

# NORTHERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

*Building the Foundation of Community in Our Region*

Report to the Community

Spring 2011

## RICHARD LYKES FUND: The evolution of an amazing legacy

BY BILL DIETEL

Near the end of his life, Rappahannock County resident Richard Lykes talked several times with me and my wife, Linda, on what to do with his estate when he died. Eventually those chats included what his life partner, Buddy Darden, would do with his assets as well. We talked specifically of Rappahannock charities.

The conversation changed when, on one occasion, I explained to Richard what a community foundation was. Linda, as a founding member of Northern Piedmont Community Foundation, explained to him how the Foundation worked. This led him to attend a meeting at the house of Merrill Strange, a current board member, and her husband, Philip. The meeting was designed to acquaint some philanthropically minded people in the county with how a community foundation can help a community and how donors could direct their funds to achieve these and other objectives.

Richard was especially interested in the \$375,000 fund established by Meade Palmer's widow to support charitable causes in the northern Piedmont community. He realized that he and Buddy could establish a fund that could, over time, meet the changing needs of their own Rappahannock community.

### The Lykes Fund

The Northern Piedmont Community Foundation received a bequest of more than \$1 million from Rappahannock County resident Richard Lykes. In a written communication to the Foundation before his death, he requested that the income be directed in perpetuity toward improving the quality of life in Rappahannock County. The Foundation intends to honor his request and, to that end, has established the Lykes Fund.

This strategic grant-making initiative provides a source of funds for organizations working for the benefit of Rappahannock County. Lykes died in February 2009. For his generosity, he was named posthumously by the *Rappahannock News* as Citizen of the Year. "We are honored that Richard chose to leave his residuary estate to the Foundation," says Foundation executive director Cole Johnson.

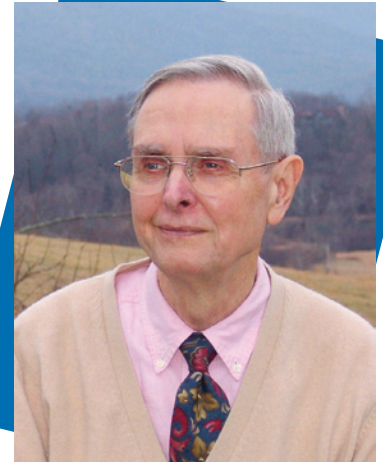
Richard also saw how the Foundation could help facilitate grants to specific organizations. Richard wanted to help the people in need in Rappahannock, regardless of color, economic circumstance, religious belief, gender, or sexual orientation. Everyone who knew him well understood that he was especially interested in helping those in the community who were disadvantaged for a wide number of reasons, such as illiteracy, physical and mental handicaps, medical disabilities of all kinds, abusive treatment of women and children, and hunger.

Richard was particularly interested in young people, their education, and their opportunities for building productive lives and becoming good citizens. He also had a passion for the arts, and he and Buddy were well-known supporters of many of the arts activities in the county.

Richard also loved the physical beauty of Rappahannock and was concerned about its environmental health. He appreciated the wide array of environmental and land-preservation organizations working to protect it.

An avid photographer, Richard made a wonderful, powerful visual statement of the breadth and depth of his concern for his adopted community through his photographs. They demonstrate better than any words his understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the county.

It needs to be said that Richard and Buddy were, I think—to their considerable surprise in their early years in Rappahannock—accepted by straight people, and that meant the world to them. They were held in genuine respect and affection by the community and now they have, in a striking fashion, signified their appreciation through their gift to the Foundation. ~



## Cole Johnson takes over as executive director

Cole Johnson has spent most of her professional life fundraising for nonprofits. Why nonprofits? As a Certified Public Accountant, she could have easily found work in the for-profit sector.

"I wanted to give back, leave the world a better place than I found it," she says. "I took stock of my skills and figured out that I could be a hell of a fundraiser."

Born Monica Cole McKenry, in Virginia Beach, she came to Washington, DC, to study accounting at American University. After graduating, she stayed in the District, applying her accounting and considerable people skills to fundraising for the Kennedy Center, American and Georgetown Universities, and Share Our Strength, the nation's leading anti-hunger organization.

She moved to Rappahannock County in 2002 and "fell in love with it," she says. "The minute I arrived, I felt like I was home."

Cole had taken a sabbatical from nonprofit work for a few years to open an antique business in the county. When Headwaters, a local educational foundation, was looking for an executive director, she decided to return to serving the

community, eventually selling her business.

A few years after moving to the county, Cole had met and married Tom Johnson, a native of Rappahannock. When they had twin girls, she decided to leave Headwaters to focus on raising them for a couple of years.

Then, hearing that the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation was searching for a new executive director last summer, she knew it was time to get back in the saddle.

As well as her experience in fundraising, Cole brings an enthusiasm and energy to her job. She also strongly believes in what the Foundation does. "The Foundation can enrich the lives of our residents in so many ways," she says.

Recent large bequests to the Foundation have changed the magnitude of what it can accomplish, but Cole says she looks forward to the challenge.

"I came in at a historic time for the Foundation," she says. "With these substantial gifts, we're going from a small community foundation to an organization that can have a major impact in the community."



Culpeper resident Tom Gillespie is a quiet, unassuming guy who worked hard for the same company, Quarles Energy Services, for more than 40 years and raised two kids, Ann and Drew, with his wife, Melinda. As he started approaching retirement, Tom decided he wanted to become more involved in his community.

That wish led to his joining the board of directors of the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation in July 2010. Although he was a member of the local Rotary service club for 25 years, he admits he's a newbie to serving on boards. However, he says, he wants "to learn more about how all that works."



## CULPEPER RESIDENT Tom Gillespie Joins Foundation's board

"They're a nice group of people," Tom says of the Foundation. "They have the community's interests in mind"

Born and raised in Tazewell, in southwestern Virginia, Tom graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in economics. He and his wife moved to Culpeper in the 1970s when Quarles had a job for him there. "We're really happy in Culpeper," Tom says.

Although he officially retired from Quarles, Tom says he loves working for "a wonderful company" and still does so part time as the director of business development. Work is actually keeping him busier than he anticipated when he retired, he adds.


Since their children have grown, Melinda has become involved in the community through the Manna program, which provides meals to the needy several times a week.

Tom was always focused on his work and had not thought much about community service. Now he is eager to "give

back to the community that has been a good home for so many years." Serving as a director of the Foundation is a good way to do that, he says, adding that he'd like to see Culpeper "become a bigger participant in both giving and getting funding"

Tom likes that the Foundation focuses just on the small region that includes Culpeper. He sees the organization as a great opportunity for those interested in donating to a community but would like a knowledgeable organization such as the Foundation to do the vetting of funding recipients.

He also sees the Foundation as a great help in continued gift giving and estate planning, because donors can give to the organization, which in turn can manage yearly grants to the various recipients donors choose.

As he is getting more familiar with the grant process, Tom says, he's getting more excited about helping funds get to worthy projects, particularly in Culpeper: "I'm happy I can do something good here." 

# Memorial scholarship set up in name of popular local doctor

When Dr. Eric Maybach died suddenly in 2008 at the age of 65, he left a legacy of love, admiration, and hope for friends, family, patients, and colleagues. Now Fauquier Hospital and the Fauquier Hospital Medical Staff are keeping the hope alive for aspiring health-care providers by establishing the Dr. Eric J. Maybach Memorial Scholarship Fund.

## The fund

The scholarship fund, which benefits Fauquier residents pursuing an advanced degree in the medical field, will be administered by the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation. “We are so privileged to aid in the distribution of resources in memory of Dr. Maybach,” says Foundation executive director Cole Johnson. “He was such an important icon in Fauquier’s medical community.”

The family and the two organizations that established the fund hope the Fauquier community will add gifts to help it grow. “We can think of no better way to honor Dr. Maybach’s memory than by contributing to the education of young people who wish to follow in his footsteps,” says Roger Baker, CEO of Fauquier Health, the parent company of Fauquier Hospital. Family members agree, saying Maybach believed in the importance of “all the players” in the medical profession and supported them in whatever role they chose.

## Maybach as doctor

Born in New York, “Doc,” as Maybach was known, began his family practice in Warrenton in 1973 and treated generations of Fauquier County residents. He and his wife, Georgian (“Jo”), raised seven children together. When Maybach died, the family asked that those who knew him share their recollections in a memory book on display in his office. The word “compassionate” echoes throughout the book.

“He was unique, challenging, intelligent, and compassionate,” wrote

Mary Stearsman O’Bryant, a nurse who worked with him for 35 years. Dr. Nasser, a close colleague for many years, wrote. “He was one of the most compassionate doctors I have ever worked with—always concerned about the well being of his patients.”

Others sharing their memories of Maybach came back repeatedly to the special relationship he had with patients—spending time with them, listening to them to get to know them as people rather than just a collection of ailments, giving them a reassuring touch on the shoulder when they needed it.



Dr. Eric Maybach

“He taught me that the truly good physician must be a loving companion to the joys and sorrows of the journey along the way in the lives of his patients,” wrote Phillip (no last name given), a physician whom Maybach befriended and encouraged to fulfill his aspirations to become a doctor. “He had a unique ability to bring health and wholeness to broken lives.”

## “He cared about everyone”

Maybach’s egalitarianism and caring extended to all people. He invited his patients, business associates, and casual acquaintances to his home. “At Thanksgiving,” says daughter Mary Maybach Navarez, “we would have the




richest people in town sitting next to a homeless person, and we as children never knew who was who, as everyone was treated exactly the same.” Son Eric recalls his father as saying, “the only time you look down on someone is long enough to give them a hand up.”

“He was determined to believe the best in everyone,” concurred Autumn Hernandez, a physician assistant whom Maybach and his wife took under their wing. “He genuinely cared about people and had a dogged loyalty to those he counted as his friends. He fought determinedly for what he believed was right. Be it against insurance companies or other battles, he pursued what he believed with passion.”

## A complex man of many talents

Maybach was “challenging” and a prankster with those who knew him well enough to get the joke, say family and staff. But he also had “the ability to poke fun at himself,” Hernandez says, and had “a quick wit, an easy smile, a dry sense of humor.”

Maybach was “a man of many hats and many interests,” with “laserlike insight,” wrote Phillip. A trained mechanical engineer as well as a physician, Maybach helped develop a hand grip for the Apollo space mission.

The doctor also “took great pride in his family and their accomplishments and contributions,” noted one entry in the memory book. The children, all now professionals, remember growing up in their father’s office. His daughter, Dr. Anita Maybach, has taken over the practice, and his grandchildren are now growing up there as well. 

## Senior-transport service saved by Foundation's donation

Last year VolTran (the Volunteer Transportation Program) faced a crisis—because of budget cuts, the Fauquier County Department of Social Services was unable to provide funding for VolTran's \$6,000 annual budget.



With the county's being the sole source of VolTran's funding, the nonprofit faced having to cease operations last May. It cut back on staffing, and the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation appealed to its donors and raised \$2,000 to meet the shortfall through the end of the fiscal year and enable VolTran to continue this worthy program and vital service.

VolTran was begun in 2007 by the Fauquier Senior Care Network to help seniors needing transportation to medical appointments. A dispatcher was hired for 10 hours a week, and volunteers drivers were recruited. In 2009, VolTran provided services to almost 80 clients, made 279 trips, and logged 803 hours and 12,696 miles.

VolTran has expanded its services to include the disabled and cancer patients as well as to make emergency food deliveries. To contribute to VolTran—a 501(c)(3) charity—please mail your contribution to VolTran, PO Box 3178, Warrenton, VA 20188. For more information about the organization, call (540) 351-1076. [www.npcf.org](http://www.npcf.org)

## Foundation distributes more than \$80,000 in grants in 2010

The Northern Piedmont Community Foundation distributed more than \$80,000 in grants to nonprofits in Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, and Rappahannock counties in 2010.

With the economic downturn and the resulting cutbacks in local-government budgets, it was not surprising that shelters were featured among the recipient organizations. The Culpeper Community Development Corporation received a grant for \$1,000 to help continue operation of its shelter for the homeless, and the Madison Emergency Services Association received \$2,000 for work on Barbara's House, which provides transitional housing for women and children who have been victims of an abusive environment as well as for families experiencing crises or emergencies, such as homelessness.

Grants also went to other organizations providing shelter for those in need as well as to libraries, anti-drug-abuse programs in schools, and athletic, after-school, arts, mentoring, and writing programs for children.

"The great thing about being a community foundation is that we get to help so many worthy causes within our local communities," says Foundation executive director Cole Johnson. "We were particularly happy last year to help fill the gap in funding for services to people in need that has resulted from the economic situation."

To learn more about the Foundation, go to [www.NPCF.org](http://www.NPCF.org).

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The Northern Piedmont Community Foundation is a public charity created by and for the people of Virginia's Piedmont region. A vital link between caring people and the needs of our area, the Foundation builds philanthropic capital to enhance and preserve the quality of life in the area and to strengthen the region's nonprofit organizations.

Through the Foundation, individuals, families, businesses, and organizations with philanthropic interests can easily and effectively support the issues about which they care. They can establish a charitable fund by contributing a variety of assets and may also recommend grants to nonprofit groups they want to support. Individuals can donate while living or through their wills.

The Foundation offers low-cost stewardship of philanthropic funds, grant management, and the most generous tax benefits provided by the law. It is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public charity.

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