

THE FUND ADVISOR

The Southeast Virginia Community Foundation

FALL/WINTER 2023



SEVACF Honors Coach Rabbit Howard BELOVED COACH OF PORTSMOUTH AND CHESAPEAKE

They called Ernest Howard's father "Big Rabbit" and his son Hare. That's how fast they were on the basketball court and baseball diamond. But it was on the sidelines where the younger Howard, known as just Rabbit by then, made a name for himself.

First in Danville and then at Portsmouth Catholic, Churchland, and Western Branch, the Portsmouth native led his high school squads to well over 200 wins. "When my Catholic team beat Wilson 48-47 back in 1963, it was the most famous upset in the school's history," he recalls. Not bad for a private academy with just 78 students.

Rabbit knew how to coach basketball because he had played it. Not so much golf, but he took on that challenge too, coaching squads to 300 match wins in 23 years. "What makes me really happy is how many of my players continue to stay in touch with me," says the legendary leader, who turns 93 in January. Other frequent visitors to Bickford Manor Assisted Living in Suffolk, where Rabbit is easily the most popular resident, include his two daughters, three grandchildren

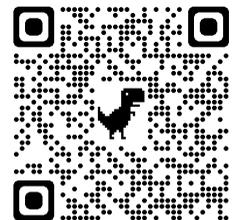
and four great grandchildren, the apples of his eye. Now Rabbit's fans have done something else, establishing a fund in his name at the Southeast Virginia Community Foundation to help student

athletes in need of financial assistance. It was the highlight of a reception, held naturally at a golf course, Elizabeth Manor Country Club, with \$150,000 and continues to grow. "It's success is no secret to me," says his grandson Trey Cooper, a basketball and soccer standout at Norfolk Collegiate and soccer player at Hampden Sydney, who worked closely with retired judge Mo Whitlow, former Portsmouth treasurer Jimmy Williams and Richard Wentz at the Foundation to start the

fund. "The community just loved my grandfather and obviously still does. It's wonderful that his legacy will continue to assist athletes for years to come."



Scan to support their mission, donate today.



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Dear Friends,

With the fall season here, we would like to share our Foundation's mission to provide grants to well-deserved non-profit organizations in Hampton Roads. SEVACF offers many grants that support causes large and small. Within this fall edition of our newsletter, we will highlight the grants we provided this year with the Board members full involvement. First, on the front page, we would like to recognize our most recent newly established fund. Friends and family launched the Coach Rabbit Howard Committee Advised fund to honor Coach Rabbit.

Since 1965, SEVACF has helped people who share a common goal of improving life for all in our community and building a legacy through philanthropic giving. Our Board of Directors consists of leading citizens and professionals who know our community's needs. We go beyond simply making grants that advance charitable activities; we also identify current and emerging issues, stimulate resources to address those needs and help Southeast Virginia prepare for the future. The types of nonprofit organizations we support vary in size, mission, and vision; however, they all are working toward a common goal of creating a better community.

A gift to SEVACF is an investment in the future of our region. The funds go to work immediately supporting vital services, while also providing sustained support for years to come. Rather than looking toward the next election or business cycle, community foundations always focus on the next generation.

Please join us in recognizing the collective impact and difference we can make together. Call or go online to make a tax-deductible contribution.



Sincerely yours,

Amy Folkes

AMY FOLKES
President, Board of Directors



Richard E. H. Wentz

RICHARD E. H. WENTZ
Chief Executive Officer

SEVACF'S GRANT RECIPIENT *HIGHLIGHT*

Benjamin Goldberg Foundation Brings Healing Arts to Children



Benjamin Goldberg was five when diagnosed with Neuroblastoma, a rare cancer of the nervous system. Benjamin endured his difficult treatment by using music as a source of healing. He wore special headphones to walk the floors of the hospital to bring calm to his turbulent world. "He was his own little beam of light," says his mother, Wendy Goldberg.

Benjamin sadly passed away in 2016 at the age of eight. Inspired by her son, Wendy volunteered at CHKD and created the Benjamin Goldberg Foundation to bring the healing arts to children, their families, and caregivers by providing creative engagement that supports health, healing and well-being.

During COVID, the foundation went virtual, and thanks to grants from SEVACF, the Peace Out Portal on the website continues to provide free and easy access to music, art, movement and mind/body resources. Engaging videos help patients, caregivers and healthcare workers incorporate the healing arts during their medical

journeys. "We wanted to be the bridge between the hospital and the home," says Wendy.

"I was vocal about bringing the healing arts into the hospital," she adds. "The music did not change the outcome, but it did change our story and our experience. Ben's essence is alive, and his spirit lives on."

"SEVACF has been pivotal in growing the Peace Out Portal while coming out of the pandemic. Thank you SEVACF for helping make this a reality."

OUR *AMAZING* 2023 GRANTEES

SEVACF awarded \$197,750 in total grant funding to 39 organizations during the 2023 spring and fall grant cycles.

These grants supported vital services in education, health and human services and arts and culture. We would like to thank the donors who made this possible. To give to the non-profits that participate in our bi-annual grants program, go to <https://sevacf.org/give/donate/> and select "The Community Needs Fund". You may call our office directly at 757-397-5424. Congratulations to our amazing 2023 grantees!

ARTS & CULTURE – \$10,400

- **Portsmouth Community Concerts, Inc.**, Program Support
- **Tidewater Arts Outreach**, Arts Outreach for Older Adults in Portsmouth and Chesapeake
- **Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art**, Museum Tours for Students
- **Young Audiences of VA/Arts for Learning VA**, I.D.E.A.L. (Intentional Designs of Expression in Artistic Languages) Year 2

CAPITAL – \$18,000

- **Holiday House of Portsmouth, Inc.**, Two Porch Enclosures at the Facility
- **Sentara Foundation-Hampton Roads**, Nightingale Air Ambulance Program
- **St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children**, State-of-the-Art Sensory Gym
- **Tidewater Youth Services**, Westhaven Home: Renovate Kitchen

CIVIC & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – \$3,700

- **Chesapeake Humane Society**, Crisis Boarding Program

EDUCATION – \$41,300

- **All District Reads**, Reading Program for 700 Students
- **Don Carey REECH Foundation**, STEAM in Schools Program
- **Joy Ministries**, Summer Reading Camps, Learning Ctrs & Mentoring
- **PIN Ministry**, Purchase Laptops and Backpacks
- **Starbase Victory**, AEROBASE Program
- **Tidewater Friends of Foster Care**; Tutoring Support for Foster Youth
- **United Jewish Federation of Tidewater**, BeAR Literacy Project
- **Virginia Zoo**, Educational Programs for Portsmouth Students
- **Wesley Community Service Center**; Tutoring Program

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – \$112,350

- **American Red Cross, Disaster Services Program**: Response & Recovery in Chesapeake & Portsmouth
- **Benjamin Goldberg Foundation**, Peace Out Portal
- **Boys & Girls Clubs**, Out of School Programming
- **Chesapeake Public Schools Educational Foundation**, Supplying Our Students for Success
- **Children's Assistive Technology Service**, Clinical Coordinator Salary
- **Connect With A Wish**, Strengthening Support - Supporting Success
- **Eliza Hope Foundation**, Hope Stars Programs & Early Intervention Preschool Program
- **Fellowship of Christian Athletes**, FCA Camp
- **Foodbank of Southeastern VA**, Mobile Pantry Program
- **Girls on the Run**, Program Support - Food as Fuel
- **Give Back 2 Da Block**, Community Violence Reduction Strategy Training Program
- **Habitat for Humanity of South Hampton Roads**, Support Construction of Single Family Home
- **Horizons Hampton Roads, Inc.**, Student Swim Program
- **Joy Ministries**, Bread of Life Food Delivery Program
- **Meals on Wheels of Chesapeake, Inc.**, Meals for Low-Income Homebound Neighbors
- **Portsmouth Reads**, Child Care Provider Training Series
- **Revival Center Virginia Beach**, Meet the Need Initiative
- **Roc Solid Foundation**, ROC Solid Ready Bags
- **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Norfolk**, Adopt-a-Room
- **Therapy on the Move**; Timeless Living Fall Prevention Program
- **Young Life Chesapeake**, YoungLives in Chesapeake



*Use this QR Code to
apply for a grant*

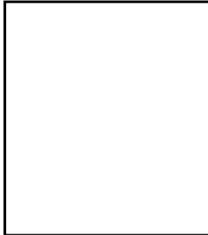
SUPPORT SEVACF'S *HERITAGE FUND*



SEVACF's new Heritage Fund was opened in 2017 to help sustain the Foundation into the future. The Heritage Fund provides a means for friends of the Foundation to support its long-term mission by making tax-deductible contributions on an annual basis, or remembering the Foundation in their wills by way of a bequest. Gifts to the Heritage Fund will provide much needed annual operating revenue to help sustain the Foundation's continuing work of promoting philanthropy in Southeast Virginia. We invite you to join efforts! Contact INFO@SEVACF.ORG or call **757-397-5424** to discuss this exciting new giving opportunity or to make your gift to the Heritage Fund today!



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MEET THE SEVACF TEAM

SOUTHEAST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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about SEVACF*

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