



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR PAST HONOREES

The first Montgomery County Philanthropist of the Year was the late **Joshua M. Freeman**, Chairman of the Carl M. Freeman Companies and Foundation. A dynamic business leader with a zest for life, Freeman carried forward his family's longstanding tradition of supporting the communities in which he lived and worked through the Carl M. Freeman Foundation. His tragic death in December 2006 left a legacy of generous and creative support for Montgomery County nonprofit organizations in the arts, education, and community services.

In 2008, The Community Foundation saluted **Craig Ruppert** for his deep commitment to investing in our community. His Laytonsville-based Ruppert Companies contributes 5% of annual gross sales to charity, a corporate commitment that is a source of pride for both employees and customers. Ruppert and his family also give through their foundation to support many local nonprofits close to their hearts.

Stewart Bainum was named the 2009 Philanthropist of the Year. In addition to building two successful local businesses, Manor Care Nursing Homes and Choice Hotels International, Bainum invests great personal energy and skill in his Commonwealth Foundation's philanthropy. With more than 40 years of thoughtful philanthropy, Bainum continues to provide educational opportunities for thousands of underserved youth in Montgomery County and beyond.

In 2010, The Community Foundation honored **Carol Trawick**. Together with her late husband Jim, who was her cherished partner in life, business and philanthropy, Carol founded the Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation in 2007. Today, their foundation plays a pivotal role in our community through its strategic investments in health, human service and the arts nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County.

Jeffrey Z. Slavin was saluted in 2011. As the second-generation leader of The Sanford and Doris Slavin Foundation, Jeffrey carries forward his parents' wonderful legacy of generosity in our community. Jeffrey is the champion of dozens of arts, education, leadership, and human service nonprofits, both through his giving and by connecting every organization he supports with his friends and colleagues.

In 2012, The Community Foundation selected **Patrice and Scott Brickman** as the first couple to serve as the Montgomery County Philanthropists of the Year. Through both personal and corporate philanthropy, they support positive youth development, safety net services,



and long-term solutions to help adults who are struggling to break the cycle of poverty in their lives.

In 2013, The Community Foundation honored [Solomon Graham](#). While building his biotechnology company, Quality Biological, Inc., he invested the same thoughtful dedication into giving back to the community that fostered his own success. The impact of his leadership is most notably seen in local organizations that promote civic leadership development, services for people with disabilities, the arts, and education.

In 2014, we honored [Tammy Darvish](#) for embodying the spirit of local philanthropy by lending her time, energy, and financial support to many important causes in our community. For Tammy, giving back is more than simply writing a check. Specifically, she seeks opportunities to enhance her giving through volunteering, taking on leadership roles, and fundraising for organizations.

In 2015, we saluted [Robert and Anna Trone](#), of Total Wine & More. The Trones are active members of the philanthropic community, volunteering their time and talents by serving on local nonprofit boards. Their leadership also steers the corporate giving of Total Wine & More which makes generous in-kind and monetary donations to organizations supporting the humanities, health services, and education.

In 2017, we honored [Cliff White](#), a founding partner of N.E.W. Customer Service Companies Inc., the nation's leading provider of extended service plans and buyer protection programs for consumer products. Cliff invests significant time to learn from nonprofit leaders and the people those organizations support and then offers his business acumen, creative energy and generous spirit to bolster their work. Cliff focuses much of his support on organizations that support struggling families and help people build their own pathways out of poverty.

In 2018, we saluted [Linda Youngentob](#). Linda is deeply passionate about empowering youth to achieve their higher education goals, attain professional success, and give back to the community. In addition to mentoring students and teaching at the Montgomery College Macklin Business Institute, Linda deploys her business acumen to help youth-focused organizations expand and deepen their impact.

In 2019, we recognized [Hope Gleicher and Andy Burness](#) who focus on efforts to transform how we tackle hunger, equip our children with the skills needed to thrive, and empower our neighbors to forge pathways out of poverty. Their quiet, humble approach to giving is rooted in a practice of listening and learning from people on the front lines of service and those who suffer from inequities and injustice.



In 2021, we honored [Kevin Beverly](#). Both personally and while leading Social & Scientific Systems, he has made a profound impact for many of our county's vital nonprofits. Between his generosity, strategic thinking, and willingness to galvanize others, Kevin has been particularly catalytic for many organizations helping children and youth achieve their full potential. We are especially grateful for the ways his philanthropic leadership empowers nonprofit, business, and public sector partners to tackle complex problems and reimagine what's possible.

In 2022, we saluted [Mimi Brodsky Kress](#), a third generation Washingtonian who maintains a deep commitment to her home community of Montgomery County through both her personal philanthropy and as the co-owner of Sandy Spring Builders. Motivated by the Jewish principle of "Tikkun Olam" to repair the world, Mimi passionately supports local charities providing access to mental health care, affordable housing, and programs supporting social justice. Her leadership on the boards of several local charities has been game-changing, leading to organizational growth and expansion of services to meet increasing demand.

In 2023, we recognized [Mary Pat Alcus](#). A strategic thinker and generous philanthropist, she leverages her 30 years of knowledge and experience as an institutional investment advisor and a Chartered Financial Analyst to help her favorite organizations grow and pursue bold goals. Having discovered that she and her husband Darren are most passionate about helping kids succeed, they focus their philanthropy on high-impact nonprofits that help children and young adults fulfill their potential.