

## THE COMMUNITY LEDGER



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# Washington Financial Bank Partners with The Dreamers Co. to Revitalize 7th Ward Playground

Washington Financial Bank teamed up with The Dreamers Company to renovate and restore the 7th Ward School Playground. Washington City Council shut down the park on July 12, 2018. When the playground was shut down, The Dreamers Company decided to take action to reopen the 7th Ward park.

In July of 2018, volunteers removed low hanging trees and large bushes to make it easier for police officers to patrol the park. In addition, new light fixtures were installed to allow for safe evening use of the park. The park was reopened in August 2018 with big plans for the future of the space.

The Dreamers Company sent a survey out to the neighborhood and Washington High School regarding what type of equipment they would like to see in the park. Washington Financial Bank contributed \$15,000 to support the latest renovation which boasts a brand new tower slide and swing set.



# Washington Financial Bank Partners with Dreamer's Co. to Revitalize 7th Ward Playground (Continued)

"Washington Financial is a corporate pillar of this community and its employees and customers are woven into the fabric of the neighborhoods," stated Todd Ashmore, a member of the Board of Directors for The Dreamers Company. "It shows, in a real way, that Washington Financial does care about the communities that it operates within."

This past June, The Dreamers Company organized a five-day work week with local volunteer organizations to install the the new equipment, spread mulch and remove weeds and debris. On June 21, Washington Financial Bank volunteers stepped out of the office for the day to help with the project.

"It makes me proud everyday to be a part of a company that shows the importance of community," stated Washington Financial Bank volunteer, Laura Austin. "Washington Financial Bank truly values giving back and making a difference."

Since the new playground additions, organizations have taken advantage of the space for evening programming in a family friendly environment. The Dreamers Company is planning on hosting a fall festival at the 7th Ward Playground. Future plans for the playground include art installations and resurfacing the basketball courts.

Washington Financial Bank's Community Reinvestment Act Officer, Brooke Gawlas stated, "Partnering with The Dreamers Company and supporting the 7th Ward Playground project was a great way to reinvest back to our community and create a space that can be enjoyed by all."









WFB Employees on the June work day

Before and after of the new playground area

#### **2021 Scholarship Recipients**



#### John Vanderhoff Grove City College

Music Education
Peters Township High School

"My career goal is to become a teacher of impact for my future students. Though I do not know where I will teach, I will use what I have learned to improve the lives of others and create a better world by teaching them the value of service."



#### Sarah Seader California University of Pennsylvania

Business Administration/Marketing and Biology with intent to attend Veterinary School

Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School

"I plan to continue serving in the community by joining my local Lions Club. I also plan to host and participate in fundraisers/charity events through a Collegiate DECA Chapter and other opportunities as they arise."

\*5th recipient requested not to be identified.



### Rachael Gavlik University of Pittsburgh

Pharmacy/Spanish Minor Peters Township High School

"I hope to become a bilingual pharmacist one day. Down the road, I may open my own practice or continue into more schooling; I never want to stop learning. I really enjoy learning a second language and how it gives me the opportunity to communicate with a wide range of people. I love interacting with everyone and learning their stories.

By becoming a [bilingual]

By becoming a [bilingual] pharmacist, I will be able to work with patients to help them better understand their medical needs."



# Noah Audas Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Engineering
Peters Township High School

"I've been a Boy Scout my whole life and now Eagle Scout, so involvement in the community has always been important to me. No matter what community, big or small, I'm always looking at ways to make a difference. With my studies at Virginia Tech I hope to start a prosperous career in which I can provide donations of money, time, or even mechanical equipment to my community in the future for innovations and improvements."



Rachael Gavlik, Nan Campbell (McMurray Branch Manager) & Noah Audas at the Peters Township High School Awards Ceremony

#### **About the Scholarship**

Each year, The Washington Financial Charitable Foundation awards up to five scholarships to local students to help with the increasing costs of advanced education. Applications are open to all Washington Financial Bank customers and immediate family members. Currently, the award is a one-time \$5,000 scholarship to selected applicants, selected using a quantitative scoring system which ranks grade point average, community service and financial need.

To date, the foundation has provided over \$760,000 in financial assistance to over 224 local students.

### Washington Financial Bank Earns the Chairman's Award for Being a Top Workplace Giver for United Way of Washington County

Washington Financial Bank has always been a proud partner of United Way of Washington County. In the past three years, Washington Financial Bank has not only participated in the Workplace Giving Campaign, but has earned the Chairman's Award. The Chairman's Award is given to the top five workplace contributors for the fiscal year. WFB matches employee contributions at the end of the campaign.

"We are so thankful for our partnership with Washington Financial Bank and value its support of our efforts to make a difference in our community," stated Executive Director of United Way of Washington County, Ann Hrabik. "We recognize its support as a Workplace Giving Campaign Partner, as a corporate supporter and the service of [Washington Financial Bank employees such as] our board members, Lori Szallar and Cindy Dorazio."

The Workplace Giving Campaign kicks off in the fall and employees of Washington Financial Bank are encouraged to pledge a donation for United Way. If a donor has a specific charity in mind, they have the option to pledge a donation to that organization as long as it is a 501(c)(3) and it meets certain qualifications.

"As Board Chair, it's knowing the commitment to United Way's mission is wholeheartedly appreciated by those on the receiving end," expressed Cindy Dorazio. "For me personally, it's realizing the Board's decisions may in fact have an overwhelming impact on changing someone's life."



Photograph courtesy of United Way of Washington County

# Blueprints Little Free Library Adds New Location at Washington Financial Square Building



Washington Financial Bank Little Free Library located at 190 North Main Street in Washington. It's not a bird house in front of our office building on North Main Street; It's a Little Free Library! Washington Financial Bank has joined forces with Blueprints to establish a Little Free Library to promote literacy within the Washington community. Since beginning the program, Blueprints has built 25 free libraries in both Washington and Greene County by finding local businesses to sponsor them. The sponsor then chooses a location that is both walkable and meets a need within the community.

Passerby are welcome to take a book or leave a book whenever they would like. The library is intended to serve all ages and improve all reading levels.

"It's been absolutely eye opening for me to see the impact that the Little Free Library program has had on our community," stated Blueprints Communications Manager, Anastasia Barr-Whiteman. "I see people outside of the hospital grabbing books before they go in. I see people drop off books right outside of my office and take some to replenish their monthly reading collection. I think this program is truly putting books back in peoples hands!"

Most libraries are equipped with waterproof doors to stand up to weather and include light fixtures to see at night. To find a Little Free Library location near you, you can visit https://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/.



### Washington Financial Supports South Fayette **Summer Camp**

Washington Financial Bank has been supporting the South Fayette Summer Playground Camp for four years and counting! This summer camp has benefitted families and children in the South Fayette area by providing affordable childcare during the summer months at \$10 per session or \$20 per day. The camp is run through South Fayette Parks and Recreation for nine weeks each summer. The camp this year was held from June 14 to August 14 with both a morning session and an afternoon session during the weekdays.

The structure of the camp is intended to be flexible for the child. The camp includes sporting equipment, board games and crafts for the campers to use at their leisure during the sessions. Other activities include kickball tournaments, nature hikes and playground free-play. The camp also provides a snack and weekly "special guest."

significantly update our camp equipment, purchase supplies and help with the cost of our special guests, such as a storyteller, a magician and the Pittsburgh Zoo," stated South Fayette Recreation Coordinator, Ian McNeill. "The bank's support helps South Fayette children enjoy a fun, positive experience, and parents know their children are attending a quality program."

Children also enjoyed Kona Ice Truck days on Wednesdays and "Water Days" on Fridays featuring water balloons, sprinklers and sponges. The summer camp is important because it helps to get kids outside and introduce them to the park facilities at a young age. The program is also great for introducing people within the community and forming lasting friendships.

"In 2021, the sponsorship from Washington Financial Bank allowed us to



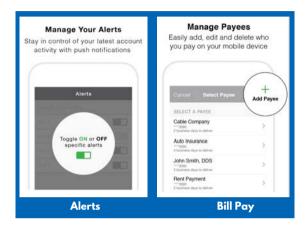


"It's so rewarding knowing we can help facilitate programming and memories that directly impacts the children and families of the South Fayette community," said Washington Financial Bank's South Fayette Branch Manager, Stacie Riley. "It truly brings a smile to my face when we get to visit and see them playing, creating and thriving."



#### What I love about MY Washington Financial Bank app!

- Bill Pay: Send payments and set up new payees
- Transfer Capabilities: Move money between accounts instantly
- Freeze Card: Disable transactions on the account if the customer loses or misplaces their card



- <u>Alerts</u>: Customer has the ability to receive alerts on their phone without even having to open the app:
  - Set transaction and merchant alerts to receive a notification whenever the card is used such as at a store, online or an autopay deduction
  - Set a "threshold amount" to receive a notification anytime the card is used over a certain amount

For how-to videos, check out our video library at https://www.washfin.bank/resources/video-library.html. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (724) 206-1171. We are happy to help!

# Washington Financial Bank Honors Judge Emery's Retirement at Bar Association's Bench Bar



From left to right: Judge Katherine B. Emery, Harry Stiffler and Susan Mondik Key

Washington Financial Bank was pleased to present the lead gift for the Honorarium Fund created by the Washington County Bar Foundation. The donation was presented in honor of Judge Emery's retirement at the Bar Association's Bench Bar Conference. Judge Emery was elected to the Washington County Bench in 1996 and became President Judge in 2015.

Senior Vice President and General Counsel for Washington Financial Bank, Harry Stiffler, attended the Conference on the Bank's behalf. "Being a member of the Washington County Bar Association not only presents great opportunities to maintain my required legal education that all Pennsylvania attorneys are required to have, but it is also an excellent way to stay in touch with the area's legal professionals and represent the Bank in the legal community," said Stiffler.

The Bar Foundation is the charitable arm of the Bar Association. The Bar Foundation supports a multitude of charitable projects around the county including pro bono efforts, legal services for the indigent, law-related education and scholarships and public information and educational initiatives. There is a grant process to apply for funding from the Bar Foundation. After a project has passed the grant process, the Board of Trustees votes on initiatives to receive funding.

The Washington County Bar Foundation was established in 1989 for the purpose of further cultivating the science of jurisprudence, improving the legal and judicial system and facilitating the administration of justice. The Bank is proud to be able to support The Bar Foundation in its charitable efforts.

# **Check Presentations**

In addition to the projects featured in this newsletter, Washington Financial Bank financially supports many other organizations who work hard daily to make our community a better place.



**LeMoyne Community Center** 



**Washington County Community Foundation** 



**Folds of Honor** 



**The Education Partnership** 

The most fulfilling aspect of my duties relative to our Foundation is the interaction I am able to have with a host of individuals in the non-profit community. This group gives tirelessly every day to make our community better. I am honored to be in the position to present their requests and to experience how the charitable support granted helps them help so many.

-Betty Guerrieri
Executive Director of the Washington Financial
Charitable Foundation



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**