

Your donation to **The Shaffer-Lienhard Caregivers Support Fund** makes respite care services and other supports possible for those who are providing hands-on, in-home care to a family member.



COMMUNITY
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OF HARFORD COUNTY



Gina Shaffer and Carol Lienhard have spent their careers helping senior citizens through the joys and challenges of aging.

Gina is a Harford County attorney who focuses on eldercare issues. Carol retired

as Director of the Harford County Office on Aging and is now a volunteer co-chair of the Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network.

Both believe that affordable and regular respite care is an unmet need for many in Harford County who provide care to family members, often on a 24/7 schedule.

Gina established the fund through the Community Foundation of Harford County. She included her long-time colleague's name to honor her career of commitment to Harford's senior citizens.

Non-profit organizations that provide respite care can apply for grants from the Shaffer-Lienhard Caregivers Support Fund through the Community Foundation of Harford County. In turn, those organizations can also fund the costs of occasional respite care for their clients who need it the most.

The Shaffer-Lienhard Caregivers Support Fund

When Dutch Meyer was diagnosed with a form of Parkinson's disease in his late 60s, he and his wife Dotty were determined not to let the illness win. They looked for the best medical advice available. They continued to travel and even took a wheelchair on one of their last trips. During those years, they also logged many volunteer hours at the Historical Society of Harford County.

Life changed in an instant when Dutch fell and broke his hip in October 2010. Recovery was slow and his health spiraled downward. Dotty, who had known her handsome and always impeccably dressed husband since she was 14, became his primary caretaker.

They were fortunate, says Dotty, to have a nurse for a few hours for four days a week.

Of the remaining days and nights, she remembers sleeplessness, too much laundry, constant attention to his needs and feelings of loneliness.

Dotty knew that she had to take an occasional break in order to best help herself as well as her husband. "At home, taking care of him 24/7 was not the self I was used to being." Getting out for a break, she says, is a necessity for caretakers so they can return refreshed and ready to resume loving care.

Long-time Harford County resident Dotty Meyer, who cared for her husband, Lyman "Dutch" Meyer for the year before he passed away in November 2011.



"Caregivers at home need to be remembered and supported by their families as well as their communities." – Dotty Meyer

The Community Foundation of Harford County
connects people who care with causes that matter.



The Shaffer-Lienhard Caregivers Support Fund makes grants available to non-profit organizations whose clients may need financial assistance to take an occasional day away from their responsibilities. The Community Foundation of Harford County administers the fund, which is designed to grow in perpetuity. Donations of any size are welcome so that the fund can grow and support as many caregivers as possible.

Created by and for the people of Harford County, the Community Foundation of Harford County brings people, businesses, organizations and government together to make our county a better place, today and for future generations.

The Shaffer-Lienhard Caregivers Support Fund is one example of how the Community Foundation of Harford County helps individuals, families and businesses create legacies to benefit the causes about which they care.

We offer a variety of giving options that are easy to set up and manage and that provide tax benefits. We put your charitable gifts to work through grant-making to local non-profits and through scholarships.

To make a donation or apply for a grant, contact: The Community Foundation of Harford County, P.O. Box 612, Bel Air, MD 21014
443-371-6062 • cfharfordcounty@comcast.net • www.cfharfordcounty.org

We are about people helping people . . . How can we help you to help others?



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