



Charles County Literacy Council

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April 1, 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 at the Charles County Literacy Council appreciate the County Commissioners' annual approval of its Nonprofit Grant Awards Program to benefit the work of county nonprofit organizations through the Charles County Charitable Trust (the Trust). These grant funds fulfill an important purpose and have a significant impact for nonprofits like ours and the citizens we serve.

We understand that the county is considering phasing out the operating budget of the Trust over the next three years. There are many worthy nonprofit organizations in the county that do important work meeting the needs of the public – organizations that need and deserve public support that is managed transparently with high principles and standards of ethics and no conflicts of interest. The Trust with its staff and Board has supported the nonprofits with training and forums and has managed the grant fund award program professionally. Of special importance is the Trust's willingness to support operational overhead, such as rent, phone, and utilities to aid the small nonprofit like ours. Foundations, corporations and government agencies seldom contribute to general support.

Nonprofits continue to face rising demand for their services, so it is important that the County's grant funds be distributed in a fair and equitable manner. The Trust has demonstrated they can do this. The ability of the Charles County Government and the Trust to work together is vitally important and of value to all.

As a small nonprofit whose mission supports only Charles County citizens who significantly benefit from the grants allocated by the Trust, we are left to wonder and worry, if the Trust no longer exists, will the Charles County government continue funding nonprofits and if so, how?

Sincerely,

Sally J. Matts
President
Charles County Literacy Council

cc: Mark Belton, Administrator