



Dear Friends,

I hope you all are enjoying your holidays with family and friends. We are approaching the end of the year and we have had some exciting new developments, not to mention, additions to the Foundation that we are eager to share with you.

First, I'd like to formally congratulate Mr. R. Stephen Best, Sr. on becoming the Southeast Virginia Community Foundation's newest Chief Executive Officer. After discussions and interviews with many other capable candidates, I am happy to report that through a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, Mr. Best was selected for the position to further the mission of SEVACF. Steve was born and raised in Chesapeake, but possesses very strong roots in Portsmouth as well. His previous leadership, community ties, and vision for the future of SEVACF are extraordinary. We are excited to have Steve on board and look forward to working with him.

Secondly, on behalf of our Board, I'd like to thank Mr. P. Ward Robinett, Jr. for his service and dedication to this foundation. After retiring from the banking business that

spanned more than 43 years, Ward joined SEVACF in 2014 as the interim Chief Executive Officer. During this time, Ward was instrumental in obtaining SEVACF's full accreditation with The Community Foundations National Standards Board and positioning the Foundation for future growth and development.

This accreditation allows us to hold the nation's highest philanthropic standards for operational quality, integrity, and accountability. Since 2000, more than 500 community foundations have been awarded the National Standards Seal. Being one of those demonstrates our foundation's efforts to instill confidence in others as a qualified, trustworthy philanthropic partner. The National Standards Seal not only affirms that our foundation's management aligns with nationally recognized practices, but distinguishes us among other community foundations in Southeast Virginia. We cannot wait to display our seal and continue our commitment to excellence, stewardship, and leadership throughout the region.

Recently, we completed our final grant cycle of the year and are pleased to announce that we were able to fund 8 organizations in Southeast Virginia, bringing our year-to-date total to \$700,000 given back to our community! We received many impressive grant applications, all from great organizations. While we were unable to fulfill all of them, we are humbled to know that so many charities continue to turn to us for support. As we do each grant cycle, we tried to address all areas of community life, especially those involving arts & culture, health & human services, civic & economic development, and education. We hope you enjoy reading about the re-

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"The key to great communities is the willingness of people to step up and volunteer and to do things when there's no reason for them to do them." - R. Stephen Best, Sr., CEO

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markable projects and programs happening in and around our area as much as we have.

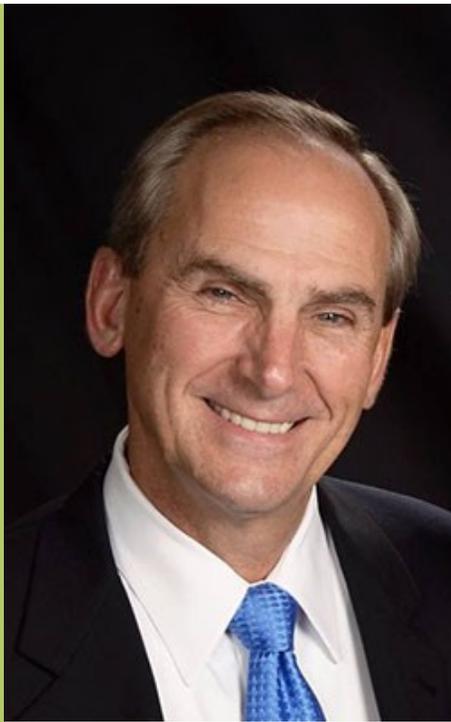
I would also like to announce that we have changed our grant deadlines to January 1st and July 1st to allow the organizations to receive their grant completed in a timelier manner. This change was done in an effort to fund organizations for programs they have in the spring and fall and will hopefully allow us to be more consistent with community needs in the future.

One of the more impressive pieces of information we have to share with you is the Elizabeth River Project has met the TowneBank/SEVACF Challenge, otherwise known as The Match! The Elizabeth River Project is the first organization to have achieved such a feat. The Match calls on local nonprofit organizations to start endowment funds with the Foundation. Upon establishing their fund, SEVACF and TowneBank will double their endowment by matching their raised amount with a portion of the TowneBank Foundation and SEVACF money, combined. The Project's board of directors plan to use the disbursements from their SEVACF endowment fund for education programs at the Paradise Creek Nature Park to teach people of all ages on how to improve the health of the Elizabeth River. We commend them on their accomplishment and look forward to hearing about their continuing progress.

Lastly, on behalf of the Foundation, we would like to say "Thank You." Without generous donors such as yourselves, we would not be able to fulfill our mission. Through your continued trust and support, we will be able to remain actively involved in all aspects of community life in Southeast Virginia. Your commitment to our mission means a lot and we wanted to let you know how grateful we are. Please feel free to give the Foundation office a call if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to a new year and continuing our work in the community to make Southeast Virginia a better place to live.

Sincerely,

Timothy S. Culpepper
President of the Board



MEET SEVACF'S NEW CEO

"Service above self." It's the Rotary motto that Chesapeake native and SEVACF's new Chief Executive Officer, Stephen Best, has abided by for much of his life. A graduate from Deep Creek High School, Steve, as he is known among family, friends, and here at the Foundation, became a volunteer firefighter at the Deep Creek Volunteer Fire Department at the age of sixteen. Deciding that firefighting was the career for him, Steve forewent an opportunity to study music at Shenandoah University and joined the Chesapeake Fire Department as a full-time paid professional firefighter in December 1974. During his 37 devoted years to

the Chesapeake Fire Department, Steve was promoted through the ranks and earned the top post of Fire Chief and Emergency Services Coordinator before retiring in 2010.

Throughout this time, Steve never stopped pursuing his education, earning an Associate's Degree in Fire Science, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Governmental Administration, a Master's Degree in Business Administration and a Juris Doctor Degree from the Regent University School of Law. It is this education that led to a career in government after his retirement as Fire Chief for the City of Chesapeake. Since 2010, Steve has served as Program Director for the Hampton Roads Catastrophic Planning Team, a multi-million dollar FEMA sponsored Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant administered through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management on behalf of 24 county and city jurisdictions between Virginia and North Carolina.

Furthermore, Steve has donated countless hours to numerous charitable causes and community service projects in Chesapeake. Steve has also served on a number of Boards, most in a leadership capacity. Steve is an active member, Sunday School Teacher, and Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee of the Deep Creek United Methodist Church. He has served on the Board of Directors of the YMCA of South Hampton Roads and as the Treasurer for the Chesapeake 50th Anniversary Committee. Not to mention, Steve has been instrumental in coordinating a number of events throughout Chesapeake, including serving as Director for the Chesapeake Jubilee, Chairman of Paint Your Heart Out, and a member of the Chesapeake Wine Festival organizing committee. Steve is an active Director of the Chesapeake Regional Health Foundation, the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways History Foundation, and the Chesapeake Rotary Club.

Steve was recently named Chesapeake's First Citizen to which he recognizes as "one of the most humbling recognitions I've received in my life." Steve credits his family and neighbors of Deep Creek for caring, chipping at, and molding him into the person he is today. Steve says his ability to serve and

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achieve the many milestones in his life would not have been possible if it weren't for the many people who have encouraged and supported him, especially his wife, Sheree. "She's the one thing I cannot live without. She's my soulmate, my best friend. She's my rock."

There's an analogy Steve likes to use when describing the influences in his life. Steve has done a lot of airline travel throughout his career. He says he realized that whenever he was flying, he was under the safety and guidance of a control tower as he moved through a space of time. "As we travel through time, just about the time the signal of the first tower started to fade, there was always another tower that picked up the plane and carried us safely over that space of time," says Steve. Looking back, those control towers seem to accurately describe the success Steve has been fortunate enough to endure most of his life. "It seems that God has strategically placed positive role models along the pathway of my life – guide me – give advice and see me safely along that span of time that we were associated." It is not only these role models, however, that have contributed to his success. "Philosophy is where it begins. That's who you are. Philosophy drives everything else," says Steve.

Everything that Steve has been involved in has always been about giving, building, and cultivating those relationships. It's a stewardship thing, according to Steve, in which he has spent most of his adult life involving himself in philanthropic efforts. "The Southeast Virginia Community Foundation resonates with me," says Steve who also believes that the key to great communities is not government. "What makes great communities is the willingness of people to step up and volunteer and to do things when there's no reason for them to do them."

Steve, his wife, and their two children are frequent visitors of the Outer Banks in North Carolina. In the summertime, Steve says they try to visit every weekend and jokes that his oldest son could tell you how many ceiling tiles the Mama Kwan's restaurant has. Steve also likes to play golf and do research to unwind. Still, it's the simple things Steve looks forward to like spending an evening with his wife at Fellini's off Colley Avenue in Norfolk.

Steve says that when he walks through the door of the SEVACF office, he not only brings his experience, but all of the beliefs he holds and all of the talents he's been fortunate enough to have been given in which he plans to use to the very best of his ability.

"The pursuit of excellence in the face of adversity is invariably matched by the glory of the results." - R. Stephen Best, CEO

ON BEHALF OF SEVACF, THANK YOU WARD

P. Ward Robinett, Jr., the interim Chief Executive Officer for the Southeast Virginia Community Foundation, has announced his retirement at the end of 2015. Under Ward's leadership, SEVACF has obtained full accreditation from The Community Foundations National Standards Board (*more on this later in the newsletter*). Furthermore, Ward has been very influential in developing the Southeast Virginia Community Foundation as a quality, trustworthy philanthropic partner. Not to mention, Ward has positioned the Foundation in such a way to foster future growth and development.

Ward's career has been a model to follow. Prior to SEVACF, Ward worked in the banking business, a career that spanned more than 43 years. He is best known as the founding President of TowneBank Portsmouth where they rose to the #1 spot in deposit market share among all financial institutions in Portsmouth. During this time, Ward was also named First Citizen of Portsmouth in 1989.

A native of Portsmouth, Ward has been very dedicated to his hometown, serving on City Council for eight years, on the board of Bon Secours Hampton Roads, and as a trustee of the Beazley Foundation, among other leadership positions.

Although no longer in an official capacity, Ward has graciously offered his advice and expertise in the months to come. While we anticipate retirement to be an adjustment for Ward, we also anticipate it to be a long-awaited opportunity and want to wish him well. May Ward retire knowing he has made a remarkable contribution and has touched the lives of many throughout the community in immeasurable ways.



ELIZABETH RIVER PROJECT HAS MET THE MATCH!

The Elizabeth River Project has met their match! The Match, formerly known as the TowneBank/SEVACF Challenge, was initiated and agreed upon in 2013, and calls on local non-profit organizations to start endowment funds with the Foundation. Although housed and administered by SEVACF, such funds are intended to support the needs of their respective organizations.

Upon establishing their fund, a nonprofit must pledge to raise between \$20,000 and \$50,000 over a one-year period. When their pledge has been met, we double their endowment by matching their raised amount with a portion from the TowneBank Foundation and SEVACF money, combined.

The Elizabeth River Project is our first organization to have achieved such a feat. With headquarters across from the High Street Ferry Landing on the Portsmouth waterfront, the Elizabeth River Project leads community-wide action to restore the environmental health of the Elizabeth River.

In 2013, Elizabeth River Project opened Paradise Creek Nature Park as Portsmouth's third largest public park. The project has been working since 2008 to improve the park's 40 acres for education and recreation. In Portsmouth, grades

pre-kindergarten through high school have already visited the new park as their field station. The younger students planted trees they grew in the classroom while the high school students tested water quality from the pedestrian bridge and studied many principles of ecology.

"I've had the best two days of my teaching career," said Dara Brinkman, Portsmouth ecology teacher, as she began field trips to the park. "Being able to teach from first-hand experiences rather than from textbooks makes all the difference," she said.

Marcus Jones, gardening columnist for the Virginian-Pilot, recently called Paradise Creek Nature Park "a true native treasure for Hampton Roads...We were there only an hour-and-a-half and this was not nearly enough time to enjoy all of it."

Consequent to hearing they met their match, the project's board of

directors plan to use disbursements from their SEVACF endowment fund for education programs at the park to teach people of all ages how to improve the health of our home river. "We are so proud and so excited to have met the challenge match," said Marjorie Mayfield Jackson, Executive Director, Elizabeth River Project.



Sarah Sumoski, Urban Park Ranger, with the Elizabeth River Project at Paradise Creek Nature Park, pictured here with some of the more than 6,000 students the park has hosted for education since it opened to the public.

"We are so proud and so excited to have met the [SEVACF] challenge match"

- Marjorie Mayfield Jackson, Executive Director, Elizabeth River Project

End-of-Year Gifting

As the year draws to a close, many of us reflect on the people and organizations that have had a positive impact on our lives. From Thanksgiving through year's end, our focus turns outward, to those whom we cherish and appreciate.

As we purchase or make gifts for, or make donations in honor or in memory of, family and friends, our thoughts also turn to those in need within our communities.

Gifts to charity are frequently a part of the end-of-year considerations. If you are considering a gift to charity, please keep the following in mind:

1 For tax purposes, the gift is made when the gift is received. Physical items to be donated—automobiles, boats, household goods, etc.—must be donated on or before December 31, keeping in mind the availability of the recipient to receive the item. Checks are considered gifted in a calendar year if they are postmarked by December 31, even if the check does not clear your bank until early January.

2 Gifts of property need a receipt from the receiving organization if the value is above a certain amount. If you are in doubt, ask for the receipt. Note that the donor is responsible for documenting the value of the item donated; the organization will not do this.

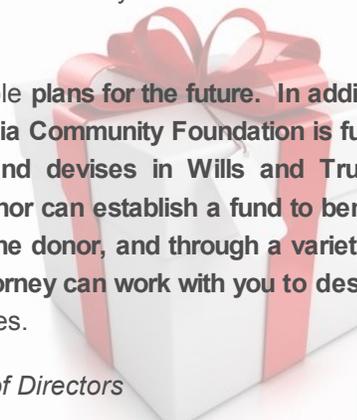
3 If you gift cash, your employer may make a matching contribution of some or all of your donation. Check with your human resources department to see what options your employer offers.

4 Gifts of highly appreciated assets can save the donor capital gains. The donor receives the benefit of the full fair market value of the gift and does not have to pay any capital gains on the income growth. Note that if the appreciated assets are securities, the process of making the transfer may take a few days to a few weeks, so be sure to get started early enough to meet the end-of-the-year deadline.

5 If you have questions about the ability to take a tax deduction for your gift, consult with your tax advisor about how the gift will affect your specific situation. The Southeast Virginia Community Foundation is a non-profit community foundation.

Now is a good time to consider your charitable plans for the future. In addition to end-of-the-year gifts, the Southeast Virginia Community Foundation is funded by planned giving through bequests and devises in Wills and Trusts, through Donor-Advised Funds wherein a donor can establish a fund to benefit a particular local purpose of importance to the donor, and through a variety of Charitable Annuities. An Estate Planning attorney can work with you to design a charitable legacy that expresses your wishes.

- William H. Oast, III, Vice President, Board of Directors



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

SEVACF RECEIVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Recently, the Southeast Virginia Community Foundation received accreditation from the Community Foundations National Standards Board.

With this achievement, we remain part of an elite group of community foundations who have met the nation's highest philanthropic standards for operational quality, integrity and accountability. The National Standards seal affirms that our foundation's management aligns with nationally recognized practices and distinguishes us from other community foundations that have not yet met these rigorous standards.

As we move forward, we will continue our commitment to excellence, stewardship, and leadership throughout the region.

On behalf of the Foundation, we would like to say "THANK YOU" to our donors for your continued trust and support as we make Southeast Virginia a better place to work, live, and play. Without you, we would not be able to fulfill our mission and put ourselves in a position to receive such great achievements as this one.

FALL GRANT CYCLE

THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS & PROGRAMS WERE FUNDED DURING OUR FALL GRANT CYCLE:

BUSINESS CONSORTIUM FOR ARTS SUPPORT

Each year, the BCAS supports arts and cultural organizations in South Hampton Roads. This year, the BCAS will use their funding to reduce the cost of ticket prices, keeping them affordable for everyone. This will allow them to further expand their support and ensure Portsmouth specific arts groups continue to receive grants.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF EASTERN VIRGINIA

CCEVA collaborates with local agencies, non-profit organizations, and churches to provide blanketed services throughout Hampton Roads to low-income individuals and families. Funding will allow CCEVA to expand their program to serve more seniors in Portsmouth and Chesapeake.

CHESAPEAKE HUMANE SOCIETY

Funding will go towards launching two programs: a low-cost dental care program and their Pet Food Pantry program.

HELP AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE, INC

The H.E.R Shelter serves as the main domestic violence resource for Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and North Suffolk. Recently, the H.E.R. Shelter opened its second location in Chesapeake and is in need of new computers. Funding will go towards replacing the dated and nonfunctioning computers currently being used by staff and allow for more efficient function of job duties as well as to provide mobility to process clients at any location.

THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS FOUNDATION

Through their program, *Reframe the Shame*, GSA students will take interviews conducted with young people in their teens and early twenties and turn those into a theatrical performance to help identify, raise awareness, and offer support in decreasing the stigma associated with depression.

HORIZONS HAMPTON ROADS

Funding will go directly towards swimming costs for students attending the YMCA of Portsmouth's swim program in June and July 2016.

SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION

Through their program, *ACCESS the ARTS*, students from any of the Title 1 schools in Portsmouth and Chesapeake will be able to attend a matinee at the Sandler Center at no cost to them.

THE VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Through their program, *Student Art Start*, intellectually disabled 4th grade students in Portsmouth will be able to take part in a field trip to the museum and view the exhibitions. Funding will cover the cost of transportation and education materials created by MOCA's staff that correlate to the Virginia Standards of Learning.

GRANTS PAID BY PROGRAM

THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE RECEIVED GRANTS FROM OUR DONOR-ADVISED, DESIGNATED & ORGANIZATIONAL FUNDS SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE OF THE FUND ADVISOR NEWSLETTER:

ARTS & CULTURE

Children's Museum of Virginia

EDUCATION

Woodlawn Foundation
Detroit Police Athletic League
Boys & Girls Clubs of King County

CAPITAL

Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast
Friends of Chevre T'Helim

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Golden Future Foundation
Oasis Opportunity Center
The Children's Center of Wayne County
Downtown Boxing Gym Youth Program
Starfish Family Services

CIVIC & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Railroad Museum of Virginia
Portsmouth Cedar Grove Cemetery

CHISHOLM HOUSE ENDOWMENT GRANTS

THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVED GRANTS FROM THE CHISHOLM HOUSE ENDOWMENT FUND DURING THEIR FALL GRANT CYCLE:

William & Mary Center for Veteran's
Engagement

United Service Organizations

ForKids

EDMARC Hospice for Children

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