New Scholarship to Honor Coach Melvin Jones

After 46 years teaching and coaching at Lafayette High School, Melvin Jones will be honored by a scholarship in his name through the W-JCC Scholarship Fund. Peter Belden (LHS ’82), created the scholarship and hopes others will help it grow.

“I am very glad that God gave me the opportunity to reach many young people in a positive way that impacted their lives on and off the track and football fields as well as in the classroom,” said Coach Jones. This new scholarship will honor Jones’ legacy, helping pay for college for the next generation of young people.

The first scholarship will be awarded in 2021 to an African-American student who qualifies for financial aid, who is in good academic standing and who is involved in some kind of extracurricular activity such as a club, job, or sport.

Sustaining the Community through the Pandemic

Thanks to 200 donors, the Community Emergency Response Fund has awarded $83,100 in grants to 11 nonprofits for food, housing, medicine and transportation. Thanks to Williamsburg City Council Members Doug Pons and Benny Zhang for kickstarting this effort!

With help from these grants, Meals on Wheels, the Arc of Greater Williamsburg, Faith in Action and House of Mercy have partnered to ensure that people have access to food. This includes the homebound senior who can’t get to the store because of health concerns, children from low-income families living in motels, and a large number of families who have never needed assistance before.

Many local residents have relied on our nonprofit sector during this crisis, and nonprofit leaders anticipate the needs will continue. WCF is prepared to deploy additional emergency response grants to meet the needs going forward into the fall and winter.

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3e Restoration Encourages, Equips and Empowers

“To encourage, equip and empower faith communities to help transition neighbors living through homelessness and social displacement to holistic sufficiency.”

This is the mission of 3e Restoration, a local nonprofit that recently received support through WCF’s Community Emergency Response Fund. While the grant was able to fund emergency shelter for homeless individuals, 3e has a unique process which goes beyond just shelter, by building meaningful relationships between clients and volunteers to help move clients towards stability.

Jennifer is one such client. With the support of a local church trained in the 3e Restoration process and the leadership of 3e Restoration, Inc., she was able to not only get out of an abusive situation, but also to get into a workforce development program. Jennifer is now able to work, despite her own disability, and support her son who has autism. She recently purchased her own home in York County (see photo, right.)

3e Restoration continues to help people like Jennifer during the pandemic. With the help of WCF, FEMA, and the Virginia Housing Alliance, 3e is providing emergency shelter for 24 people. This includes individuals, seniors, veterans, and children. Their network of volunteers and faith groups are making sure that already vulnerable residents can continue moving towards holistic sufficiency, even in the midst of a pandemic.

Kiwanis Fund Grants

The Kiwanis Fund at WCF awarded grants of $6,000 each this year to Child Development Resources, Dream Catchers Therapeutic Riding Center, Camp Kesem, and Williamsburg Regional Library for its Kiwanis Kids Idea Studio, a hands-on learning area at the James City County branch (pictured above).

Perisie Scholarship

Thanks to a generous bequest from a local couple, Sara Worrill is the first recipient of The Perisie Scholarship in Memory of James P. and H. Bihin Perisie. The renewable scholarship is for a student who intends to practice in the Williamsburg area, and will cover much of the cost of medical school.
WCF has proudly served this community since 1999! A marvelous Anniversary Gala celebration was planned for October 10, 2020 at the William & Mary Alumni House, but given the unknown timetable of the pandemic and the many ways that local residents have been impacted, the Gala Committee made the tough decision to cancel the event.

But there is some good news!

Our AMAZING GALA SPONSORS have already come together to raise over $100,000 for our COMMUNITY!

Gala Sponsorship proceeds will support the Community Endowment as planned. This fund will grow over time and produces income to support grants to local nonprofits. But given the great needs in the community now, we decided to also direct half of the proceeds directly to grantmaking in 2021.

Thanks to our sponsors, we can meet community needs right now, while also planning for the future. We are so grateful for these community partners!

*Sponsors as of July 31, 2020. More sponsors may be added.
The Williamsburg Community Foundation enhances the quality of life in greater Williamsburg by connecting people with causes that matter, managing charitable funds, and providing grants and scholarships for our community’s most pressing needs and promising opportunities. Founded in 1999, the Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public charity. EIN #54-1927558. CVC Code 003187.

In partnership with the VA 30 Day Fund, nearly 70 small businesses received forgivable loans (i.e., grants) to cover payroll, rent and other expenses during the pandemic. This public-private partnership was launched by the Greater Williamsburg Partnership, with support from the City of Williamsburg, York County, James City County, Chesapeake Bank, Barb Ramsey and WCF Trustees Alison Lennarz and Joe Harrow. James City County allocated an additional $500,000 to the effort in May to help businesses in the county.

To learn more & apply, visit VA30DayFund.com.

The Prescription Shoppe

“We are so thankful for the VA 30 Day Fund. In a time of uncertainty, the small business loan helped us ensure that we could continue to pay our staff. They paid it forward to us, and we plan to continue to pay it forward to our community however we can!”

- Drs. Henry & Jade Ranger