

THE CATALYST



John
Randolph
Foundation

— 25 Years —

Healthy communities.
Bright futures.

2019 FALL / WINTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Fall is here. It's the time when farmers harvest their crops from the fields. It is the culmination of their hard work that began in late winter and early spring. From sowing seed to harvest time, their successful crop is the result of planning, hard work and cultivation.

It's very similar to what we do at John Randolph Foundation. Last September, we began reviewing proposals for our 2018 fall grant cycle. After careful deliberation, grants were awarded last January, and now we are beginning to harvest our bounty. We are realizing the impact that these grants are making in our community.

In this edition of *The Catalyst*, we share two in-depth stories of the impact JRF's grant and scholarship programs have made. We are also happy to share the impact or "early harvest" of our grants made last January.

So far, our 2018 fall grants have:

- Taught swimming and water safety to 350 second graders of Hopewell Public Schools
- Delivered 6,300 meals to elderly or disabled persons in our community



- Provided temporary housing to 45 families displaced because of fire
- Provided 746 prescription medications to 341 uninsured people

Although we are very proud of the more than \$20,000,000 we have invested in our community, we are even prouder of the impact that investment has had on countless lives in our community.

As always, thank you for making this possible though your generous financial support.

— **Lisa H. Sharpe**
Executive Director

25 YEARS!

John Randolph Foundation is approaching 25 years of supporting charitable work in our community by providing grants to not-for-profit organizations and financial assistance to area students through scholarships.

We take great satisfaction in connecting with people by active participation in community events that build healthy communities and bright futures.

In the coming months, be sure to follow our Facebook blogs, and look for us in local newspapers and television with stories of impactful grants and scholarships. The spring issue of *The Catalyst* will feature a few surprise announcements about what we may be up to for the next 25 years — and beyond.

John Randolph Foundation stands ready to help you secure your legacy in the community and support the things you care about for generations to come. It's an exciting time at John Randolph Foundation. Stay tuned!



Greater Richmond Fit 4 Kids Wellness Integrator Cynthia Moore Piazza at Hopewell's Patrick Copeland Elementary School in 2016. Since her passing in 2018, her work and legacy continue through the Cynthia Piazza Mind and Movement (M&M) Fund. The first Piazza Path was dedicated at Dupont Elementary School in October 2019.

CONEXUS: REMOVING POOR VISION AS A BARRIER TO LEARNING

Good vision is a critical component to learning success. We know that 80% of what a child learns in a normal classroom setting is through vision. Conexus provides technology-based, comprehensive children’s vision screening in support of state-mandated testing of students in kindergarten, 2nd or 3rd, 7th and 10th grades. Select schools in the region then receive the follow-up services of a mobile vision clinic to provide onsite eye exams and glasses (if prescribed) to students requiring more care.

There is often such an emphasis on measurable outcomes, cost savings, and the educational “value” of correcting poor vision that it’s easy to take for granted the benefits of good vision. Then there are those priceless moments when your world slows to a complete stop watching the reaction of a five-year-old seeing her world clearly for the very first time.

Through our mobile partnership last year, we received one of those stories.

Lexi, one of our kindergarten students who failed her screening and received a mobile clinic eye exam, was about to receive the brand new glasses she had picked out herself several weeks earlier. Her parents were with her for the big day.

As the optician gently placed the glasses on Lexi’s face her eyes got big, her smile widened and then — Lexi reached up and put her tiny little hands on her mother’s face, holding like treasure the most beautiful thing in her sight. Realizing at that very moment, Lexi had never truly seen her mother’s face before, tears began streaming down her mother’s face. There was not a dry eye in the room after witnessing this beautiful, priceless exchange of exactly what good vision translates to beyond the four walls of the classroom.

Conexus is truly privileged to be on the front lines of a life-changing service, made possible by the generous support of so many.

— **Robin Mead, Conexus**



A Conexus screening technician gives a young student an eye exam.



Students trying on their new glasses for the first time.

On the cover:
An elementary school student wearing her new glasses provided by Conexus.

JRF'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: MAKING BRIGHT FUTURES POSSIBLE

Jacob Beville, a 2016 graduate of Dinwiddie High School, was the recipient of the Rotary Club of Petersburg Luncheon Scholarship in 2016, 2017 and 2018. In May, he received a B.S. in Agriculture from Virginia State University — in only three years!

Jacob is employed at Colonial Farm Credit and is also pursuing a master's degree in Crop and Soil Science from Auburn University. His goal is to use his agricultural background and his financial training as a loan officer to provide farmers with means to continue farming and feeding our communities.

The Rotary Club of Petersburg Luncheon Scholarship was established at John Randolph Foundation in 2007, and since then, has awarded \$54,000 to area students attending either Virginia State University, Richard Bland College, John Tyler Community College or Southside Medical School of Nursing. Applications for the scholarships are made through the John Randolph Foundation each year beginning November 15, with a deadline of February 15.

John Randolph Foundation is excited to learn of Jacob's success and how the Rotary Club of Petersburg Luncheon Scholarship provided tremendous help to him during his college years. Jacob shared, "Because of the scholarships, I never once had trouble affording books or any other supplies I needed throughout the duration of my schooling." He also shared, "Because of the continued support of the Petersburg Rotary Club, I was able to find a career doing exactly what I had envisioned doing. For that, the Petersburg Rotary Club will forever have my love and support."

The Foundation, along with its many scholarship benefactors, work together "to make a difference in the lives of our scholarship recipients and in the community where they live and work." Congratulations Jacob on your accomplishments and to the Rotary Club of Petersburg Luncheon Scholarship for your investment in Healthy Communities and Bright Futures!

— **Bonnie Falls**
JRF Scholarship Program Officer



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.johrandolphfoundation.org/donate.

For a full list of ways to give, please visit
www.johrandolphfoundation.org
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