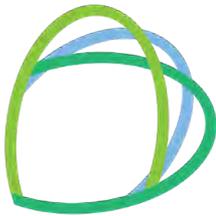


THE CATALYST



**John
Randolph
Foundation**

— 25 Years —

Healthy communities.
Bright futures.

FALL / WINTER 2020

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As 2020 draws to a close, I reflect on the impact that COVID-19 has had on everything and everyone. For those who lost loved ones, I cannot begin to feel your pain, but I mourn with you. For those unable to visit elderly relatives, I am hopeful that will change soon, and you will be reunited with loved ones. While this global pandemic has changed our world in so many adverse ways, there are positive outcomes as well.

I think back to last March when this global nightmare began and remember the determination of John Randolph Foundation staff to get our Disaster Response Fund established. Because of this we were able to quickly get money to organizations trying to meet the basic needs of people who had suddenly lost their jobs, to school systems to make virtual learning possible in rural areas, and myriad other needs. I could not be prouder of our trustees and staff as they met virtually every Monday for months to review Disaster Response Fund grant requests.

In March, our scholarship review season had just started. Unable to convene community volunteers to review the 800 applications, scholarship benefactors, JRF trustees and staff took on the task. By June, 97 scholarships totaling \$141,650 were awarded along with two educator awards totaling \$6,250. Winners were notified and certificates were mailed. Excited, grateful winners sent us pictures and videos with their certificates, which we shared with scholarship donors.

JRF's spring grant cycle didn't miss a beat either: nineteen organizations received \$481,384 to support their work in our community. While we could not host



Amanda Harris, 2020 Prince George High School Graduate and recipient of the Ted P. Blanks Scholarship to attend Liberty University for Education.

our traditional grant ceremony, trustees and staff met with grantees, awarded their grants and had truly uplifting conversations (masked and socially distanced) with them regarding their good work in our community.

In 2020, John Randolph Foundation marks 25 years of service to the community. We ordered 300 coffee mugs with our anniversary logo for our Foundation friends, and staff mobilized to distribute them. Some were mailed; most were delivered by staff. Again, we met with folks, socially distanced at their front doors, and had amazing conversations.

John Randolph Foundation has found new ways to accomplish our mission that have replaced decades-long traditions. Until we will get back to our robust scholarship and grant ceremonies, we will continue to reach out in innovative ways to our grantees, donors and friends to build healthy communities and bright futures.

Lisa H. Sharpe,
Executive Director

UNEXPECTED POSITIVES

& The Power of Unrestricted Giving

This is a year of unprecedented challenges for all of us, but it is possible to find “unexpected positives”.

We’d like to share the stories of two women — Ursula (Sue) Gibbs and Trudy Bogese — whose enduring commitment to their communities lives on and whose legacies have come together in a rather circuitous, but very positive way.

In her will, Hopewell resident Sue Gibbs established four endowments at JRF to benefit the causes and community she loved. Part of her gift was designated to support the missions of John Randolph Foundation. It is considered “unrestricted”, meaning it can be used at the discretion of the Board of Trustees as community needs present themselves.

In March, JRF Trustees recognized the imminent effects of the pandemic on community nonprofit organizations and took action by creating a new Disaster Response Fund from part of Mrs. Gibbs’ unrestricted gift. The fund is designed to meet the immediate needs of and address the long-term effects on nonprofits in our service area so their work could continue during the pandemic.

Trudy Bogese spent much of her life nurturing the young people of Prince George and Hopewell. To continue her good work, her family established the Trudy Bogese Endowment for Youth Development through which area students have received “Camperships” to summer enrichment programs. However, due to COVID-19, these programs were cancelled. Mrs. Bogese’s family decided to redirect the unused Campership funds to the Disaster Response Fund to benefit young people in a different way.

Like all gifts to the Disaster Response Fund, Campership funds were matched by JRF. They were used in a \$9,300 Disaster Response grant to The Greater Richmond YMCA’s Camp Hope at the Chester Family YMCA. At the outset of the pandemic, Camp Hope cared for the children of essential employees in the Tri-cities. The grant helped provide educational activity supplies and nutritious food for children (K–8th grade) whose schools were closed and whose parents were working on the front line to serve our community.



On the cover: *Enjoying the outdoors at the Chester YMCA’s Camp Hope, supported by JRF’s Disaster Response Fund.*

To date, the Disaster Response Fund has made grants of \$92,703 to 15 nonprofit organizations.

“We had families new to Camp Hope who have stayed in our full-day programs. Two brothers started in Camp Hope and didn’t know anybody here. After a few initial difficulties, they adjusted, learned about the Y’s core values, and started making friends with other students here. Then they signed up for camp all summer long and are still currently enrolled in our Student Success Center at Chester! Their parents have expressed gratitude and appreciation for how the Y has helped their family and allowed them to continue working,” said Suzanne Huffine, Youth Development Regional Director, YMCA of Greater Richmond.

Sue Gibbs and Trudy Bogese—two remarkable women inextricably linked by their commitment to care for their community for generations to come.

And *that* is the positive power of unrestricted giving. Unrestricted gifts allow JRF to be responsive to needs in the community. If you plan to donate to JRF, consider designating your gift as “unrestricted”. It may well become an “unexpected positive” in someone’s life.



Children of essential employees benefited from mindfulness practice and physical activity during “boga” (boot camp yoga) at Camp Hope at the Chester Family YMCA.

Positive or Negative? The Red Cross Needs Both!

The impact of COVID-19 on the medical field was immediate and profound. American Red Cross blood donation locations were closed and thousands of blood drives cancelled nationwide. When the organization reached out to JRF, we were thrilled to help. Since April, JRF has hosted 12 successful blood drives. Donors came from as far as New Kent County and Williamsburg. State and local government officials have donated. Members of the Virginia National Guard (Taskforce Dogwood Strike Team Charlie) have donated. William Banze, a 94-year-old U.S. Army veteran, donated for the first time since he was 18 years old. Donna Throckmorton donated for at least the 100th time. In eight months, caring donors have donated approximately 209 units of blood. These donations can help save the lives of 627 people suffering unexpected trauma and chronic illness.

“These blood drives have given community members opportunities to donate in a convenient location to their home or work, supporting patients in need,” said Sherry Driskill with American Red Cross Donor Recruitment. “We cannot thank JRF enough for their continued support!”

With such an enthusiastic response from the community, we’ve scheduled more blood drives in 2021. Visit redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.



Clockwise from top left: Local blood donor William Banze, a 94-year-old U.S. Army veteran; Donna Throckmorton who has donated more than 100 times; American Red Cross team members during one of JRF's blood drives.

25
YEARS!

“MUG” SHOTS



Unable to commemorate John Randolph Foundation’s 25th anniversary in the traditional way such milestones are celebrated, we took a lesson from the Easter Bunny and made some surprise, socially-distanced visits to friends of the Foundation with a thank you for their steadfast support of the Foundation’s work. So, ladies and gentlemen—we present a few “Mug” Shots of friends, donors, grantees, trustees and staff!

GIVE TODAY! HELP US CREATE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES & BRIGHT FUTURES.

Partner with us to support good health and bright futures for our communities by donating today!

NAME

(as you wish it to appear in our annual report)

ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF \$ _____
payable to John Randolph Foundation

- My employer will match my gift.
- Matching gift instructions are enclosed.

MY GIFT TODAY IS

IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF (circle one)

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE LEGACY SOCIETY

- I have included John Randolph Foundation in my estate plans.
- I would like information about including John Randolph Foundation in my will.

BRIGHT FUTURES CLUB

- Please send me a monthly giving form.

To give via debit or credit card, please go to
www.johnrandolphfoundation.org/donate.

For a full list of ways to give, please visit
www.johnrandolphfoundation.org
or call us at (804) 458-2239.