Leading the Way

2009 annual report

Jessie Ball duPont Fund
The Jessie Ball duPont Fund has focused much of its work through the years on strategies to assist vulnerable people — whether the sick, the disenfranchised, the underserved, the very young, the very old, or the poor and needy.

As the economic recession unfolded in 2009, the importance of that work was brought into full relief for the trustees of the Fund. Across the communities and states where we work, organizations that provide critical services to those in need were staggering under the crush of demand for services, at the same time that revenue streams were running dry.

At the start of the year, the trustees and staff revisited the Fund’s priorities and made an important decision: The Jessie Ball duPont Fund would not succumb to the challenges of the recession, but help lead its constituents through the recession.

That commitment was reflected, in part, in the trustees’ decision to pay out a minimum of 6% of assets in grants for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 — equivalent to roughly $2.5 million in additional grant dollars during 2009. (The federal government requires a minimum expenditure of 5% of all private foundations.)

It was further reflected in decisions made by trustees and staff throughout the year around the work the Fund would undertake.

In late 2008, as the enormous scope of the economic collapse became evident, the Fund allocated $1.6 million to support organizations providing essential services in those communities where the Fund does substantial work — Wilmington, Delaware; Richmond and the Northern Neck of Virginia; and Jacksonville and Port St. Joe, Florida. As 2009 unfolded, these funds were invested in a host of organizations providing food, shelter, rental assistance and utility assistance in those communities.

Beyond these efforts to provide immediate relief, the trustees and staff took some more strategic steps to help communities grow stronger over the long term.

**Preparing to Learn in Port St. Joe, Florida**

In Port St. Joe - a rural, seaside community in Florida’s Panhandle - the Fund connected North Florida Child Development Center with Nemours BrightStart!, a program to assess pre-kindergartners’ early literacy skills and identify those at risk for dyslexia and other reading difficulties. BrightStart! provides intensive early literacy training to those at-risk, improving their reading readiness scores five-fold, and, thereby, improving their chances of academic success.

The $30,780 investment in BrightStart! was enabled by the Port St. Joe Community Advised Fund, established by the trustees in 2008. The Advised Fund, which is housed at The Community Foundation in Jacksonville, gives the trustees greater flexibility to invest in Port St. Joe, a small community but one about which Mrs. duPont cared deeply.

Improving educational opportunities for the community’s residents is a major focus of the Fund’s work in Port St. Joe. BrightStart! brings a new dimension to that work — and new opportunity for the community’s youngest learners.

**Growing Smart Public Leaders in Jacksonville**

The Fund is keenly aware of the link between public officials and policy and private nonprofit organizations. Communities work best, the Fund believes, when public policy and public dollars complement the community work of the nonprofit sector. But how do we build this broad understanding in the minds of elected officials whose days are filled with constituent demands and political jousting?

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**From the Chair and President**

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In 2009, staff explored a number of programs around
the country designed to better prepare elected officials for their public duties by grounding them in the principles of governance and the interlocking sectors of the communities they serve. By year end, the Fund had received a commitment from the University of North Florida to pilot such a program for Jacksonville elected and appointed leaders. The first Foundations of Local Government program was scheduled for February 2010.

Identifying Community Partners

There are many resources beyond traditional nonprofits that communities can access to address challenging issues. Not the least of these are faith-based organizations. But it can be hard to identify these organizations and even harder to learn about their programmatic activities and interests.

In 2009, the Fund released a multi-year study of faith-based organizations in the city of Wilmington, Delaware. The findings of the study, conducted out of the University of Pennsylvania in collaboration with United Way of Delaware, were used to convene faith leaders and nonprofit leaders in a series of community conversations that have helped to build awareness and connections among entities that once were strangers. (More details on the study can be found at faithsurvey.uwde.org.)

In the Northern Neck of Virginia, the Fund has long used churches as partners in community work, particularly when it comes to addressing the housing needs of the region. In 2009, the Fund, working with St. Mary’s Whitechapel Episcopal Church and Virginia Polytechnic and State University, completed a study of housing resources and needs in the Northern Neck. The study will serve as a guide to future investments by the Fund and others, and to community organizations seeking to work in the housing arena.

Building Stronger Institutions

Education was one of Mrs. duPont’s great passions and she had a particular love for the small liberal arts college. These institutions face a host of challenges today as the landscape of higher education undergoes dramatic change. In 2008, the Fund conducted a listening tour with leaders of these institutions, to identify common issues of critical importance. Among them: reducing their carbon footprint.

In response, the Fund in 2009 hosted a series of three conferences for college presidents and key staff members to address opportunities for reducing energy consumption on campus, which is the most significant way colleges can reduce their carbon footprint and lower energy costs. Through these conferences, college leaders were provided resources and encouraged to seek support from the Fund to underwrite their reduction efforts.

By year-end, the Fund had invested more than $640,000 to support these efforts at six institutions, with numerous other grant requests at various stages of review.

Embedded in the economic challenges we face are great opportunities for change. And the eligible organizations with whom we work continue to impress us with their great creativity and willingness to change.

We continue to be grateful for the opportunity to help these organizations, and the individuals and communities that they serve. Our work is both difficult and rewarding, and we are privileged to do it.

Leroy Davis
Chair for the Trustees

Sherry P. Magill
President

For more information on the work of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, including complete financial reports, visit www.dupontfund.org.
Competitive grants awarded during 2009:

**Agnes Scott College**, Decatur, Georgia - $150,000 to conduct an energy audit, develop an energy conservation master plan, purchase submetering equipment and hire a sustainability fellow.

**American Foundation for the Blind**, New York, New York - $50,000 to conduct a study determining the extent to which children with visual impairments receive instruction in disability-specific areas.

**American Red Cross-River Counties Chapter**, Kilmarnock, Virginia - $175,000 to support a community-based child care and child development strategy.


**Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware**, Wilmington, Delaware - $100,000 to provide core program support for an out-of-school academic enrichment program.

**Child Welfare League of America, Inc.**, Arlington, Virginia - $125,000 to sustain core operations.

**Children’s Home Society of Florida**, Winter Park, Florida - $125,000 to conduct and evaluate a demonstration program of services for families at risk of child abuse and neglect.

**Christian Herald Association, Inc.**, New York, New York - $108,000 to provide emergency funding for its feeding program for the unsheltered homeless living in New York City.

**The College of William & Mary**, Williamsburg, Virginia - $100,000 to pilot a pro bono Veterans Benefits Clinic.

**Community Connections of Jacksonville**, Jacksonville, Florida - $68,311 to maximize Federal Recovery emergency assistance dollars and to leverage individual contributions.

**The Community Foundation in Jacksonville**, Jacksonville, Florida - $500,000 to support the Jessie Ball duPont Port St. Joe Capacity Building Fund.

**Daniel Memorial, Inc.**, Jacksonville, Florida - $94,860 for general operating support.

**Diocese of Delaware**, Wilmington, Delaware - $100,000 to support a day care educational program that prepares low-income children for success in school.

**Drew University**, Madison, New Jersey - $31,096 to create and sustain a culture of diversity on the campus.

**Easter Seals Delaware and Maryland’s Eastern Shore**, New Castle, Delaware - $50,000 to provide core operating support for continuation of the Early Intervention program, which serves developmentally delayed children ages 0-3.

**Edward Waters College**, Jacksonville, Florida - $330,000 to strengthen the college’s administrative capability by enhancing the executive vice president position and adding three vice presidents.

**Epiphany Episcopal Church**, Timonium, Maryland - $35,200 to support a planning grant to establish a social services program to assist low-income individuals and families.
**The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina**,
Raleigh, North Carolina - $100,000, to support a research-based literacy program to narrow the achievement gap in public schools by improving reading, writing and spelling skills of children living in poverty and those with special needs.

**Family Foundations of Northeast Florida, Inc.**, Jacksonville, Florida - $37,800 to provide funding for the Foreclosure Intervention Counseling Program. $106,834 to expand the Individual Development Account, Financial Counseling, and Debt Management programs and to add Financial Coaching.

**Ferrum College**, Ferrum, Virginia - $50,000 to install electric submetering equipment.

**First Baptist Church of White City**, Wewahitchka, Florida - $30,000 to support the Senior Citizens programs.

**The Florida Orchestra Guild, St. Petersburg**, St. Petersburg, Florida - $100,000 to provide core operating program support to the Florida Orchestra.

**Florida Southern College**, Lakeland, Florida - $125,000 to support the Strengthening Academic Advising Initiative.

**Hope Haven Children’s Clinic and Family Center**, Jacksonville, Florida - $46,369 to purchase diagnostic and technological equipment needed for the clinic’s expanded service facility.

**Irvington Baptist Church**, Irvington, Virginia - $150,000 to support a partnership with Boys and Girls Club, Northern Neck for core operating support and program development.

**Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra**, Jacksonville, Florida - $39,000 to contract with a development consultant to provide fundraising training to staff and board, to upgrade technology and to provide technology training to staff.

**Jacksonville University**, Jacksonville, Florida - $70,000 to support a new staff person to train faculty and staff in a curriculum planning software system. $23,280 to conduct interviews with CEOs from approximately 80 nonprofit organizations in Duval County.

**James Madison University**, Harrisonburg, Virginia - $150,000 to expand the Professor-in-Residence program to middle schools in Harrisonburg and Norfolk to increase college readiness for low-income, underserved students.

**The Florida Orchestra Guild, St. Petersburg**, St. Petersburg, Florida - $100,000 to support the Strengthening Academic Advising Initiative.

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In addition, the Fund supports the eligible organizations through a group of initiatives designed to meet specific organizational needs; and through feasibility and technical assistance grants designed to help the organizations work more effectively. For more information on the Fund’s grantmaking initiatives, visit www.dupontfund.org.

**Junior Achievement of Florida’s First Coast, Inc.**, Jacksonville, Florida - $33,234 to engage in a new partnership with Communities in Schools to provide out-of-school economic education curriculum to students who qualify for free and reduced lunch programs.

$104,892 to sustain programming and purchase program materials.

**Kennedy Krieger Institute**, Baltimore, Maryland - $150,000 to hire a social worker and genetics counselor to support families of children with brain disorders.

**Lancaster Community Library**, Kilmarnock, Virginia - $66,329 to support the Northern Neck Asset Team in managing a program to reduce poverty.

$88,021 to support summer educational and jobs program for low-income youth.

**Lynchburg College**, Lynchburg, Virginia - $70,000 to install electric and water submetering equipment.

**McDaniel College**, Westminster, Maryland - $200,000 to recruit and support 25 predominantly African-American and other diverse low-income students from urban Baltimore.

**Meredith College**, Raleigh, North Carolina - $148,000 to conduct a campus-wide energy audit, install electric sub-metering and hire a full-time energy manager.

**Morattico Baptist Church**, Kilmarnock, Virginia - $102,440 to support a partnership with Partners for Lancaster County Schools Foundation to develop affordable rental housing.

**The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia**, Richmond, Virginia - $30,000 to hire an independent consultant to work with board and staff to review and revise the organization’s mission, vision and values, and to gain consensus on organizational priorities and future work.

**National Trust for Historic Preservation**, Washington, D.C. - $75,000 to support their Preservation Green Lab work by developing public policies and best practices for weatherizing and retrofitting historic buildings.

**The Osborne Association**, Bronx, New York - $100,000 to sustain core programs.


**Radford University**, Radford, Virginia - $92,186 to develop a summer institute for training speech-language pathologists, selected families and autistic children, and graduate students in a new family-centered intervention program.

**Saint Leo University**, Saint Leo, Florida - $85,550 to install electric submetering equipment across campus.
**The Salvation Army**, Jacksonville, Florida - $120,965 to sustain core mission-related programs.

**Sisters of St. Benedict - St. Gertrude Monastery**, Ridgely, Maryland - $100,000 to strengthen the development and fundraising capacity of Saint Martin's Ministries.

**St. Augustine's Episcopal Church**, Washington, D.C. - $124,600 to engage an architectural firm and construction project manager in a pre-design, shared visioning process to determine necessary components of a new church structure.

**St. George's Episcopal Church**, Valley Lee, Maryland - $51,900 to support a partnership between St. George's and Three Oaks Center to provide startup funding for the Rapid Re-Housing Program.

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Outreach Ministries**, Jacksonville, Florida - $30,000 to support staff salaries and general operating expenses. $120,000 to support staff salaries and core operating expenses for community outreach programs.

**St. Mary's Whitechapel Episcopal Church**, Lancaster, Virginia - $165,076 to support a partnership with the SAIF Water Project to install water wells, conduct research, provide public education on water safety, and develop a strategic plan.

**St. Michael’s School and Nursery**, Wilmington, Delaware - $158,200 to build a grassroots movement of families and early childhood educators to influence public policy around and government investment in early care and education of Delaware children.

**Stephens College**, Columbia, Missouri - $89,175 to implement an outcomes-based assessment program through faculty workshops and purchase of software.

**Transylvania University**, Lexington, Kentucky - $140,000 to hire a consultant to develop energy policies, an energy master plan and energy reduction plan, and hire a sustainability coordinator.

**Trinity Episcopal Church**, Wilmington, Delaware - $105,000 to support a partnership with Friendship House to expand its empowerment services to homeless people.

**United Way of Delaware**, Wilmington, Delaware - $200,000 to hire staff to build capacity to generate revenue and volunteers from small and mid-sized businesses.

**University of Florida**, Gainesville, Florida - $189,768 to recruit and hire child psychiatrists to provide clinical care and training in the newly established community-based Center for Children’s Mental and Behavioral Health in Jacksonville.

**University of Miami**, Coral Gables, Florida - $149,933 to hire pediatric medical case managers for medical and psychological exams of adolescent sexual assault victims at Kristi House.

**University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - $100,000 to support a college prep program including a life skills component and a summer mentorship program for rising 11th and 12th grade students in Philadelphia public schools.

**Virginia Commonwealth University**, Richmond, Virginia - $190,581 to partner with the United Way in strengthening Richmond’s EITC campaign.

**Washington College**, Chestertown, Maryland - $100,000 to develop an interdisciplinary four-course program focused on the Chesapeake Bay, its estuaries and the human culture supported by them.

**Washington National Cathedral**, Washington, D.C. - $225,000 to support hiring a full-time Canon Missioner who will plan and oversee the strengthening of youth educational outreach programs, justice advocacy efforts and building congregational relationships with urban churches.

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**IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY, REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS**

**Yale University**, New Haven, Connecticut - $60,000 to support the installation of energy efficient technologies in households to help lower energy costs and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

The Fund believes that reducing energy consumption is a critical issue both for colleges and universities, and for low-income households. This grant, to support the Yale Community Carbon Fund, addresses both constituencies. The Yale Community Carbon Fund supports installation of energy-efficient technologies at no cost in up to 400 qualifying households, reducing their energy expenditures by an anticipated $75-$330 each annually, and their combined carbon dioxide emissions by 1,500 metric tons. Yale then plans to purchase the carbon emissions reductions to offset its own greenhouse gas output, generating revenue to sustain the initiative after the grant period.
The Jessie Ball duPont Fund invests in organizations and communities that were important to Jessie Ball duPont.

**Focus Areas**

The Fund organizes its resources around five focus areas:

- Strengthening the Independent Sector
- Building Assets of People, Families and Communities
- Building the Capacity of Eligible Organizations
- Stimulating Community Problem Solving
- Helping People Hold their Communities Accountable

Throughout their work, the trustees and staff of the Fund strive to:

- Learn with and from the people they serve.
- Respect the wisdom and creativity of the organizations and communities with whom they work.
- Engage in thoughtful and disciplined reflection about the decisions they make.
- Maintain the highest ethical standards in all that they do.
- Act with compassion, work for justice, and champion the rights of all people to share in the wealth and health of our nation.

**Core Beliefs**

The trustees and staff of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund believe:

- A democratic society that works for all people requires the participation of a strong and organized independent sector.

- Communities are stronger and healthier when:
  - Public, private and philanthropic resources are invested to build the assets of individuals, families and neighborhoods.
  - Citizens, neighborhoods and organizations work together across the boundaries that divide us.
  - They are deliberate about identifying, building and using their philanthropic assets – the time, talent and money of people.

- Citizens have both the right and the responsibility to participate fully in public debate about the distribution of resources, opportunities and assets intended to serve the common good.