

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Local DIVAs Help At-risk Youth

In 2005, a group of Montgomery County women seeking a fun, new way to support the arts turned to the Montgomery County Community Foundation (MCCF) to help them give their money away well. The group formed a "giving circle," much like a book or investment club, which brings together like-minded community residents to explore philanthropic

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interests and pool their resources to make strategic gifts.

The group – affectionately known as the DIVAs – created the "Donors InVesting in Arts" giving circle to provide at-risk youth with transformative experiences in the arts.

Now in their third year, the DIVAs decided to focus on programs utilizing the arts to help at-risk youth succeed in school and beyond. After issuing a request for proposals last summer, the DIVAs heard from 9 programs that provide life-changing opportunities for at-risk youth and creatively engage teachers, community leaders, and parents to deepen the impact the arts can have in the community. Through lively and thoughtful discussions, the DIVAs narrowed the list down to the five organizations they wished to support.

The Montgomery County Community Foundation and the DIVAs are proud to announce this year's grantees of the Donors InVesting in Arts Fund:

Ghandi Brigade for its youth-directed community media project which teaches the media arts to young adults so they may articulate their vision for change as they explore and engage their communities.

Imagination Stage for its Imagination Quest program that provides classroom teachers with arts-based teaching skills and techniques to enhance stu-

dent achievement across all curriculums and foster students' creative and social skills.

Liz Lerman Dance Exchange for a special youth-dance project in which local teens collaborate on the development of a multimedia dance production at the National Building Museum.

Passion for Learning for its Young Writers Academies which help elementary and middle school students improve writing & reading skills through a variety of interactive workshops in poetry, playwriting, fiction, and nonfiction writing.

Young Audiences of Maryland for its Teacher Training Institute which will provide Montgomery County Public School teachers with techniques and strategies from the visual and performing arts in order to engage all learning styles and help students meet and exceed their learning objectives.

About the MCCF

The Montgomery County Community Foundation houses over 140 funds established by individuals, families and businesses to support the issues and causes they care about in the county, across the region, and throughout the world.

Contact us to learn more about MCCF's numerous opportunities that can help you fulfill your charitable giving goals.

Establish an Individually Named Fund. Consolidate your personal or corporate charitable giving into one invested vehicle that grows tax-free, ever-expanding your ability to give.

Make a Gift to the Sharing Montgomery Fund. MCCF's Sharing Montgomery Fund is dedicated to addressing the most critical issues facing the growing number of low-income children and families in our county. With one gift, you can touch the lives of thousands of our most vulnerable neighbors and join a collective effort responding to emerging needs in Montgomery County.

Create a Legacy of Giving. Pass on the spirit of giving from one generation to the next by taking advantage of MCCF's many attractive opportunities for planned giving, including charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts and charitable lead trusts.

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Visit us on the web at
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