

The Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation strives to provide opportunities for children and young adults from all walks of life to achieve the greatest level of success possible. The Foundation believes utmost in the importance of education, but views education as a continuing journey, involving not only academic pursuits but also the facing of challenges, the growth of personal character, and a recognition of each individual's contribution to society. The Foundation actively supports numerous philanthropic endeavors that reach people at various points along this journey, whether giving individuals the right start, helping them overcome difficulties, or promoting continued successes. Through three main themes – the power of the individual, the value of education and the pursuit of excellence – the Foundation promotes its overall goal of multi-dimensional, multi-disciplinary, responsible and educated citizenry.

THE POWER OF THE INDIVIDUAL

While millions of Americans personally participate in the arts every year, access to and understanding of the role of the arts in life needs to be continually expanded. We have sought to support initiatives in the fine arts, dance, theatre, and music, to make it possible for more Americans to experience art of the highest quality and from a broad mixture of cultures and eras. Accordingly, we have sponsored exhibits at the *National Gallery of Art* featuring the art of many different times and places. We have supported performances at the *Kennedy Center* by and for children, creating opportunities for the youngest among us to be brought into the meaning of making and experiencing art, and at the *National Symphony Orchestra* to expose young people to symphonic music, and the *Choral Arts Society of Washington* to bring the same kind of attention to choral music. We have helped the *Dance Theatre of Harlem* provide the opportunity to young residents of Harlem to develop artistically. We supported an innovative performing arts program aimed at assisting the development of the very young, down to toddler age, at the *Wolf Trap Performing Arts Center*, as well as a number of other programs at Wolf Trap that brought performing arts to the people of the metropolitan Washington area.

We have worked with the *National Geographic Society* to fund gifted young individuals in public service. Indeed, educating young people about the meaning of public service is one of the objectives we sought in our support for the *William J. Clinton Presidential Center* and the *Ronald Reagan Presidential Library*, each of which is devoted to exploring the means and results of action in the public space.

Many people face special challenges in obtaining education arising from difficult personal circumstances. For this reason, we undertake innovative work with the *Capital Area Food Bank* to focus not only on feeding the homeless, but providing them nutrition and education programs. We worked with the *Wheelchair Foundation* to provide wheelchairs to handicapped individuals, providing them the mobility to take on more with their lives. We assisted the *National Coalition in Cancer Survivorship* in providing educational materials and services to cancer patients across the country as part of their rehabilitation. We supported efforts to combat the worldwide AIDS epidemic through the *Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS*. And we supported the work of the *Breast Cancer Research Foundation* in hard science aimed at curing and preventing breast cancer.

Additionally, we supported the *Inova Health System* in providing support for programs to ensure the best health care services for the Fairfax County community. We also took on funding international alliances to promote worldwide peace and social justice and to inspire future leaders to work for the greater social good, recalling the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., through *The King Center* in Atlanta. We also combined programs for nutritional education with programs to feed the hungry by supporting *Share Our Strength*, which combines both approaches in serving Americans who amid our affluence remain impoverished. We continue to support *The Fishing School* in Washington, D.C., for a similar reason: it provides children from families with a history of poverty, drug abuse and neglect the opportunity to get an education and to break free and to achieve. Similarly, we have supported *National Student Partnerships*, which is the nation's only year-round student led volunteer service organization dedicated to helping underprivileged individuals and families obtain the resources they require to become self-sufficient, and one that regularly achieves miracles in the process.

Preserving the past is part of educating us for the future, and for this reason we choose to support restoration of two historic buildings in Washington D.C., *Blair House*, site of many important moments in our national life, and the *Supreme Court*, which has a Historical Society that is engaged in restoring the building itself and in educating the public on the history of the judicial branch of our government. We have also sought to support understanding of the very ancient past -- by providing support to the *Museum of the Rockies* and the work of the famed paleontologist Jack Horner, who recently discovered one of the oldest *Tyrannosaurus Rex* fossils ever found.

We see all of these programs as living demonstrations of the "power of the individual" in which ideas that begin in the imagination are translated into bringing about concrete results that can be seen, touched, heard, and felt, and in the process, enriching both their lives and the lives of those around them.

THE VALUE OF EDUCATION

Education is more than textbooks and report cards – education is a lifelong journey to stimulate our minds, build our character and enrich our spirit. An educated citizenry is a responsible one, able and willing to confront societal problems with fresh ideas, creative thinking, and a strong belief that everyone deserves a real chance to achieve success. We have dedicated resources to a wide variety of educational initiatives for the youngest children to the graduate level, recognizing that although early childhood education can put students on the right path from the start, there is always an opportunity to help others along the way.

Through various K-12 programs, we offer a helping hand to lift children and youth out of the cycle of poverty and show them that with hard work and dedication, there are no limits to what they can achieve. Through grants to the *School Night* program we have provided much-needed financial assistance to deserving and underprivileged children from kindergarten through twelfth grade, so they may obtain a high-quality education. Our funding to the *Hurricane Katrina Scholarship Fund* has enabled students displaced to the

Washington, DC area by Hurricane Katrina to remain in their new schools through scholarships that cover tuition, textbooks, fees and school uniforms. Students learn better in a safe, stable environment, and we strongly believe that if these students want to remain in this area and continue their education, scarce financial resources should not prevent them. We have also provided, through the *National Catholic Educational Association*, funding for students and teachers in Catholic schools across the country to enhance educational programs. Finally, through the *Black Student Fund* we provide merit-based scholarships for students from low-income families enabling students to attend high-caliber schools in the Washington, DC area. Students who might otherwise not have had such educational opportunities benefit directly from the scholarships and other programs for which we have provided funding.

We recognize the value of a good teacher and the impact a good teacher can have on students, particularly students in tougher neighborhoods. We support *Teach for America* programs, which recruit recent college graduates to teach in regions hard-hit by economic problems, bringing new teachers to impoverished students. Specifically, our funding has provided 20 teachers for economically disadvantaged children in Washington, DC, bringing new excitement, new ideas, and fresh experiences to these students.

Too often, students lack basic literacy skills, creating a stumbling block that can damage a student's hope, desire to learn, and confidence. We recognize that reading encourages the learning process, helps expand academic skills and enhances overall knowledge. Through the *Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries*, *In2Books*, and *Reading is Fundamental*, we have worked to promote literacy, ensure that students have access to relevant and interesting books, and encourage reading to improve their education.

A child's ability to attend college should never hinge on whether they can afford tuition – students who have not limited themselves in what they can achieve in grade and high school should not be artificially limited by the costs of college. Through numerous grants, we have provided opportunities for hundreds of students to realize their dreams of attending college, despite bleak economic circumstances. The *DC College Access Program*, for example, provides youth the opportunity to attend the college of their choice, regardless of their economic circumstances through counseling and financial assistance, allowing them to reach their full potential. We also supported grants to the *Washington Metropolitan Scholars* program to provide hard-working, talented African-American students with high levels of scholastic achievement college scholarships. The *Carson Scholars Fund* recognizes the academic and humanitarian achievements of children in grades 4 through 12 by providing scholarships for college tuition, and the *Flight 77 Scholarship Program* provided college scholarships to outstanding 2002 graduates in memory of Washington, DC public school students and teachers who perished when Flight 77 crashed in the fields of Shanksville, PA. We are also pleased to have supported funding to *Morehouse College*, a liberal-arts college with a focus on ensuring the academic, cultural and spiritual education of African-American men and promoting the development of outstanding African-American leaders.

Those who continue their formal education after college also deserve support, as it is they who are breaking new ground and stimulating the development of new ideas. Through our support of the *Fellows for Social Entrepreneurship at Harvard University*, we provided funding for talented young people to prepare for national leadership positions as social entrepreneurs – people who will be able to develop innovative private sector solutions to our most urgent social problems. Support includes funding of tuition and stipends for more than 100 Master’s degree candidates. We also supported *Fellows for Social Entrepreneurship at New York University*, which provides competitive graduate fellowships and undergraduate scholarships available to students at all of NYU’s 14 schools to encourage and train future public service leaders to tackle pressing social problems through an interdisciplinary approach. As ours is an ever-increasing global economy, we also support efforts to promote international cooperation at the highest levels of academia. We supported *The Academy of Achievement*, which provides a forum for the most promising graduate students from across the globe, to come together and engage in a dialogue with pre-eminent leaders from diverse fields of endeavor. We also provided funding for the *Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars*, which unites scholars and national leaders to discuss and address the top challenges facing our nation and our world.

Because education is not just about classrooms, we work to ensure that the citizenry as a whole continues to be educated, challenged, and incited to be curious about the world. With this in mind, we supported the *Kennedy Center’s Education Center*, including a museum of interactive exhibits that highlight the role of the performing arts in American history and culture. This exhibit provides a resource for aspiring artists and others to be inspired by past achievements in American performing art and inspire others to continue to cultivate a thriving artistic community. We know it is one thing to read about history, it is another to be able to experience it. We supported the *Ford’s Theatre Society* to revitalize the theatre and create an education center on the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln. Families should be able to see for themselves all that remains from one of the defining moments in our nation’s history.

We also supported *The Sunlight Foundation*, which promotes an educated citizenry through increased transparency in government, knowledge of the legislative process, and enhanced public trust in elected officials through improved disclosure of their activities. In the wake of last year’s scandals involving elected officials, we believe it is more important than ever to educate the general public about how to keep elected officials accountable to the electorate and how to become active, engaged participants in our government.

These initiatives embody the true value of a well-rounded education, where individuals are given every opportunity to succeed and the financial assistance and other resources necessary to make the most of opportunities.

THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

We understand that it is not always economic factors that create roadblocks on the path to success for children and young adults. Physical and mental difficulties can also

artificially limit potential if not recognized and addressed. We believe strongly in supporting programs that encourage young people to set, strive for, and attain personal goals that exceed even their own expectations – regardless of physical or mental challenges.

We are proud to support *America's Promise*, which provides support for initiatives that put young children on the path to success by identifying health-related concerns, including funding to screen children under age 6 for hearing and vision impairments that could affect their ability to learn and providing early intervention for learning-disabled children to overcome educational barriers. We also support the *Children's Inn at NIH* so that sick children have a place to find comfort and to prepare for their medical treatments, leaving behind the challenges they face to spend time with their families in a warm, supportive environment and giving them hope for the future.

Our support of the *Kellar Center* helps the center provide community-based outpatient services programs that make available a broad range of counseling and behavioral services for at-risk children, adolescents and their families, helping them be free to realize their full potential. Through an organization known as *Green Door*, we support social and educational programs for people facing mental health challenges – assisting them to find housing, employment and training that can help them become self-sufficient and successful. Through the *N Street Village* we help show homeless, addicted, and disenfranchised women a path to recovery and success, taking these women out of the social welfare system and helping them find direction. Our grants funded vocational training and general education to help these women get the skills they can use to meet their goals and enjoy future success.

Through programs that provide strong, inspirational mentors to youngsters facing overwhelming socio-economic challenges, we show them that there is a way to break the cycle of poverty. We provided funding to the *Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington* to help provide mentors and a safe haven for children in need in Washington, DC, to encourage their physical and mental development in a positive setting. We also supported the *Washington Redskins Leadership Council – Coaches in the Classroom* program which helps academic coaches at inner-city high schools work in concert with athletic coaches to prepare students for college and for life. We also supported *Together for Girls*, a program that shows refugee girls in Kenya that education can lift them out of the sense of desperation and hopelessness they currently face. Through the *TOYchallenge*, we provided support to an exciting initiative that encourages elementary students' interest in engineering through toy-building competitions that also enhance teamwork skills and confidence.

Reaching those who are at-risk or who face physical or mental challenges, and providing them with a chance to grow, hope, and succeed, serves to make our entire society stronger. These achievements should be celebrated, and no one should be denied an opportunity to realize their utmost potential.