

Community Foundation to provide \$1 million through scholarship pool

By LINDSAY POWERS
lpowers@newspost.com

Students interested in taking on post-secondary education could get a financial boost from The Community Foundation of Frederick County's largest pot of scholarship money in its history.

Through the foundation, donors are providing more than \$1 million in post-secondary scholarship funds that applicants can vie for to help ease expenses during the 2016-17 academic year. That money will come from about 270 different funds that altogether provide financial aid to a variety of people.

Eligible applicants include high school students, students already in the postsecondary world and older, nontraditional students ready to head back to school, said Joyce Summers, director of marketing and communications for the foundation. The scholarships cover postsecondary opportunities including undergraduate, graduate, master's and doctorate studies as well as trade school and vocational training.

Betsy Day, the foundation's president and CEO, said that donors working with the foundation are giving significantly more, which built up the current scholarship pool. That influx includes several large bequests over the past year.

The scholarship pool is larger than ever, and the foundation wants people to take advantage of it. The application period runs from March 30 through April 30. Those interested can apply at www.scholarshipfrederickcounty.com.

While some scholarship requirements are broad, others get specific. Donors can choose whether a recipient must be a public school student, have a certain minimum grade point average or be on track for a specific course

of study, among other criteria. The study fields include subjects as varied as forestry, culinary arts and psychology.

Day said that many donors tend to weigh financial need most heavily in their scholarship parameters.

"They want to make sure that the students really need the money," she said, adding that "academic promise" is a close second.

Students each submit one application, which is first analyzed by software and then passed on to community volunteers for review.

For the 2015-16 academic year, 280 students out of about 1,000 applicants received 371 scholarships totaling about \$839,000. That marked a significant jump from what the foundation's funds provided the previous year when about \$552,000 was given. That increase was in large part due to donation growth, Summers said.

The foundation first awarded scholarships to 87 students amounting to \$54,000 in 1991.

The recipients for the current school year won a range of awards, including many around \$1,000 and several at \$10,000. One student won about \$17,000.

Ann Burnside Love, one of the donors, said her family's scholarship fund was created in honor of her husband, a beloved doctor in the community who died in a car crash. The Ann Burnside Love and Thomas A. Love, M.D., Family Scholarship Fund's next scholarship will provide \$2,000 to a student accepted to the University of Maryland School of Medicine or the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. Love said she would be "very happy" to help a student avoid debt through a scholarship.

"I think it's a long-term view of education and the value of education, and the fact that these days in particular, it's getting so that college expenses are so high that qualified students may or may not be able to do it without ending up with enormous debt," she said.

The Jeffrey Hayek Scholarship Fund was also created by people seeking to honor a deceased family member. Robin Hayek said her son Jeffrey, who died from a blood clotting disorder when he was 10, would have graduated from Oakdale High School and her daughter graduated from Linganore High School. The family therefore set up a \$1,000 scholarship for a graduating senior from one of those two high schools.

Hayek said she's heard from families whose student received the scholarship that it helped lessen their burden.

"It's very meaningful for the families who are the donors because it is a way to have their loved one remembered and thought about and carried on," she said.

Grace Odom received three scholarships for two academic years totaling about \$3,600, which helped her as a student at Frederick Community College and then Towson University, where she studied business administration. She now works for the foundation as a marketing and communications associate, a decision made in part because she saw the impact of the scholarships.

"It was a great motivator for me," Odom said of the scholarships she won. "It just really showed that people other than my immediate family and friends believed in me and believed in me in the sense that they're able to put the financial power into my success."

Follow Lindsay Powers on Twitter: @linds_powers.

Charges

(Continued from A5)

girl and filmed it with his phone, the charging documents stated.

In a separate interview with Irons, the 13-year-old girl in the video also said the sex was consensual.

Under Maryland law, sex between a minor under 14 and a person at least four

years older is considered second-degree rape.

Torres Flores was released from the Frederick County Adult Detention Center on Sunday after posting \$10,000 bail, court records state.

Torres Flores is next scheduled to appear in court at a preliminary hearing on March 15.

Follow Nancy Lavin on Twitter: @NancyKLavin.

Blight

(Continued from A5)

organizations including the Maryland Municipal League, which held a meeting last summer to help cities and towns deal with foreclosure blight.

The Maryland Bankers Association opposed the bill, but acknowledged that such properties are a serious issue

for municipalities.

Kathleen Murphy, president and CEO of the Maryland Bankers Association, commended Frederick's work to address vacant and blighted properties, but said the earlier timeline presents a problem for banks trying to foreclose on a property.

"We don't own that property ... and our research shows that 80 percent of the properties that go to foreclosure sale still have owners in them,"

Murphy said. "They are the owners of the property."

Alderwoman Kelly Russell said one issue is that banks can take control of properties well before a final foreclosure sale, leading to the problematic deterioration.

If a house sits empty for years, the city may have to pay for repairs rather than using taxpayer money for other causes, she said.

A second Frederick property, 383 Catocin Ave., was

highlighted by the city at the hearing. That house was in disrepair for seven years and the city issued eight notices of violations, including for infestation and a partial roof collapse. The city paid \$1,500 for three cleanups at the property to remove grass and weeds and board up the structure, Kershner said.

For now, that property is considered a success story because it was sold and repaired, he said.

Students

(Continued from A5)

Rogers said she wrote the book more than 20 years ago and has been improving it ever since. Her son, a computer graphic designer, recently redesigned the book and helped update the illustrations as a Christmas present, she said.

Rogers, a reading specialist for more than 25 years, said the book's beginnings stem from pictures she drew to help first-graders she was teaching who were struggling with vowel sounds. The pictures had the same shape as the letter and started with the same sound.

"Not long afterward, the teachers and the parents were asking for the rest of the pictures," she said, adding that the technique has continued to help students.

Rogers' lesson at Parkway marked her first school visit in Maryland. To summarize with the students, she went over each letter again, including a sentence about the object associated with each letter, such as an apple or vest. The sentences were in rhyming pairs that the students rushed to remember from earlier and were eager to help complete.

Alicia Palk, 6, said she liked Rogers' jokes. She especially got a laugh out of part of the sentence Rog-



Staff photo by Dan Gross

From left, kindergartners Maeve Day, Rosie Henson and Lakeigha Bowie use their fingers on Tuesday to trace a letter in the air as children's book author Cathleen Rogers talks to them about the alphabet at Parkway Elementary School.

ers provided for the letter Q and its object, a queen — "where's the king?"

"I like her. She was kind of funny," Alicia said.

For Gus Evers, another 6-year-old participant, the pictures were a highlight.

"I did like tracing the picture in the air and spotting the letters," he said.

Sheila Lovelady, one of Parkway's kindergarten teachers, said she thinks Rogers' presentation was a

fun activity for the students. Rogers focused on letter formation and letter sound, two key things that set up a foundation for literacy skills, she said.

"I think [the book] might be helpful in the beginning of a kindergarten classroom," Lovelady said. "I think it would be an independent act for children to identify their letters and to practice the correct formation of those letters."

Kefalas

(Continued from A5)

former Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich and as a trial and appellate attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Kefalas said he wants to go to Washington to lead the fight to overturn the current tax code to attract businesses, particularly manufacturing companies, back to the U.S. He'd start by lowering the corporate and income tax rates enough to make the U.S. more competitive

on the world stage, he said. He'd then strip down federal regulations and replace the Affordable Care Act with a market-oriented health care system.

His goal is to create an economy that grows at double its current rate.

"You start from one small business, to another, to a medium and a large one," he said. "When they're all doing well, America is at its best at home and abroad. That's what I'm fighting for."

Kefalas said he's the most likely Republican candidate to win a U.S. Senate seat in a state that's 2-to-1

registered Democrats.

On several occasions, he has broken with his party's mainstream positions.

Kefalas is gay and was in favor of legalizing same-sex marriage long before most Democrats openly supported it, he said.

He also supports full decriminalization of marijuana and said he is open to looking at also decriminalizing heroin. It is time to end the war on drugs, he said.

Kefalas supports federal funding for drug treatment and mental health services instead. He wants

to repeal all mandatory minimum drug sentences.

He noted that he is staunchly opposed to abortion and protective of Second Amendment rights. But in general, he said, Republicans are best when they're focused on the economy and not intruding into people's private decisions.

"We know better how to put money into people's pockets," he said. "I want to focus on what we're good at."

Senators are paid \$174,000 annually and serve a six-year term. The primary will be April 26.

Local briefs

Brunswick bakery to open at new location

BRUNSWICK — A Better Choice Bakery will celebrate the opening at its new Brunswick location on Saturday.

At 9 a.m., the ribbon-cutting will officially open the bakery at 6 W. Potomac St. The bakery moved from 27 W. Potomac St.

It is now licensed by Maryland and the Food and Drug Administration for wholesale distribution from its dedicated gluten-free/dairy-free facility. Owner Beth Johnson plans to offer coffee and breakfast snacks from the bakery in the mornings, while baking for afternoon deliveries.

She said in a news release that she appreciates being able to operate the business from "a more prominent location closer to the [town] square."

People are invited to sample cookies, cupcakes and freshly made juices at Saturday's opening. The store will sell \$20 sample boxes.

— Patti Borda Mullins

Thurmont to hire summer maintenance employee

THURMONT — The town plans to hire a seasonal employee to maintain the parks and trails around Thurmont over the summer after town leaders approved funding for the position Tuesday night.

Town staff calculated the employee's total compensation over the summer will be \$10,560, assuming the person works 40 hours a week at a rate of \$12 per hour over 22 weeks from May 2 to Sept. 30, according to a document provided by the town depicting the seasonal summer employee proposal.

In a unanimous decision, the mayor and two of the four commissioners at Tuesday's meeting agreed to the position. Commissioners Martin Burns and Wayne Hooper were absent Tuesday.

Jim Humerick, the town's chief administrative officer, said this will allow the other town staff to concentrate on more advanced tasks over the summer, such as street maintenance and storm-water pond maintenance.

The summer employee would instead focus on tasks such as emptying trash cans in all the parks, picking up any trash and cleaning park restrooms, according to the document.

For fiscal 2016, the town budgeted \$219,645 for Public Works Department salaries. As of February, the town has spent \$115,949.62 on salaries in this department, according to Linda Joyce, the town's chief financial officer.

Given these numbers, Joyce said the town is "on target" for the fiscal year and "well under" the budgeted amount for Department of Public Works salaries.

— Paige Jones

FIRE & POLICE BLOTTER

Hazmat crews remove substance from park

Two containers filled with a substance later identified as a gasoline product were removed from a city park on Tuesday.

Fire and rescue and hazardous materials crews responded to a call shortly before 1 p.m. The call was for containers found in Walnut Ridge Park on Rocky Springs Road, according to Battalion Chief Kevin Fox, a spokesman for the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue

Services.

Testing of the containers at the park revealed the contents to be a household gasoline product, Fox said. The containers were removed and disposed of off-site.

No injuries were reported during the testing or removal.

Fox encouraged residents to dispose of their household hazardous materials properly.

— Nancy Lavin

History

(Continued from A5)

continue to "engage, educate and empower" each other, she said.

About 20 people stood alongside the local leaders and Delaney at the event. They included other members of the Human Relations Commission, county government representatives and community members.

Willie Gardner, of Frederick, said at the event that she has come "a long, long way," recalling walking as a student along roads in Alabama and getting mud splashed on her clothes when a bus carrying white students would pass.

"We had to pay for our books, which had been

discarded from the white population," she said after the event, noting that she continued grade school in Georgia. "Our schools were inferior. I started school in a church."

An active community volunteer and retired teacher, Gardner said in an interview that she has had to overcome many obstacles tied to discrimination, but she carries a positive philosophy for life: "I'm not a victim, I'm a victor."

She was "honored," she said, that the county and city proclaimed Black History Month.

"I'm here today because I couldn't help but celebrate," she said. "There was no other choice."

Follow Lindsay Powers on Twitter: @linds_powers.

About the candidate

- **Name:** Chrys Kefalas
- **Current hometown:** Baltimore
- **Age:** 36
- **Occupation:** Vice president at the National Association of Manufacturers
- **Previous elected experience:** None