

About Blandy

MISSION

The purpose of Blandy Experimental Farm is to increase understanding of the natural environment through research and education.

VISION

Natural systems support and increasingly are affected by humans; therefore, ecological and environmental literacy are fundamental requirements for citizens, policy-makers, and society as a whole. Blandy Experimental Farm exists to promote this understanding through education and research on plants, plant biology, ecology, evolution, the environmental sciences, and the manner in which all of these are used and affected by humans.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION OF THE STATE ARBORETUM

The Foundation of the State Arboretum supports
Blandy's research and educational goals, enhances
Blandy's value as a public institution, and helps maintain
the Arboretum's collections.



BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM

FY 2021 AT A GLANCE



2021 TREE OF THE YEAR: PAWPAW

1,048

signed up for walk, talk or program at Blandy **785**

who attended Teacher Professional Development

6 REU STUDENTS BACK AT BLANDY

After a streak of 29 consecutive summers was broken in 2020 due to COVID, Blandy's Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program started up once again during the summer of 2021 with six students.

749

students served by Blandy's education programs

29

of Virginia State Champion trees in the Arboretum collection

31ST ANNUAL GARDEN FAIR

After a year off due to COVID restrictions, the 31st Annual Garden Fair returned in 2021 at a new location -- the Clarke County Fairgrounds.



DIRECTOR'S Letter

The atmosphere at Blandy at the beginning of FY21 could not have been more different than the atmosphere at the close of



David Carr Blandy Director

FY21. In July 2020, Blandy had just emerged from a nearly two-month closure at the beginning of the pandemic. Our summer research program had been canceled, and no students or faculty were in residence. We were unable to offer any public programming. The Arboretum and buildings staff were back at Blandy, busy trying to restore order, but most of the Blandy faculty and staff were still working from home.

We started taking small steps back to normalcy by late August. Our new Director of Scientific Engagement, Ariel Firebaugh, arrived and began some small-scale outdoor programs. Face masks and physical distancing were de riqueur, but we were confident that we could enjoy watching migrating warblers and still avoid infecting one another with Coronavirus. We also went online with programming. We reached audiences totaling over 1,000 people through partnerships with UVA's Lifetime Learning to talk about birds and gingkoes. Schools could not bring students to Blandy in fall 2020, so our K12 program brought Blandy to the schools, both online and with in-person visits from our K12 staff to Boyce and D.G. Cooley elementary schools in Clarke County.

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By winter we were planning how we were going to pull off the research program in summer 2021. A decision was made to plan for Summer Nature Camps. Downsizing both programs a bit seemed a prudent way to increase our adaptability, but we were determined not to lose another summer to the pandemic. Uncertainty was high, but vaccines were on the horizon and hope was rising.

As winter warmed to spring, some schools brought their students back to Blandy. The K12 program taught classes from Powhatan, the Blue Ridge Environmental Governor's School, and the Banneker Elementary School from Loudoun County. The arrival of vaccines began to change everyone's risk calculations.

By May, Garden Fair returned after a 2020 cancellation (albeit at the Clarke County Fairgrounds instead of Blandy). Visiting faculty, graduate students, and our six REU students arrived. Modifications were made, but summer 2021 was the antidote to the disappointment of summer 2020.

The end of FY21 did not see the end of the pandemic. News of a new variant, "Delta," was starting to hit the headlines. New challenges needed to be met, but FY21 taught us much about Blandy's resilience and its ability to creatively adapt and continue serving our constituencies with high-quality programming. Much of this was made possible by volunteer efforts and by support from the FOSA membership. We appreciate everything that you have done for us, and we pledge to work even harder in the coming year to serve you.

"FY21 taught us much about Blandy's resilience and its ability to creatively adapt and continue serving our constituencies with high-quality programming."

DAVE CARR
DIRECTOR





Blandy Experimental Farm Financial Report

Blandy Experimental Farm - Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$1,571,211
INCOME	
Revenue	\$10,413
FOSA Support	\$148,711
Gifts	\$50,446
Reimbursements	\$17,482
Grants	\$242,490
Endowment Distribution	\$1,473,322
State Support	\$304,927
Interest	\$108
UVA Support	\$256,783
Transfers	*(\$50,000)
Total Income	\$2,454,681
EXPENSES	
Salaries and Wages	\$1,585,572
Student Support	\$269,363
Teacher Support	\$1,225
Supplies & Services	\$190,526
Travel and Professional Development	\$9,631
Printing & Publications	\$5,272
Communications	\$20,796
Utilities	\$72,255
Equipment	\$17,294
Insurance	\$2,452
eVA Fees	\$890
Transfers/Recoveries	(\$18,404)
F&A Costs	\$22,582
Total Expenses	\$2,179,953
ENDING BALANCE	\$1,845,939

This is an unaudited summary of income and expenditures from Blandy's University accounts. The audited financial statements of the University of Virginia are here: https://evp-coo.virginia.edu/annual-financial-reports

^{*}Gift from Thomas R. Flory transferred to the Thomas R. Flory in Honor of Walter S. Flory, Jr. Endowment for Blandy.



EDUCATION AT BLANDY

UVA President James Ryan, in his holiday message to the UVA community, remarked, "This past year, we learned that nothing is more important than our connections with one another."

Indeed, it is because of our connections, partnerships, and collaborations with other educators that Blandy's education program remained strong even given the myriad of challenges the pandemic has presented. This fiscal year we worked remotely, and no public-school students came to Blandy for education programs as field excursions were not permitted and most students were being taught virtually. We shifted our mindsets from "Oh no! We won't be able to teach this year!" to "Yes we can, and we will work with our teacher partners to pivot to virtual teaching."

We prepared investigation kits that the schools distributed to students, and we joined teachers in Google Classroom, an on-line teaching platform, to lead students through their investigation using the kits. We taught water quality to 6th grade and high school ecology classes, trout habitat needs to 4th grade students, and soil erosion impacts to 5th grade students.

Word of our success in teaching hands-on, inquiry-based investigations through a virtual platform spread through the Virginia and Mid-Atlantic education networks leading Blandy to be invited to share our teaching strategies several times during the pandemic, virtually of course!

The number of students and educators we were able to serve this year is much reduced from past years but demands on our time did not decrease.

We learned that preparing for teaching in either virtual or social distancing situations increased our planning and preparation time three- to fourfold. It's been a challenging but rewarding year for the Blandy Education Program and educators!

-Candace Lutzow-Felling, Director of Education





Googly eyes.

How do you persuade a bunch of eightyear-old kids to practice good hand hygiene? Stick googly eyes on the hand sanitizing dispenser, of course. COVID-19 safety precautions didn't stop Blandy's youngest scientists from enjoying a nearly normal summer camp experience.

Elementary school students in the Wild
Things camp caught butterflies, monitored
wildlife cameras, scouted for songbirds,
and watched worms wriggle. Middle school
EcoExplorers conducted original research
on purple martin behavior, squirrel
foraging, and bird habitat use.

Blandy Education Program Outreach Activity, 2020–21

Type of Program	Number
Student Education Programs Students Served Teachers atteding Chaperones attending*	53 749 53 0
School Divisions Served Schools Served Public Schools Private Schools Home School	5 11 6 4 1
Science Fairs Judged Students Judged	0 0
Public Outreach Events	60
Teacher Professional Development, # attending	785
Scientist Professional Development, # attending (undergraduates)	6

^{*}Chaperones attending (no chaperones were allowed per our school partners' COVID policies)



Blandy Director Dave Carr and fellow birders catch a glimpse of a stealthy American Bittern during a birding program.

SCIENTIFIC ENGAGEMENT AT BLANDY

Although FY2021 threw us a few curveballs, Blandy faculty, staff, and volunteers worked creatively to help visitors experience joy, wonder, and curiosity while learning about the natural world. Here are a few moments from 2021 we'll always remember:

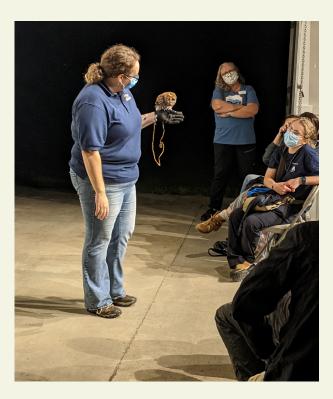
American Bittern! Pandemic restrictions reminded us how much fun it is to host nature walks for small groups, where there are plenty of opportunities to ask questions, swap stories, and sneak up on wildlife such as the American Bittern we spotted at Rattlesnake Springs during an April birding program.

Learning from colleagues. Guest instructors from local environmental organizations led outstanding programs at Blandy this year. It's been a privilege to learn from colleagues at the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, Johnston Tree Care, Shenandoah Astronomical Society, Sustainability Matters, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and Virginia Working Landscapes.

"You're muted!" Warts and all, technology has made it easier than ever to host programs for people in far-flung places.

Two- and four-legged friends Zoomed into talks, workshops, and club meetings from all over the country in 2021.

-Ariel Firebaugh, Director of Scientific Engagement



Jennifer Burghoffer, Rehabilitator and Education Manager at the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, and a Screech Owl mesmerize the audience at October's World at Night program.



"Can you see me?" American Bitterns stick their necks straight in the air to blend in with vegetation. (Photo: David Carr)

Blandy Outreach Programs for General Audiences, FY21

Outreach Activity	Attendance
FOSA Public Programs Summer Camps Talks Tours Classes/Workshops Exhibits at Outreach Events	432 20 400 189 174 185
TOTAL	1,400









UNDERGRAD RESEARCH AT BLANDY

Blandy's REU Program returned for its 30th Summer in May, 2021.

After a streak of 29 consecutive summers of Blandy's Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program was broken in 2020 by COVID, the program started up once again in May 2021.

In this program, undergraduate students from across the country spend the summer at Blandy to gain first-hand experience carrying out environmental-sciences research.

The weeks leading up to the start of the 2021 REU program were a real nail-biter as we waited for formal approval from UVA on reopening the in-person program. The spring of 2021 was a time of great uncertainty, as we waited for students to become eligible for the vaccines and the University of Virginia was frequently updating its social distancing, testing, and masking policies.

But on day one of the program, as soon as the students had all arrived safely and we finally met in-person, everything seemed to go off without a hitch. All of the students in our 2021 program were students who we admitted for 2020 but were turned away when we had to cancel the 2020 program. It was an immense relief to not have to disappoint them again. To provide physical distancing, we were able to admit only six students, rather than the typical 10. Our fingers are crossed that we can bring the program back up to full capacity for the upcoming summer of 2022!

-- Kyle Haynes, Research Associate Professor & Associate Director



REU student Clara Cebral-Marani helps summer campers learn about aquatic ecosystems.





Blandy Experimental Farm Publications (FY2021)

Firebaugh, A., and K.J. Haynes. 2020. Multiyear experiment shows no impact of artificial light at night on arthropod trophic structure or abundance. *Ecosphere 11*: e03227.

Haber, A.I., Sims, J.W., Mescher, M.C., De Moraes, C.M., and D. E. Carr. 2021. A sensory bias overrides learned preferences of bumblebees for honest signals in Mimulus guttatus. *Proceedings of the Royal Society* B 288: 20210161.

Haynes, K.J., and B.A. Robertson. 2021. A transdisciplinary research agenda for understanding insect responses to ecological light pollution informed by evolutionary trap theory. Current Opinion in *Insect Science* 45: 91-96.

LeCroy, K.A., Savoy-Burke, G., Carr, D.E., Delaney, D.A., and T.H. Roulston. 2020. Decline of six native mason bee species following the arrival of an exotic congener. *Scientific Reports* 10: 18745.

Rutledge, S.L., Carr, D.E., Hauber, M.E., and D. Hanley. 2021. Best of a bad job or masters of illusion: Do nest light conditions make the eggs of brood parasitic brown-headed cowbirds (Molothrus ater) more similar to the eggs of their hosts? *Ethology* 127: 117-124.

Walter, J.A., Rodenberg, C.A., Stovall, A.E., Nunez-Mir, G.C., Onufrieva, K.S., and D.M. Johnson 2021. Evaluating the success of treatments that slow spread of an invasive insect pest. *Pest Management Science* 77: 4607-4613.

Research Grants and Fellowships (FY2021)

Barnes, J. 2021. \$375. Exhibiting the Three Sisters. Student Arts Council Grant, University of Virginia.

Carr, D.E., and T.H. Roulston. 2021. \$4,300. Phenology and pollinator surveys on insect-pollinated trees and shrubs at the University of Virginia. Grounds Engaged Learning for Sustainability. University of Virginia Committee on Sustainability.

Elsherbini, J. 2021. \$1,499. Exploratory Grant. Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia.

Rodenberg, C.A. 2021. \$34,000. EXPAND Research Traineeship Fellowship, National Science Foundation.

Haynes, K.J., Eckert, A.J., and Rodenberg, C.A. 2021. \$25,000. How eco-evolutionary feedbacks between expansion load and the Allee effect impact the invasive spread of a major forest insect pest. 4-VA Collaborative Research Grants Program, University of Virginia.

Huelsman, K. 2021. \$6,000. Virginia Space Grant Consortium Graduate Fellowship.

FACULTY, STAFF, & RESEARCHERS

Faculty (July 2020-June 2021)

David Carr, Director
Patrick Crumrine, REU Coordinator
Rebecca Forkner, REU Mentor
Daniel Hanley, REU Mentor
Kyle Haynes, Associate Director
Candace Lutzow-Felling, Director

Candace Lutzow-Felling, Director of Education: School Programs

Mary McKenna, Minority Outreach Coordinator

Tai Roulston, Curator

Visiting Faculty

Harmony Dagleish, College of William and Mary Richard Karban, UC Davis Margarita Lopez-Uribe, Penn State Louie Yang, UC Davis Melissa Zwick, Stockton University

Staff (July 2020-June 2021)

John Campbell, Custodial Service Coord. & Maintenance Tech Leah Chaldares, Environmental Educator Robin Couch Cardillo, FOSA Director Tim Farmer, Public Relations Coordinator Ariel Firebaugh, Director of Scientific Engagement Emily Ford, Lead Environmental Educator Brandon Fox, Buildings Maintenance Specialist Sabrina Hartley, Arboretum Specialist Dennis Heflin, Buildings Superintendent Ann Hirschy, Weekend Visitor Services Aide Lillian Ledford, Environmental Educator Jared Manzo, Arboretum Specialist Donald (Mike) Marlow, Grounds Worker Judy Masi, Program Finance & Administration Manager Koy Mislowsky, Events & Volunteer Coordinator Jack Monsted, Assistant Curator, Native Plant Trail Sue Ridley, FOSA Administrative Specialist Thomas Robb, General Services Technician Chris Schmidt, Arborist William Spinrad, Weekend Visitor Services Aide Carrie Whitacre, Assistant Curator, Herbaceous Gardens Robbin Winkler Arnold, Weekend Visitor Services Aide Karen York, VNPS Office Manager Chris Youngs, Grounds Coordinator





FOSA
PRESIDENT'S
LETTER

My first year as President of the Foundation of the State Arboretum in the midst of a pandemic was

Josephine "Jolly" de Give
FOSA President

certainly daunting. However, thanks to the leadership of former President Steve Bauserman, FOSA Director Robin Couch Cardillo, and a committed Board and staff, the "new normal" was already in the works. In lieu of the cancelled Garden Fair, a challenge grant was initiated by our generous Board members and was successfully matched. We were learning and improving our technology with Zoom Board and Committee meetings, as well as on-line programs.

Blandy and FOSA are a part of the University of Virginia, and UVA regulations prohibited inperson gatherings early in the pandemic. This meant many in-person programs and events were put on hold last summer. As our ability to host in-person gatherings was sharply curtailed, the need for Blandy's open space, beauty, and "room to roam" in nature became even more apparent. This was demonstrated by the surge in visitors when the grounds reopened.

Staff rose to the challenge to create more online and virtual interactions. On-line learning and experiences were trending as the "wave of

the future" before the pandemic. Our being forced to adapt to this trend is proving useful; going forward it will allow us to continue to reach a larger and more geographically dispersed audience for the Arboretum. In 2021, we have been able to return to some in-person events with appropriate safeguards, but we will continue to expand our virtual presence on various digital platforms.

Under the leadership of Vice President Nancy Takahashi and Board member Roger Courtenay, the Board returned to and updated FOSA's Strategic Plan. This gave us a chance to evaluate our goals and priorities and to focus Committee efforts on accomplishing these. We will periodically review our progress towards reaching these milestones.

Robin and Treasurer Charles Ellison, with the help of the Finance Committee and Board, took a critical look at our finances, identifying where we could cut costs and increase revenues. Part of that was re-evaluating and re-aligning positions as staff vacancies have occurred, including the retirement of our wonderful long-time Public Relations Coordinator Tim Farmer.

In May 2021, we welcomed the return of Garden Fair! Thanks to Robin's foresight in booking way in advance, the Garden Fair was held at the Clarke County Fairgrounds instead of Blandy. The stars aligned when UVA gave us permission to hold Garden Fair, and with herculean effort on the part of staff, Board, and volunteers, it was a roaring success. Both participants and vendors raved about it. And not insignificantly, it also was a financial success. In the fall of 2020, we had to cancel our fall Nature Nurtures program, a fun event that focused on wellness.



In-person programs and summer camps returned in June and July of 2021, with appropriate safeguards. FOSA was able to fund three summer graduate students in both 2020 and 2021 with the help of the James R. Wilkins Charitable Trust. In 2020, most of the research was conducted off campus near the students' homes. Students were able to return to Blandy in 2021. FOSA also funded an undergraduate summer intern in 2021, thanks to a generous grant from The Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club.

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Blandy has an incredibly dedicated cadre of volunteers, who for a time during the early pandemic weren't able to work on the grounds. But they came back as the grounds opened up to lend much-needed hands, and really pitched in for Garden Fair.

Blandy and FOSA have faced daunting challenges this past year in how to fulfill our mission. I have been totally awed at how well we have all pulled together to face these unusual circumstances, which, alas, will continue to be with us as we go into another year. To quote Albert Einstein: "In the midst of every crisis lies great opportunity." Thanks to the dedication of our Board, staff, volunteers, members, and supporters, I believe we have been finding and taking advantage of the opportunities in the crisis and will continue to thrive.

Thank you all,

JOLLY DE GIVE

FOSA PRESIDENT

















FOUNDATION OF THE STATE ARBORETUM

Volunteers, donors, and friends help The Foundation of the State Arboretum further our mission.

Foundation of the State Arboretum Board of Directors, 2020-2021

Officers

Josephine "Jolly" de Give, President Nancy Takahashi, Vice President Charles Ellison, Treasurer Heather Dudley, Secretary J. Stephen Bauserman, Past President

Board Members

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Roger Courtenay
J.J. Davis
Karla Etten
Thom Flory
M. Tyson Gilpin Jr.
Celie Harris
Susan Harris
Kevin Hessberg
Scott Johnston

Michelle Morris Jones

G. Robert Lee
Paul C. Miller
Jay Monroe
Alex Newhart
Mary Olien
Frederick "Fritz" Reuter II
Tracy Smith
Elsie Wilson Thompson
Beatrice Von Gontard

Sandy Wilson

Each year, volunteers, donors, and friends help to further our mission of supporting research, environmental education, and outreach at Blandy Experimental Farm/State Arboretum of Virginia. Unrestricted gifts of all sizes allow FOSA latitude in applying funds where most needed while FOSA volunteers help in the gardens, at special events, and through boards and committees.

FOSA Committee Chairs

Arboretum Collections, Nancy Takahashi

Development & Membership, Michelle Morris Jones

Equestrian, Sylvia Wilson & Michelle Morris Jones

Events, Paul Miller

Executive, Josephine "Jolly" de Give

Finance, Charles Ellison

Government & UVA Relations, G. Robert Lee

Public Programs, Alex Newhart

Nominating, G. Robert Lee

Volunteerism, Mary Olien

FOSA Director

Robin Couch Cardillo



Foundation of the State Arboretum Financial Report

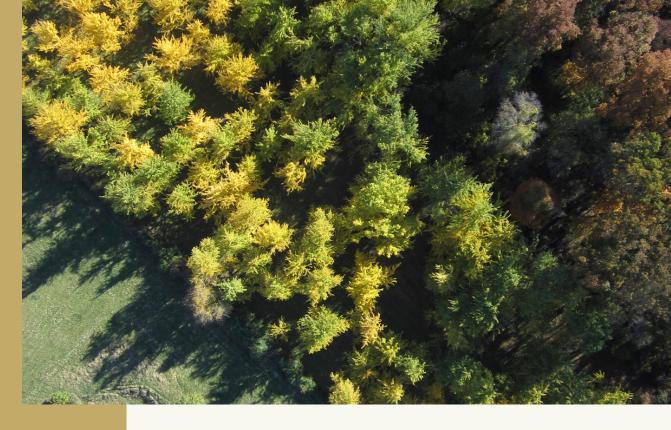
Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

NET ASSETS	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	TOTAL
Net Assets as of 7/1/20	\$-91,646	\$973,942	\$882,296
Change in Net Assets	\$20,197	\$261,955	\$282,152
Net Assets as of 6/30/21	\$-71,449	\$1,235,897	\$1,164,448

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	TOTAL
Contributions	\$88,626	\$37,757	\$126,383
Membership	\$28,022		\$28,022
Investment Return, Net	\$-524	\$234,597	\$234,073
Public Program Fees	\$15,468		\$15,468
Other Income	\$5,517		\$5,517
Fundraising Events (Net Expenses of \$23,606)	\$54,056		\$54,056
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$10,399	\$-10,399	
TOTAL	\$201,564	\$261,955	\$463,519

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES	Program Services	Management and General	Fund- raising	TOTAL
Administrative Expenses		\$23,957		\$23,957
Collection and Grounds Improvement	\$12,278			\$12,278
Public Program Expenses	\$2,386		\$1,439	\$3,825
Public Information	\$3,126			\$3,126
Support of Blandy and State Arboretum	\$138,181			\$138,181
TOTAL	\$155,971	\$23,957	\$1,439	\$1 81,367

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS	
Liabilities, accounts payable	\$11,795
Net Assets Net Assets without Donor Restrictions as of 6/30/21 Net Assets with Donor Restrictions as of 6/30/21	\$-71,449 \$1,235,897
Total Net Assets Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,164,448 \$1,176,243



GINKGO GUILD (\$5,000+ UNRESTRICTED GIVING)

BLANDY SOCIETY (\$1,000+ UNRESTRICTED GIVING)

Thank you to our donors!

JULY 1, 2020-JUNE 30, 2021

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Luminescence Foundation, Inc.
Elsie Wilson Thompson
Wise Foundation

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Joseph Volpe, III
Alexandra Wilson and Robert Pettit
Sylvia Wilson

BLANDY SOCIETY \$1,000+ UNRESTRICTED GIVING (CONT.)

UNRESTRICTED GIVING (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

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Susie Adams

Nancy and Gary Adams

Patricia Dailey and William Aiton

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Gwen Alfred

Albert Andersen

Sally Anderson and Richard Cooper

Christine and Frederick Andreae

Janice and Larry Atkinson

Evalise Auberg

Ayr Hill Garden Club

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Kathryn Baker

Kaleen and Paul Baker

Susan Bardenhagen

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Rose Breece

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Audrey Brown and Chris Bates

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Reba and Edgar Jones

Michelle and Darrin Jones

Ekaterini Kapiotis and Kevin Connor

Sigrid Kilcullen

Diana and Kelly Kincannon

Cathleen King

Mildred Koehler

UNRESTRICTED GIVING (CONT.)

Lisa Gasque-Kuhn and John Kuhn

Catherine Larmore

Blair and Robert Lawrence

Virginia Leach

Kathryn LeCroy

Jennifer Lee

Mary Jane Lee

Marion Lobstein

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Tamara and Scott MacDonald

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Shirley Pomeroy

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Stephanie Pritchard

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Judith Randal Hines

Jim Raudenbush

Michael Read

Cheryl and Waverly Reames

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Dana and Turner Reuter

Donna Richardson

Mary and James Riley

Kay Robertson and Hayden Mathews

Angels Roberts

Karen Rockwood

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Kaye and Gerald Smith Family Fund of the

Community Foundation of Harrisonburg

and Rockingham County

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Karey Jean Starnes

Sarah Stebbins

Sidney Stern

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Bob and Linda Stransky

Duncan Stroup

Bess Stuart

Linda and John Suter

Alison Teetor

The Benevity Community Impact Fund

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Jennie Thompson and Robert Levy

Mary Ann Thompson

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