used the money from it as capital to build a food truck with a commercial kitchen and their business, Sprout (a nickname of their first daughter) was off and running. The business offered locally-sourced, ready-to-eat meals delivered directly to homes.

Ryan comments, "The business was an extension of our lifestyle. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) had been a part of our entire lives. We wanted to use that model of eating in the seasons and buying local as the foundation for the new business."

"Our philosophy of life was to determine how we wanted to live and then build our business around that."

As their business started to grow, the couple made giving back a part of their business plan. They knew what it felt like to be jobless and wanting to eat healthy food. Sprout gave food to the Talbot Hunger Coalition, Talbot Interfaith Shelter, the Neighborhood Service Center, and helped the elderly in the community, as well as provided demonstrations at the elementary schools to teach kids that healthy food could taste good. Ryan reflects, "We wanted to give back to the community who gave to us during those hard times."



PHOTO BY STEPHEN WALKER



ABOVE: Sprout Chef Wes Sampson with Jarred and Trisha Boyce, owners of Chapel Country Creamery, and their son.



MIDDLE: Produce that is typically donated from local farmers for Sprout's Farm to Friends program.

BELOW: One of the families affiliated with Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center receive a Farm to Friends CSA bag.



COURTESY PHOTOS

In two years, the business grew from one additional employee to eight employees. The company now needed a public space with a larger production kitchen, so they opened a storefront on Aurora Street in Easton to allow them to rotate their products. Soon, Sprout had 17 employees. Local purveyors, they were working with growing, too. That is, until COVID-19 hit in March of this year.

Ryan recalls the impact on his growing business, "We had just opened our store in St. Michaels before Christmas and had to close it three months later on March 15. We also had to reduce our staff in Easton."

Sprout, like many other businesses in the area, had to pivot and relaunch online services just to keep their head above water. Ryan also expanded his delivery area to Severna Park and Salisbury. Despite the struggles, they didn't let their heart for the community diminish. In April, they launched "Feed the Front Lines," an online giving program where people in the community could sponsor meals for workers on the front lines fighting the virus. Whatever the community donated, Sprout matched the donation by 25 percent. Front line workers included those working in local hospitals and medical centers, police officers, paramedics, For All Seasons, the YMCA, Talbot Interfaith Shelter, and Talbot Hospice.

At the end of May, realizing the impact of the pandemic on friends in the hospitality industry who had lost their jobs and local farmers who had an excess of product, Chef Wes Sampson at Sprout came up with another program, "Farm to Friends." This program connected the excess product from local farmers to food-insecure families. Community members could do the same thing they did with Feed the Front and go online and donate. Stickers are also sold for \$5 each and the purchase of two stickers covers the cost of a CSA bag that can feed a family of four. The bag included eggs, fresh fruit and vegetables, yogurt, milk and butter.

"We wanted to get healthy food to those impacted by the restaurant closings and the farmers had product to sell that they couldn't sell to restaurants," comments Sampson.

"My passion is to educate communities on the fresh products available locally, right in our backyards, and increase access to those products."

Sprout purchased products from local farmers including Abundant Grace Farms, Nice Farms Creamery, Blades Orchard, Chapel Country Creamery, and Baywater Farms, to name a few. Donations to Farm to Friends enabled Ryan to buy products from the farmers at retail value. Ryan comments, "Farmers were so grateful they could sell their products and help those in need."

For farmers Brian and Jessica Perez of Abundance Grace Farms in Denton, the Farm to Friends program was a natural fit. The couple, who grow organic produce, herbs, and pasteurized-raised meats for wholesale and retail, were already donating excess produce to nonprofits like His Hope Haven in Denton.

"We are a Christian family and believe in taking care of our community. We had a relationship already with Sprout and thought it was a great idea. We were amazed at how quickly they were able to get so many farmers on board so quickly. It allowed us to build our retail business, as our wholesale business slowed down."



COURTESY PHOTO

Ryan and Emily Groll, owners of Sprout, were once jobless and on Food Stamps. They started doing what they knew — making healthy food which grew into a successful business with storefront locations in Easton and St. Michaels.

Farmers Jarred and Trisha Boyce of Chapel Country Creamery in Easton were in a more dire situation with an excess of product when COVID-19 hit. The business focused its cheese sales on restaurants, event venues, and hotels, so when they all closed in March, the couple had nowhere to sell their product. Eventually, the business got into more grocery outlets which were having trouble getting products themselves.

Trisha recalls, "All of our inventory for spring was made. Because our cheese has no preservatives, it couldn't sit around and we didn't want to throw any away with so many people in need. We helped to pack the CSA bags and liked seeing all of the farmers' products that went into each bag."

She hopes local stores continue to use local farmers for products after the pandemic is over, stating, "This experience showed that they can rely on us for their food needs."

The product was then packaged in CSA bags by volunteers and donated to families in need. Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center helped identify families who could not receive support from other means to receive the bags. Donations were also made to Talbot Family

Meals and several food pantries. Between the two programs, Feed the Front and Farm to Families, Ryan figures that all together, with their donation of 25 percent, Sprout raised over \$30,000 in donations in eight weeks and provided nearly 17,000 meals. Although the distribution of Farm to Friends has slowed down some from its weekly distributions, Sprout will continue the program as long as it is needed and donations continue to be accepted.

"These programs got the community involved in helping others while keeping our staff employed. It was a way to keep our head above water and our doors open and it boosted the morale of our team. The farmers were so grateful that they could sell their product to help those in need," Ryan adds.

"This project was really just about connecting the dots — connecting those growing the food to those needing food while empowering donors," he reflects.

"The best part is we knew who we were helping and heard from many of them. It was just the right thing to do."

To donate to Farm to Friends, visit eatsprout.com or call Ryan Groll at 443-223-0642. 📞



Dr. Amy Jo Davison
in front of her office in Easton

MIRACLE WORKER

A chat with Amy Jo Davison, D.O.

BY TRACEY F. JOHNS | PHOTO BY STEPHEN WALKER

The healing power of touch

can work miracles. And examining and treating by touch is second nature for Amy Jo Davison, D.O. She says her sensitivity skills developed as a professional horseback rider and trainer before attending medical school at the age of 37, after the birth of her second child. Now she uses those skills and medical training to bring wellness to people, as part of her 19-year practice in osteopathic medicine.

“Palpatory medicine made sense,” said Davison. “Training and working with horses mean developing a sensitive touch, compassion and understanding, and a knowledge of structure that translates well to helping people.”

An osteopath receives all the training of a medical doctor, with additional specialization in musculoskeletal manipulation and its effects on all bodily systems. Davison completed medical school and a fellowship at New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is board-certified in pediatrics and cranial osteopathy and served as a professor of osteopathic medicine for 13 years at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harlem and Middletown, N.Y.

She moved to Easton in 2004 after a three-year residency at NYU Winthrop Hospital and began her solo practice working from her home in 2005.

“We were looking to move the horse farm south after a particularly cold and snowy winter in New York,” said Davison.

She says another farm opportunity and

a desire to be closer to family took her back to Germantown, New York, where she has begun her five-hour commute to Easton since 2006. It’s also where she continues to ride her English off the track thoroughbred *Mary’s Guilt Trip*, or *Mary*. Davison says she began riding horses at the age of seven as a spiritual outlet and to connect with the environment.

Davison has a loyal, longtime following of patients from throughout the Mid-Shore area, with her osteopath practice firmly based on excellent referrals and a reputation as a miracle worker to many.

“People often come to me for health maintenance, or as a last resort when living with daily pain,” Davison said. “I look at the whole person, including their social, mental, emotional, and physical well-being, along with diet, weight, exercise, and medical, social and family history. Then, I treat the person from an anatomy perspective. Structure is function.”

Davison says osteopathic medicine helps provide the building blocks to health and can address many health challenges, including Parkinson’s disease, movement disorders, neuropathy, post-surgery scar tissue, scoliosis, anxiety, ADHD, and more. She says she counsels patients to coordinate other services if needed, including homeopathic herbal remedies, or referrals for Chinese medicine, for example.

“She works miracles,” said one patient who sees Davison to maintain good health, and whose 12-year old son receives

treatments for scoliosis and ADHD.

“I guide and nudge the body’s innate ability to heal itself,” says Davison. “And it works. One of my patients is very happy to be baking cookies again. It’s something she loves to do around the holidays that chronic back pain had previously taken away.”

Davison’s commitment goes beyond her medical practice, having served as the American Academy of Osteopathy’s student advisors committee chair and as an education committee member. She is also active with local government in New York, appointed to work on local waterfront revitalization and comprehensive planning for the Hudson River.

Davison is now part of the Whole Being Health Group in Easton, Maryland, with holistic specialists offering a complementary approach to enhanced health and well-being.

“Everyone has a story and a desire to be well,” said Davison. “My goal is to help fulfill their journeys.”

“One of the reasons I love working with horses is that they are so grounded and peaceful,” reflected Davison. “What you give them is what they give back. There’s a parallel, in that the patients I now serve also give me that same sense of grounding and peace.”

Amy Jo Davison, D.O., Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, is located at Whole Being at 8737 Brooks Drive, Suite 103, Easton MD, 21601. The office is complying with all CDC procedures and precautions to address the health and safety concerns of COVID-19. 📍



Loreal Lewis sings at her photo shoot

LOREAL LEWIS

Fulfilling her dream with patience

BY NIAMBI DAVIS | PHOTOS BY CAROLINE J. PHILLIPS

“I was eight or nine when I knew I could sing,” Loreal Lewis recalls. She speaks fondly of growing up in Easton surrounded by family, community and music. On family road trips to Florida she would sing all the way down and back. One of her grandmothers loved country. The other had “stacks of rhythm and blues records that she would blast on a Sunday morning.” Because of their influence, R&B, country (and now hip hop) are her top three favorite musical genres. Loreal’s neighborhood encouraged her talent, urging her to “sing, Loreal!” She’d respond with a song by Beyonce or Alicia Keys. Recalling those days, she chuckles at the memory of belting out lyrics she didn’t recognize as inappropriate until much later. In school, she showcased her vocal skills in plays and musicals.

Loreal’s dream of attending a performing

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TUNE IN

“Music is where I need to be. Whatever you’re passionate about, you just can’t leave behind.”



arts school had to be set aside when she became a young mother. Her daughter became her world. “I wanted to make sure she was okay. And I wanted to give her everything,” Loreal said. Although she took a step back from music, she didn’t stop. When she entered contests (and won every time) “the money I won was for my daughter.” There was a time when Loreal considered pursuing a career in the beauty industry, but music kept calling her back. “My heart wasn’t in it,” she remembers. “Music is where I need to be. Whatever you’re passionate about, you just can’t leave behind.”

As it turned out, she didn’t have to. In January, Loreal saw the beginnings of the musical career she had visualized for years. She was introduced to Santiago Almodovar, head of Easton’s Dreamland Entertainment Group. Only five months after that meeting, Loreal was set to release not only her debut

single “Patience,” but its accompanying music video as well. She and Dreamland are confident of its success. She describes the song as “fire music for all ages; something that everybody can rock to, from my six-year old daughter to my dad!”

Community and family support run deep for Loreal. One of Loreal’s listeners describes her voice as a gift from God. For another, her sound is “pure and clear as a crystal bell, holding the ear and the heart.” And her daughter, now six, could be considered her mother’s greatest supporter. At the studio, she watches Loreal’s every move and has declared that she wants to become a singer, too. According to Loreal, “she knows the words to every song I sing.” In turn, Loreal is her little girl’s role model, something she readily recognizes. “I have to stay on point for her.”

Right now, her favorite song and morning

inspiration is the appropriately named “Believe It,” by PartyNextDoor and Rihanna. She loves vintage items – “I’d rather have a vintage bag than a brand-new bag,” she insists. Perhaps her affinity for a former era explains the iconic Diahann Carroll/Diana Ross aura of glamour, elegance and poise that Loreal embodies. But music and style are only outward expressions of what defines Easton’s songbird. Compassion is equally important. “I genuinely care about people; I’d never want to hurt anyone’s feelings.”

One trip to New York City convinced Loreal that she was not a city girl — “Easton is home.” And here at home, she’s on track to fulfilling her dreams. At the aptly named Dreamland, she’s headed “all the way up.” According to Almodovar, unlimited possibilities await on her rise to the top. For Loreal Lewis “the sky is not the limit, it’s just the view.”

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LIFE INTERPRETER

*Anthropologist and author
Alexandra Hamlet discusses
business, cultural and political trends*

BY REEN WATERMAN | PHOTO BY STEPHEN WALKER

Since the dawn of the “New Millennium,” corporate America’s marketing of new products has rapidly evolved. Called “data mining,” it is a highly sophisticated and effective process that combines the meteoric explosion of social media with the development of advanced technological abilities to track consumer spending. Data mining, in the social and cultural arenas, has become one of the world’s most precious and powerful commodities, now spilling over into the political arena.

But who is behind this study of voluminous mountains of combined data? One such person is the highly specialized Cultural and Corporate Anthropologist. This is the individual who assesses the data, identifies trends, and helps the influencers understand what consumers and voters think and desire. This invaluable assessment of human behavior allows advertisers to craft messaging and design

campaigns that resonate with consumers and trigger instinctive “buying decisions.”

Masterful communicator and Eastern Shore resident Alexandra Hamlet is one of these “data interpreters” and is a Cultural and Social Anthropologist concentrating in Defense, U.S. culture, and corporate entities. Soft spoken and eloquent, Hamlet earned bachelor’s degrees in Psychology and Journalism from the University of Richmond and a master’s degree in Social and Cultural Anthropology from Harvard University. Her extensive professional background includes international lecturer, print and television journalist, executive search specialist, and a Visiting Fellow at Harvard. She is also author of the suspense thriller “The Right Guard,” which has won nine book and literary awards.

Enjoying a frosty glass of iced tea on her back deck, I asked her how she became interested in anthropology. “Anthropology

is not one of those fields into which you accidentally drift. From the time I was eleven, anthropology has simply captivated me. My father bought me a massive book, ‘The Wonders of Life on Earth.’ I read it from cover to cover so many times that the book finally fell apart! I was particularly fascinated by early man and cultures, why they adapted to so many ways of living, and how they worked out cultural differences and problems.”

Asking about the opportunities in this field, with a laugh she replied, “The opportunities in this expanding world economy are endless. Many parents are surprised that their children can earn a good living in this field, and that the field has

expanded into so many different adjoining fields. Some anthropologists earn their master’s degree, while others go on to earn their doctorate. It simply depends upon your plans — whether to do research, teach, or work in the corporate world. There are many great schools for pursuing this track, and among the top are Harvard, Marquette and Texas State.” After taking a refreshing sip of her own tea, Hamlet responded, “Not all of us trek out into the jungle anymore... but, yes, we do work on location and still do close-up field work.”

When asked about her career in anthropology, Hamlet leaned back in her wicker deck chair and shared, “With a desire to explore the world, I started off

as a Defense Anthropologist. My positions ranged from the Pentagon to the Far East and the Pacific Rim. Much of what I did was confidential, but I can share this — most of what I did was intriguing! It involved seeking out the origins of complicated situations and assisting with strategizing solutions. I was always amazed that usually at their core, each of these situations could have been resolved early with relatively few resources and little difficulty. But they were not. Just as inflammation advances in the human body, a culture can also become inflamed. Symptoms in both arenas need to be recognized and remedied before they advance into full biological or social chaos.”

Hamlet eventually moved on from this

to stateside work in the corporate sector. Asking how she made this transition, Hamlet explained, “It is quite simple. If companies continue to make and sell products, we are in demand. When a company wants to launch new products, they first study the demographics of the likely buyers. This helps them create products that will sell and equips them to reach their specific audiences.

“For example, if Ford chose to design an even more popular pickup truck than the iconic F-150, someone in my field would study the data on the folks who buy the F-150 over other popular brands, and identify features that are important to these buyers. Then the company would develop



Alexandra Hamlet enjoys a quiet time on her patio in St. Michaels.

ASK THE EXPERT

“Across the nation, no matter race, background, or socio-economic strata, we have all been forced to reexamine our lives, careers, family, and relationships. There is an opportunity for some good to come out of this.”

improved features or adaptations that would allure them.”

Intrigued, I asked the question that so many of us on the Shore are asking right now, “In this politically charged environment, what will it take for things to become civil again...and what might this look like in the future “new normal?”

Hamlet waded into this complicated and controversial question with the ease of one strolling through a minefield. “I would need a crystal ball to fully answer that question. What we are experiencing now is the ‘perfect storm’ of a variety of events and causes that have coalesced into mass chaos: COVID-19 has shut us in, fear of an invisible death causes us to shun gatherings, Millennials, to Gen X, Gen Y and Gen Z all want to socialize but cannot, our economy is stumbling and businesses are struggling to survive.

“Movement, touch, and closeness are highly regulated within social distancing — something that is alien to the human species in general. Unresolved and serious social issues are arising. It is a time when people are not back at work and are free to travel and take part in ‘action group’ gatherings. Finally, we are in an election year and politics has become particularly thorny.”

The Eastern Shore, like many areas in the nation, includes those of both great wealth and great poverty. Creating public policy that works both for the affluent

and the needy is a challenging issue.

Considering this, Hamlet stated, “History has taught us that governing decisions made in haste and based in chaos are rarely a good idea and they resolve nothing. Our lives are now so complex and interconnected, serious community problems need to be recognized and addressed when the symptoms appear. Waiting, ignoring the problem, or simply moving too quickly on a financial initiative without any analysis just complicates matters.”

Seeking advice for readers, I asked Hamlet to discuss life going forward. She energetically responded, “While this ‘New Normal’ has upset our lives and devastated the lives of many others, this time of community lockdown and isolation has also been a much-needed season of contemplation and reflection. It has proved a much overdue respite from the fast paced, “business as usual” environment with which we have long been overly preoccupied. Across the nation, no matter race, background, or socio-economic strata, we have all been forced to reexamine our lives, careers, family, and relationships. There is an opportunity for some good to come out of this.”

In a serious tone, Hamlet added, “We are experiencing unparalleled internal conflict and stand at the crossroads of significant national change. Longstanding issues passed along from previous state

and federal administrations that should have been addressed long ago, now must be resolved. But these changes must be in the best interest of our nation. Our Constitution states that we are a “government of the people, for the people, and by the people.” We need to hold firm these principles that founded our nation and make a new way that can lead to a brighter future for everyone.”

Taking a final sip of her tea, Hamlet shared her last cultural observation of America with the fervor of a pastor encouraging his congregation, “Adversity brings about new pathways, new ways of problem solving, and ways of releasing bad habits in favor of new ones. The world recognizes that when the going gets tough, Americans excel at high levels of creativity and adaptability. We think more outside of the box than many cultures around the world...and we are darned good at it! We are also well known for high levels of compassion and personal commitment to making our own lives...as well as the lives of others...better during a bad time.”

So, as we consider the challenging issues of our culture today, we can take great comfort in knowing that an entire career field of individuals stand waiting to offer informed and educated solutions. All we need to do is apply the timeless principles they share, no longer afraid that our nation’s complex issues are unable to be resolved. There is hope. ☺

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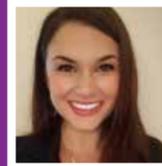
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Julie Slivka, Family Peer Support Specialist with Maryland Coalition of Families



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Katie Dilley, LCSW-C, Executive Director, Mid Shore Behavioral Health

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 Alyssa Wolfe, Dentist



"I smile because it's the most profound and powerful facial expression."
 Paloma Burtis, Dental Hygienist



"I smile when my dog greets me when I get home. I love those sloppy kisses."
 Jennifer Brotz, Dentist



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