The Community Connection

by Pam McGregor
The Arc of Greater Williamsburg

If you have a family member with special needs, you know that young adults age out of special education in the public schools at age 21. To help these individuals transition to life after school, the Arc offers life skills, continuing education and vocational training.

The Arc works with each person to determine how they can be successful, including those clients who have the hope and ability to be gainfully employed. To this end, the Arc will offer a new program called Wheels4Work, which has 4 key components:

1. The Arc advocates for all people with developmental disabilities.
2. Partnerships with local businesses who have positions open with competitive wages and benefits, and greater than part-time hours.
3. The Arc will partner with Thomas Nelson Community College Workforce Development to provide life skills instruction, employment readiness, training for specific jobs, and help with applying for jobs. The trainer will liaison between Arc clients and business partners.
4. The Arc will include a transportation option to make sure employees can get to work.

With steady employment, these individuals may be able to rent an apartment with a roommate, and live more independently. Their families may also benefit because they are able to work consistent hours at their own jobs, knowing their family member with special needs is working successfully as well. With help from a Williamsburg Community Foundation grant this fall, the Arc plans to launch Wheels4Work in 2020.

Wheels4Work is a new program to help individuals with disabilities prepare for meaningful employment.

“Having a job has made her more confident, has given her a sense of pride in what she does. She has learned that people depend on her, that she has a purpose in life and is needed.”

-Parent of an Arc Client

Want to apply for a grant for your organization? The next grant deadline is January 15, 2020. For grant guidelines and application, please visit the WCF website, or contact the office at 757-259-1660, or office@williamsburgcommunityfoundation.org.
YOUR GIFTS AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY: $69,475 in FALL GRANTS

Health & Community Wellness

The Arc of Greater Williamsburg**
The Wheels4Work will help people with developmental disabilities prepare for meaningful employment.

Avalon Center**
To help upgrade the emergency shelter's living units for women fleeing domestic and sexual violence.

Dream Catchers Therapeutic Riding Center**
To purchase an arena groomer to keep the riding facility safe for humans and horses.

Fear 2 Freedom+
To provide 66 Icare Kits to victims of sexual violence and raise awareness about sexual assault.

Hope Family Village
The mission of HFV is to help those who struggle to lead stable, independent lives due to mental illness.

Williamsburg House of Mercy**
This grant will support a daily soup kitchen available to anyone in need of a warm lunch.

Senior Services

F.R.E.E. of Williamsburg**
To refurbish and recycle gently used medical mobility equipment for those in need.

Peninsula Agency on Aging*
For the RIDES transportation program to seniors.

Williamsburg Area Faith In Action**
To offer a respite program that provides a safe environment for those with early Alzheimer's.

Williamsburg Area Faith In Action*
Free door-to-door transportation needs for seniors 60 and older in the greater Williamsburg area.

Environment & Conservation

James River Association**
All 4th grade W-JCC students will do hands-on education about pollution in our waterways.

Virginia Capital Tail Foundation**
Trail Ambassadors lead trail clean-ups, report maintenance issues, and help trail visitors.

Children & Young Adults

Child Development Resources*
To provide transportation for families to attend weekly playgroups and parent groups when needed.

Colonial CASA
For a summer enrichment program for CASA children who are in the foster care system.

Peninsula YMCA**
The 7th Grade Initiative includes leadership, fitness, and sports in a safe, supervised environment.

Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools*
An enriched summer camp experience for homeless and precariously-housed elementary students.

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The Atlantic Wealth Management Group of UBS

*Altshuler Transportation Grant
+ Women & Girls Fund Grant
**With support from donor-advised fund holders
THANK YOU, KIWANIANS FOR HELPING LOCAL KIDS & FAMILIES!

GIVING SMART - AVOID FAKE CHARITY SCAMS

It’s the season of giving! The IRS recommends a few basic tips to make sure your holiday donations go to reputable charities:

- Be wary of charities with names that are similar to well-known organizations. IRS.gov has a search feature called Tax Exempt Organization Search that allows people to find legitimate, qualified charities. Legitimate charities will provide their Employer Identification Number (EIN) when requested.

- Don’t give out personal financial information, such as Social Security numbers or passwords, to anyone who asks for a donation.

- Don’t give or send cash. For security and tax record purposes, contribute by check or credit card or another way that provides documentation of the donation.

- The IRS encourages taxpayers to donate to recognized charities established to help disaster victims. Following major disasters, it’s common for scam artists to impersonate charities to get money or private information from well-intentioned taxpayers.

*source: IRS “Dirty Dozen” List 2019

DONATE TO A FUND

Did you know you can designate your donation to a particular fund at WCF? You can choose the Kiwanis Fund, the Fund for Women & Girls, or any other named fund.

Giving by mail? Simply write the fund name on the memo line of your check.

Giving online? At the top right side of our website, click on “Donate Now.” Scroll to “Community Endowment or Named Funds”. Enter your gift amount, click “donate”, then on the next screen you can write in the fund name of your choice.
The Greater Williamsburg Community Trust (DBA Williamsburg Community Foundation) is a tax-exempt public charity under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. EIN #54-1927558