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PRESS RELEASE

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RURAL MARYLAND COUNCIL ANNOUNCES FY 2019 MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (MAERDAF) GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) was established in 2000 to offer financial assistance to rural nonprofits organizations that promote statewide and regional planning, economic and community development, and agricultural and forestry education. In addition, MAERDAF offers grants to community colleges that support small and agricultural businesses with enhanced training and technical assistance.

Between 2001 and 2018, the MAERDAF program has awarded more than \$4.4 million in grants to 283 rural-serving nonprofit organizations. During Fiscal Year 2019, a total of 109 applications were submitted with a total of \$3,256,990.93 requested. A total of 42 grants totaling \$1,093,930.00 were distributed to 39 organizations:

- Adkins Arboreteum, \$8,100.00
- Allegany College, \$40,000.00
- Bishop Walsh School, \$34,000.00
- Cambridge Main Street, \$26,500.00
- Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center, \$10,000.00
- Community Foundation of Southern Maryland, \$19,000.00
- Compass Regional Hospice, \$20,000.00
- Dove Pointe, \$2,900.00
- Fair Hill Foundation, \$29,600.00
- Fort Ritchie Community Center, \$30,000.00
- Friends of the Grape, \$30,000.00
- Garrett College - Mountain Top Driving Institute, \$36,300.00
- Garrett College - Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) Program, \$16,440.00
- Habitat for Humanity Choptank - AmeriCorp Volunteer, \$23,760.00
- Habitat for Humanity Choptank - Direct Repair Costs, \$40,000.00
- Habitat for Humanity Tuckahoe, \$14,780.00
- Hagerstown Community College, \$38,072.00
- Health Partners, Inc., \$40,000.00
- Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, \$40,000.00
- Jessie Klump Memorial Fund, \$19,000.00
- LEAD Maryland Foundation, \$38,000.00
- Maces Lane Community Center, \$40,000.00
- Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation, \$12,355.00
- Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Science, \$9,400.00
- Maryland Association of Soil Conservation - Farmer Suicide Prevention Program, \$14,550.00
- Maryland Association of Soil Conservation - Envirothon Program, \$4,808.00
- Maryland Dairy Industry Association, \$40,000.00
- Maryland Forestry Foundation, \$30,000.00
- Maryland Small Business Development Center - Northern Region, \$22,574.00
- Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, \$19,400.00
- Maryland Telehealth Alliance, \$20,000.00
- MidShore Pro Bono, \$40,000.00
- People for Change Coalition, \$22,500.00
- Preservation Maryland, \$40,000.00
- SHORE UP!, \$40,000.00
- St. Martin's Ministries, \$10,007.00
- Telamon Corporation, \$10,800.00
- Tri-County Council Foundation, \$15,284.00
- Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, \$29,500.00
- Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development, \$36,300.00
- WISP Ski Patrol, \$40,000.00
- YMCA of the Chesapeake, \$40,000.00

Founded in 1994, the Rural Maryland Council operates under the direction of a 40-member executive board in a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory manner. It serves as the state's federally designated rural development council and functions as a voice for rural Maryland, advocating for and helping rural communities and businesses across the state to flourish and to gain equity to its suburban and urban counterparts. The vision for RMC is the ultimate realization that citizens living in rural communities are achieving success in education and employment, have access to affordable, quality health care and other vital public services, and live in an environment where natural and cultural resources are being sustained for future generations.

For more information, visit the RMC website: www.rural.maryland.gov

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"A Collective Voice for Rural Maryland"