

March 9, 2020

Reuben B. Collins II, Esq.  
President, Board of County Commissioners  
Charles County, Maryland  
200 Baltimore Street  
La Plata, MD 20646

Dear Mr. Collins:

We wish to go on record with admiration for the County Commissioners' annual approval of grant funds to benefit the work of Charles County nonprofit organizations. This recognition of the positive role that groups like ours perform means a great deal.

We also want you to know that we have the highest respect for how well the Charles County Charitable Trust manages the use of those grant funds. We have found its work evenhanded, thoroughly professional, and responsive to community needs. We appreciate the attention it gives to high standards and clear decision-making policies. The county is fortunate to have such an excellent resource.

Southern Maryland Community Network, Inc. uses funds from the Charles County Charitable Trust to support the needs of individuals in our Supported Employment Program. We use these funds for work uniforms, haircuts, interview clothes, job related transportation and many other areas of direct support that are not covered by any other funder. We access these funds only after all other efforts have been exhausted yet these funds can make the difference for our clients in succeeding at their goals. Employment is positively correlated with recovery from serious mental illness and the evidence demonstrates that people who are employed tend to be more consistent with following treatment recommendations. It is also often the difference between persons served being able to find and maintain stable housing and not being able to do so.

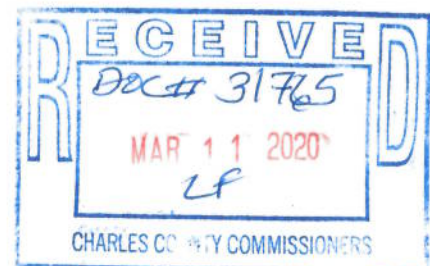
We consider continuation of the Nonprofit Grant Awards Program as handled by the Charitable Trust a foremost priority. Raising these funds through development would require hundreds of hours of staff whose best efforts are in the field helping others. By the same token, the efforts of the staff of the CCT are best deployed assisting and developing non-profit capacities in Charles County rather than raising funds. When an opportunity comes up to testify in this regard, we will be ready to be there to share our convictions and experience. Meanwhile, we hope that this letter tells you how strongly we feel. Please share it with your colleagues on the Board of County Commissioners.


Sincerely,



Karen Carloni, Executive Director

cc: Mark Belton, Administrator



  
**Southern Maryland Center**  
**FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING**

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Mechanicsville, MD 20659  
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March 5, 2020

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Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living is a non-residential, non-profit community based human service agency that serves individuals with disabilities of all ages and with any disability. The Charitable Trust awarded SMCIL with funds that are being used to assist Charles County residents with disabilities with the purchase of equipment, devices, or modifications which allow them to be safe and independent in their homes, workplace, or school. A large number of Charles County residents live with disabilities and have challenges every day to enter or exit their home, communicate with others, or perform tasks that may seem simple to the rest of us. Assistive Technology makes a huge difference in the quality of life and level of independence of a lot of disabled residents, allowing them to be contributing and fulfilled members of Charles County.

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Sincerely,

  
Lidiya Belyovska  
Executive Director

cc: Mark Belton, Administrator





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The Chesapeake Choral Arts Society (CCAS) has been active in the county for close to 25 years. We hold 3 concerts series each year, each one pulling in attendees from Virginia, DC and Maryland. We hired a harpist for our Holiday concert in 2018 and she was so impressed with our group, she invited others from the Baltimore area to the performances. We have people come from Fredericksburg and Manassas, Virginia; from St. Mary's and Prince Georges County; from DC and even had some past members return from as far away as Florida to hear our concerts. These wonderful audience members stay in local hotels, eat at local restaurants and shop in our many specialty stores as well as chain stores.

The Charles County Charitable Trust has been a major source of support for us for the last 2 years. The funds we receive help us to afford our performance venues, invite high quality singers and instrumentalists to join us, purchase music and provide a quality product to the citizens of Charles County and beyond.

We are putting together a concert for April 2, 2020 that will pull together choral groups from The Children's Voices of Southern Maryland, Stoddert Middle School, Westlake High School and

Chesapeake Choral Arts Society  
P.O. Box 476  
Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677



The Clark Senior Center. We have titled this concert "Music Knows No Age". We are hoping to encourage choral music throughout the generations and show that music enhances all our lives, whether performing or listening.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carol Charnock".

Carol Charnock, President  
Chesapeake Choral Arts Society

cc: Mark Belton, Administrator

Chesapeake Choral Arts Society  
P.O. Box 476  
Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677