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## Foundation Awards \$1.1 Million in Responsive Grants

Medical care and assistance with basic needs for low-income citizens are among projects funded by the J. Marion Sims Foundation's most recent grant awards. A total of seven organizations in Lancaster, Chester and York counties are recipients of grants totaling slightly more than \$1.1 million.

"Currently, a number of citizens find it difficult to obtain good medical care or to meet their basic needs for a variety of reasons," said foundation President Jim Morton. "We're pleased to make awards to help meet these needs as well as others in Lancaster County, Great Falls and Fort Lawn."

Grant awards were made to the following organizations:

**CareNet** - \$529,522 for one year to fund operational costs of its Care Health Center that provides comprehensive medical services for area residents regardless of ability to pay

**Christian Services** - \$43,710 for one year for its food pantry that provides food assistance for low-income families

**HOPE in Lancaster** - \$468,000 for one year to help qualifying Lancaster citizens to meet basic needs, including food, shelter, and heat

**Keystone Substance Abuse Services** - \$18,000 for one year for services to clients from Lancaster County  
**Winthrop University** - \$6,700 for one year to implement a professional development program for local nonprofit organization administrators

**Lancaster County Council of the Arts** - \$17,500 for one year to sustain the arts therapy program at Southside Early Childhood Development Center, operations, and future planning

**Life Skills Opportunity Corporation** - \$27,500 for one year for its program of supplementing child care expenses for teenage mothers furthering their education

**USC Lancaster** - \$54,600 for one year for its program of providing membership assistance to qualifying individuals for the Gregory Health and Wellness Center

## Teachers' Pet Grant Program Gears Up for New School Year

The J. Marion Sims Foundation is now accepting proposals for the new school year for its **Teachers' Pet Grants program (TPG)**, designed to encourage creative concepts that have the potential for enhancing community life through the education of local youth. Classroom teachers, media specialists, guidance counselors and other certified support staff (exclusive of after-school programs) serving K-12 students in Lancaster County, Fort Lawn, and Great Falls are invited to apply. Awarding of grants will be based on merit, innovation, completeness, the enhancement of existing curriculum, and the availability of funding. Applicants may request **up to \$500 per project and are limited to one grant per school year.**

Local teachers won **\$76,158** for their classrooms during the 2008-09 school year through the foundation's Teachers' Pet Grant program. One-hundred sixty-one (161) teachers in the Lancaster County School District and Great Falls and Lewisville schools were awarded funding. Below is the list of schools that received funding:

### Elementary

Brooklyn Springs, Buford, Clinton, Discovery School, Erwin, Heath Springs, Indian Land, McDonald Green, North, Great Falls, Lewisville

### Middle

A.R. Rucker, Andrew Jackson, Buford, Indian Land, South, Great Falls, Lewisville

### High

Andrew Jackson, Buford, Indian Land, Lancaster, Great Falls

Information about the TPG program can be accessed at our website, [www.jmsims.org](http://www.jmsims.org). The deadline is the last business day of each month September—March.



## A Word from the President

- James T. Morton, President



Foundations award funds to organizations large and small in a variety of ways for a host of causes. Their funds can be viewed as taking place along a continuum that begins with basic needs on one end, ends with investing in change at the other, and threads through a vast array of programs and purposes at various points along the way.

Articles elsewhere in this newsletter illustrate that our foundation currently finds itself funding at or near the ends of this continuum, while hitting a few points in between. At one end, the foundation recently awarded approximately \$1.1 million in responsive grants, the vast majority of which were aimed at helping to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and medical care. With unemployment rates hovering around 20% in Lancaster and Chester counties, needs of this type obviously are great.

At the other end, the foundation also invested roughly \$600,000 in adult literacy and basic skills programming in a continuing effort to effect change for large numbers of our citizens who want and need to improve their skills and abilities to adapt to rapid change in order to improve their own lives, their loved ones' and their communities.

Basic needs, basic skills. Lancaster County, Great Falls and Fort Lawn currently face imposing challenges in providing for one and significantly upgrading the other. Meeting these challenges requires more than our funding alone can provide. Thus, while we're grateful to be able to provide what we can, we also give thanks for and commend the hard work, persistence, ingenuity, and other sources of funds that are helping our communities to respond to their current circumstances while preparing for better times when they return.

## Foundation Elects New Officers; Re-Elects Trustees

Members of the medical and financial services professions have been elected to positions of leadership by the foundation's board of trustees. **Dr. Malcolm Edwards**, ophthalmologist, has been designated chairman-elect. **Phyllis Bunkley**, executive with Founders Federal Credit Union, has been elected treasurer.

Edwards, who previously served as vice chairman, and Bunkley join Dr. Dexter Cook, Jr., chairman, and Polly Jackson, secretary, as officers for the 2009-2010 year that began October 1.

An ophthalmologist with The Eye and Laser Center, Dr. Edwards graduated from the University of South Carolina and the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. He completed his ophthalmology residency training at Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Edwards has served as chief of staff and chief of surgery at Springs Memorial Hospital. His civic involvement includes service as past president of the Lancaster Rotary Club and volunteer leadership capacities with CareNet and the Pregnancy Care Center in Lancaster.

Mrs. Bunkley is Senior Vice President of Human Resources/Training for Founders. She is a graduate of Kings College and the Credit Union National Association's Human Resource Management School.

A former Chair of the Board of Directors for Communities in Schools of Lancaster County, Mrs. Bunkley has also served on the boards of Springs Memorial Hospital, the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce and the Lancaster Educational Assistance Program (LEAP).

In addition to the new officers, three trustees have been re-elected to the Foundation's board. **Robert K. Folks**, **Charles M. Harrell**,

and **Marvin L. Starks** were re-elected to second three-year terms that began October 1.

Folks is a partner in the firm of Folks, Khoury, and DeVenny. A graduate of the University of South Carolina, he holds a law degree from the USC School of Law. Mr. Folks currently serves as a trustee of Thornwell Home for Children and has held trusteeships and chair positions with Lancaster County School Board and the Lancaster County Community Foundation. He also has been a trustee of Presbyterian College. His civic involvement in Lancaster also includes being a member and past president of the Lancaster Breakfast Rotary Club.

Harrell, retired from service as assistant controller, controller, chief accounting officer, and Vice President-Financial Planning with Springs Industries. A graduate of Georgia State University, he is also a Certified Public Accountant. Mr. Harrell is a member of the Lancaster Rotary Club and has served on and chaired the board of directors of the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce and the board of Springs Memorial Hospital, and has served on the local board of Wachovia Bank.

Starks is general manager of Nibrol. A graduate of Clemson University, he currently serves as the board chair for HOPE in Lancaster, chair of the Catawba Workforce Investment Board, where he has been recognized for outstanding service, and as a member of the board of directors of the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Starks' past community service includes chairmanship of the Healthy Lancaster project and campaign chairmanship for the United Way. He was a member of the Southeastern Council of Foundations' Hull Fellows Class of 2008.

*In order for the foundation to deliver our newsletter, notices of workshops and special reports in the format you prefer, we would appreciate you taking a moment to review the options listed below and email your preference to [kormand@jmsims.org](mailto:kormand@jmsims.org)*

- *I would like to receive a hard copy of this information*
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## Charities Can Succeed During Tough Economic Times

We find ourselves in the middle of very interesting and uncertain economic times. As with many businesses, the sluggish economy is showing its effects on the non-profit sector. Americans donated \$307.65 billion in 2008, but fund raising is encountering challenges, especially as the auto, housing and financial services industries continue to face trouble, and the stock market's volatility strains individuals and businesses.

Charitable organizations have reported figures that are short of goals, many of which are due to delayed, reduced or discontinued contributions. Donors are keeping closer eyes on their financial portfolios and thinking less about charitable giving.

Despite these economic uncertainties non-profit leaders may want to consider taking closer looks at their organizations and acting proactively. The answers to organizational success may be closer than they think. Here are a few suggestions to inspire thought and action to steer organizations in the right direction.

**Reach out to leadership.** It's vital that organizations be led by strong leaders. This person or group of people will guide charitable organizations through a clear plan, which includes enhancing the board, integrating comprehensive marketing and fundraising strategies and focusing on funding opportunities.

**Enhance the level of board involvement.** Make it a point to share information and invite increased participation from the organization's board of directors. The board should become more of a resource and help increase giving and create opportunities.

**Continue managing annual giving campaigns.** The important thing is to keep on task and continue managing fundraising. When the economy recovers, these organizations will be further ahead of the curve than most others.

**Build strong relationships with donors.** Whether they're past or current donors, take some time to truly cultivate their financial and voluntary participation. These people will be ready to step to the plate when they're financially ready. Don't lose sight of regularly seeking new supporters.

**Plan for donors to be savvy about giving and the use of their funds.** Accountability will be the watchword and the use and impact of donations will be regularly reviewed. Many will be more strategic with their giving, thus guiding them to create structured giving plans and develop relationships with targeted organizations.

**Communicate regularly.** Keep constituents informed of their organization's health, programs, and needs. Use both traditional and the growing social media avenues to share news, invite participation, and challenge the interest and involvement of constituents.

Organizational leaders have an opportunity to publicly show the strength of the non-profit community. Making a difference in our communities is a wonderful profession. Whether we're leading organizations, raising funds, or managing programs, serving our community is an incredibly meaningful experience. Though times are scary, our obligation is to maintain positive frames of mind and show our strengths. This requires tapping into the basics of non-profit management, working harder, and building relationships.

## Adult Literacy & Basic Skills



The J. Marion Sims Foundation awarded grants to nine agencies in the 2009 Adult Literacy and Basic Skills grant cycle. A total of \$608,780 was awarded to continue implementation of programs and services that increase workplace, family, and citizenship literacy in Lancaster County, Great Falls, and Fort Lawn:

The following agencies were approved for one-year adult literacy transitional grants:

**Chester County Literacy Council** - \$69,901 to continue its "Guided Academic Preparation" workplace literacy program that targets unemployed adults in the Great Falls area

**Faith, Hope and Victory Christian Church** - \$57,459 to continue its "Community Powerhouse" family literacy and basic skills program that targets male dropouts and male students at-risk of school failure in Lancaster County

**Housing Authority of Lancaster** - \$75,905 to continue its "Map to Success," family literacy program that targets low literacy parents and their children living at Caroline Court and Section 8 housing in the Lancaster area

**Lancaster County Literacy Council** - \$73,000 to continue its "Reading for Workplace Success" workplace literacy program that targets dropouts and adults with low literacy skills in the Kershaw, Heath Springs, Indian Land, Buford, and Lancaster areas

**The Multi-Cultural Information Center** - \$37,824 to continue its "Empowering Our Future Today," citizenship literacy program that targets English as a second language (ESL) adults in Lancaster County

**The Lancaster Children's Council** - \$50,049 to continue its "Skills for Success" family literacy program that targets parents and pre-school children in Lancaster County

**York Technical College Foundation** - \$58,000 to continue its "Bridges to Enhanced Skills Training" workplace literacy program that targets under-skilled workers onsite at local businesses and dislocated workers in Lancaster County

The following agencies were approved for two-year adult literacy challenge grants:

**Brooklyn Springs Elementary School** - \$81,650 over two years to continue its "Home Literacy Trail" family literacy program that targets low literacy parents and students at Brooklyn Springs

**Christian Services of Lancaster** - \$104,992 over two years to continue its "Lit-Up: Up With Literacy and Basic Skills" workplace literacy program that targets unemployed adults needing employability and basic skills development

J. MARION SIMS  
*Foundation*

*The mission of the J. Marion Sims Foundation is to support programs and projects of prevention and education that enhance the health and wellness of the citizens of Lancaster County, South Carolina, and the communities of Great Falls and Fort Lawn.*

We're on the Web!  
[www.jmsims.org](http://www.jmsims.org)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

*The Foundation will sponsor a workshop on "Managing Non-profits in Challenging Times"*

**November 10, 2009**

*Please continue to check our website for details*

## Youth Substance Abuse Conference

For the third year, Lancaster County will host a multi-state conference on youth substance abuse prevention, specifically addressing the needs of rural communities. This year's theme is "Exploring the Gateway of Underage Drinking". The conference, held at the University of South Carolina at Lancaster, will be October 14-16, 2009 with a pre-conference grant-writing seminar on October 12-13.

Sponsored by the Coalition for Healthy Youth of Lancaster County, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, City of Lancaster, Lancaster County, Lancaster County Partners for Youth, Lancaster County School District, South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention Services, and South Carolina Department of Education, this conference promises something for everyone involved in the lives of youth in rural communities. Topics include:

**College Drinking** led by Mitchell Mackinem, Ph.D. This workshop will explore the truth about college drinking, especially binge drinking as well as proven prevention strategies.

**Successful Youth-Engaged Environmental Prevention Strategies** led by Jennifer Lyle, Ph.D., MSW, MA. This session will highlight recruitment strategies for engaging nontraditional youth leaders, and ways to create sustainability.

**Hollywood Comes to Town**, led by Kirsten Abdehalden, will show how collaborations with students, public safety, business, and churches can influence youth in the community.

Keynote speakers are Kwain Bryant with Empowerment Exchange- **Helping Young People Excel**, Stephen Peters, The Peters Group- **Do You Know Enough to Teach Me?**, Susie Vanderlip, Legacy of Hope- **Legacy of Hope and De-Stress for Success**, and Toren and Chris Volkman, **From Binge to Blackout**.

See the conference website [www.coalition4healthyouth.org](http://www.coalition4healthyouth.org) for details.

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