

Thank you for your warm welcome.

It is a true pleasure to be with you to celebrate “philanthropy day” and to honor your award recipients.

**I will admit being a little nervous and unsure I am up to the task...
“Don’t be nervous...”**

In the few minutes I have, I hope to tell you a little about our community foundation and share with you some of my experiences. I do that as a manner of illustration because there is only one difference between our foundation and yours... time.

The Charles County Community Foundation is off to a great start and has a great future ahead of it. I understand that you as your assets now stand you are about one / two years ahead of where we were at the same time in our history. You are at the “frustrating” and “insecure” stage... where it is natural to wonder if your efforts will ever really take off. Today, I hope to give you a glimpse of the possibilities before you and encourage you to think in terms of the potential for your Foundation.

The potential is there!

CFES service area – pop. 150,000

Charles County – pop. 140,000

Wicomico County – median family income \$47,000

Charles County – median family income \$67,000

The real difference is 25years...

**Growth of CFES is a graphic illustration of the Power of
Philanthropy...**

Gifts to the Foundation - \$ 70M

Grants from Foundation - \$ 33M

Current Assets - \$ 65M ...a sound record of stewardship!

Now host over 470 funds

**In spite of the recent financial challenges... during FY 2009 the
CFES distributed \$1.5M from our agency and designated agency
funds to support the work of over 40 nonprofit organizations on the
Lower Shore. In addition, we distributed another \$1.1M from our
donor-advised funds. Add to that our scholarship distributions, our
competitive grant programs and our Eastern Shore Nonprofit
Support Center and you come to the total of over \$3.3M distributed**

by the CF last year. A truly remarkable year in financially challenging times.

I have no doubt the Charles County Community Foundation will grow even faster than we have.

But...

We can talk all we want about the number of funds, assets, investment returns and grant programs. We can talk about how many endowment funds we have established or checks we have presented. That doesn't give you the full picture. What really matters is the people whose lives we touch --- the improvements we make in our community ---

Just for a few minutes I want to reflect on the personal side of what community foundations do... I share from my experience because that is what I know first hand.

The theme of our Annual Report this year was *giving back to the community*. When we *give back to the community* we touch lives, often at a very personal level...

The Foundation touched the lives of... A group of dialysis patients who had no means of transportation to their treatments... but the Foundation was there to help

The Foundation touched the lives of... A group of disabled kids who were given the opportunity to participate in a equestrian program to build their coordination, confidence and excitement with life... because the Foundation was there to help

The Foundation touched the lives of... Bariatric patients at McCready Hospital where specialized equipment was needed to meet their needs... and the Foundation was there to help

The Foundation touched the life of... A grandmother on a fixed income raising her grandson and in need of utility assistance... the Foundation was there to help

The Foundation touched the lives of... hundreds of children through support of innovative literacy and classroom enrichment programs in local schools... because the Foundation was there to help

The Foundation touched the life of... A 26 year old man with no insurance who was diagnosed with leukemia... While the sisters at Seaton Center were helping him apply to pharmaceutical companies for assistance a Foundation grant helped fund interim treatment. He now has a promising prognosis... because the Foundation was there to help

The Foundation touched the lives of... hundreds of families each month because of the efforts of local food pantries... because the Foundation was there to help

The Foundation touched the lives of... Several hundred under privileged children whose eyes lit up with delight when they received new backpacks full of school supplies to get their school year off to the right start... and the Foundation was there to help

The Foundation touched the life of... Sandy a candidate for a Habitat for Humanities house... I met her when she was working on her “sweat equity” hours to qualify for the house on which we were working together --- her eyes were filled with *pride* when she told me how owning her own home was a life-long dream... and the Foundation was there to help

The Foundation touched the life of... Steven – a severely handicapped young man at the Worcester Developmental Center...

[tell story]

we helped them purchase a new bus --- his eyes were filled with great *joy* and his smile would light up this room... because the Foundation was there to help

You have people like Steven, Sandy and the others in this community. For generations to come, your Foundation can be there to help... *Giving back to the community*... I urge each of you to join in the effort to reach out and touch their lives...

The Foundation will be there because of you... you see... you are the Foundation. It's not Spicer's Foundation. It's not Gretchen's Foundation. It's not Kevin's foundation. It's not the Board's Foundation. The Foundation does not belong to any one of you. It belongs to each of you... to every one of you as a member of this community. That is why it is called a Community Foundation.

This Community Foundation is *your* foundation, by being a part of it you are reaching out to touch the lives of those around you and

touching the lives of future generations whose needs we can not begin to understand.

I leave you with an often told story that has had great meaning for me in my life.

During a summer vacation a wise man took a walk on the beach early one morning...

Starfish story...

You see, by being a part of a Community Foundation we are all *star throwers* – making a difference in the lives of those around us.

Thank you for your hospitality. Thank you for all you do in the name of philanthropy. God Bless each of you, your community and all of your efforts on behalf of the Charles County Community Foundation.