

Community Foundation Here Finds Funds for Four Groups

by Kyla Hanington

Greenbelt Community Foundation recently awarded grants to four local groups. The volunteer-run foundation originally provided grants for new initiatives, but in recent years has expanded its support to enhance existing programs. This year's grants support projects by the Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) art department, the Center for Dynamic Governance, alight dance theater and Boys to Men mentoring group.

The ERHS art department will use the \$4,500 grant for the purchase of pottery wheels so students can learn to throw pots, in addition to hand-building and basic sculpture techniques using clay.

The Center for Dynamic Community Governance expects to use their award of \$4,845 to provide three days of no-cost, drop-in training for Greenbelt residents in a program called Bountiful Community Organizations: Growing Skills and Nurturing Talent. The training includes meetings facilitation, consent-based decision-making and conflict resolution and transparent communication.

Alight dance theater received \$4,882 for Faerie, a project that uses myth and folklore to examine and celebrate the complexities of identity in people of all ages. Alight dance theater will host a series of free outdoor performances within Greenbelt that are followed by workshops with



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALIGHT DANCE THEATER

Dancers from alight perform Faerie.

residents. Some of their planned events include participation in Artful Afternoons at the Community Center, a performance at the Labor Day Festival and a final performance of Faerie that features community members as well as members of the theater.

Boys to Men was the final recipient for this funding cycle. Based at Greenbelt Middle School, it is an afterschool program that provides guidance and positive role-models to boys. The program was awarded \$5,000 to further its work leading boys via activities such as game days, guided discussion about media

and other strategies. The program will also take the participants on four guided field trips in the upcoming year.

The Greenbelt Community Foundation was founded in 2006. Sylvia Lewis, Daniel Hamlin, Bill Duncan and Kap Kapistan were among those instrumental in its formation, and many residents have served on its board, volunteered or provided financial support. For more information on volunteering, donating and how to apply for grants, visit the greenbeltfoundation.org.

Paul Downs' Dance of Sticks Art Show at the New Deal Café

by Susan Barnett

Paul Downs, whose art will be featured in the New Deal Café Art Gallery in February and March, has created a one-of-a-kind style of art using sticks, twigs and other natural items. Instead of using charcoal or paint he renders his designs of animals, nature scenes and Native Americans using local found materials as the medium for his artistic creations. "My palette is the white oak, the wild black cherry, tulip poplar, pine, sassafras, red twig dogwood and maple sticks," said Downs.

For nearly 35 years he has honed his skill down a trail no one else has ventured. His artistic expressions range from the power of wing-stretched soaring owls to a delicate locust to a portrait of the great Chief Red Cloud to three-dimensional Mud Dancers. He brings the viewer into a world of color and design and seemingly gravity-defying wall-hung sculptures that will delight and amaze – while at the same time bringing the peacefulness one would gain from a walk in the woods.

A native of Greenbelt, Downs grew up exploring, playing and falling in love with the woods – the Great North Woods, as he called them – of Greenbelt. When this belt of green came under the threat of development in the late 1980s, Downs became a leader in the successful crusade to save these woods – now named the Greenbelt Forest Preserve.



PHOTO BY PAUL DOWNS

Raptor Dance, by Paul Downs

In 2017, 15 years after the forest was put into the protection of the forest preserve ordinance by the Greenbelt City Council, Downs was named Outstanding Citizen at the Labor Day Festival – thereby honoring the work he and the Committee to Save the Greenbelt did to save our name-sake – the Green Belt.

The art show extends to the end of March.

**GIVE BLOOD
GIVE LIFE**

Co-op Breaks \$265K Barrier; Applauds Greenbelt Spirit

by Cathie Meetre

Rays on the Roof, corny as the title may be, is breaking records in Greenbelt on its way to placing a new solar roof onto the venerable but hardly staid Greenbelt Co-op. At the end of the day on Tuesday, February 12, after less than four weeks of fund-raising, the total was a splendid \$265,000 and heading north to the matching funds' goal of \$400,000 required to show the state legislature that Greenbelt is behind the Co-op and its solar project.

With a fabulous mix of donations, large and small, and investments pledged at intervals of 4, 7 and 10 years, the state legislature is being treated to a display of big-hearted and forward-looking community spirit that is hard to beat. What legislative body could

resist the charm of Greenbelt in motion?

To learn more about Rays on the Roof, check out the FAQs and other information on the web at greenbelt.coop. Remember that investments in this project are not guaranteed by federal or state insurance – see full details and caveats on the website. Pledge forms are available on the website and in the store. Co-op's cash registers have a supply of tickets that allow donors to add a painless buck or two each time they shop.

Cathie Meetre is a News Review reporter. She is assisting the Co-op with various administrative and organizational tasks but does not have a vote on any decision.



PHOTO BY STEVE SKOLNIK

Roofing contractors gaze over the lake of standing water on the roof of the Co-op on January 24.



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PRELIMINARY AGENDA GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS Thursday, February 21, 2019 GHI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

A. GHI Open Session Meeting – begins at 7.45 p.m.

- Approve Minutes of the Special Open Session Meeting Held on January 17, 2019
- Approve Minutes of the Regular Open Session Meeting Held on January 17, 2019
- Revisions to File Retention Policy
- Computer Software Upgrade - 1st reading
- Proposed Guidelines and Procedures for Use of .ghi.coop E-mail Accounts
- Extend Invitation to P.G. County Council Chair and Two at-large Councilmen to Visit GHI

B. GHI Executive Session – begins after the GHI Open Session meeting adjourns

- Approve Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting Held on January 17, 2019
- Member Financial Matters
- A Member Complaint Matter

C. GDC Executive Session – begins after the GHI Executive Session meeting adjourns

- Contract for Replacement of Heat Exchangers for the Parkway Apartments



To request a sign language interpreter for a board meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, or go to the GHI Office (One Hamilton Place) or contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).

Regular Board meetings are open to Members
For more information, visit our website: www.ghi.coop