

The Shenandoah Community Foundation Celebrates National Community Foundation Week

The Shenandoah Community Foundation is joining more than 750 community foundations across the United States in celebrating National Community Foundation Week--November 12-18, 2013.

Launched in 1989 through a proclamation by former president George H.W. Bush, the first Community Foundation Week included a congressional briefing about the work of community foundations throughout America and their collaborative approach to working with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to address community needs.

The first community foundation was started in Cleveland in 1914. Since then, community foundations have been organized in every state and in every type of community--small, urban, and rural. According to The 2012 Columbus Survey, last year the nation's 100 largest community organizations had combined total assets in excess of \$50 billion and made grants of approximately \$4 billion.

The usual community foundation is independent, non-sectarian, and locally-run. Each community foundation is focused on the particular philanthropic needs of its area or region. Community foundations offer their communities the power and long-term benefit of endowed philanthropic giving by investing the gifts that are made to the foundations and then using the annual income to address community needs in future years.

With regard to the Shenandoah Community Foundation, its mission is to connect people who care with causes that matter in Shenandoah County and surrounding areas. The Foundation runs three major programs: 1) its annual unrestricted grants program that provides support to non-profit organizations providing services to Shenandoah County residents, 2) its scholarship program that awards educational scholarships to County high school graduates, and 3) its restricted grants program that makes philanthropic gifts from Funds that have been separately established by individual and institutional donors.

So far in 2013 the Shenandoah Community Foundation has awarded more than \$175,000 in scholarships and grants, and during the past 6 years the Foundation has awarded more than \$750,000. The Foundation currently maintains more than 45 Funds, including scholarship, memorial, donor-advised, field of interest, unrestricted, and agency funds.