Conserve the Future

Established in 2017 by donors passionate about environmental stewardship, the Conserve the Future Fund supports local initiatives focused on environmental care, conserving natural resources, and regional sustainability.

**Fund Purpose**

- Educate the community about their connection to and responsibility for the environment so current and future generations can live sustainably;
- Prevent and mitigate environmental challenges at the local level, with ripple effects for global health;
- Invest in and elevate the work of local organizations with expertise and passion for the environment to ensure a strong, growing network that can lead strategy, research and community engagement; and
- Create a charitable legacy that will encourage continued and increased support for conservation efforts over time.

“It's important for us to take a look around and say, are there things that we can do now to alleviate our negative impacts on the environment, or even to create positive change for the future?”

-------------  Ann Samford, donor  -------------

**Our Goal**

Seeded with $250,000 from individual donors, our initial goal is to raise $2.5 million for the Conserve the Future Fund by 2023. We aim to give away 4% (or $100,000) in grants each year, while investing the remaining assets so the fund can grow to serve Richmond in perpetuity. We believe this is the best way to ensure philanthropic resources will always be available to support a healthy local environment, now and for generations to come.

**Advisory Committee**

Katherine Thalhimer Adamson  
Ron Felmus  
Bruce Kay  
Jim Klaus  
Ann Samford  
Christie Thalhimer Silverstein  
Elizabeth Thalhimer Smartt
Areas of Impact

- Renewable energy and efficiency
- Reforestation, soil conservation and preservation of green spaces
- Local food sourcing and regenerative agriculture
- "Reduce, reuse, recycle" programs
- Clean air, water and soil efforts
- Protecting wildlife habitats and supporting biodiversity
- Education, research, or job training to support environmentally conscious efforts
- Promoting racial justice and community inclusivity through environmental justice

Past Grants Include:

**Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay** - for RiverWise environmental education at John B. Cary Elementary School

**Groundwork RVA** - for installation of solar-powered rain capture systems, permeable pathways and rain gardens

**Richmond Behavioral Health Authority** - to create an outdoor space that addresses the therapeutic needs of individuals served at the North Campus.

**Science Museum of Virginia** - for the creation of the Stormwater Management Demonstration Bed

All past grants are listed at www.cfrichmond.org/CTF

How to Apply

The fund accepts proposals as part of the Community Foundation's open application process, and awards grants annually on Earth Day. The advisory committee works closely with Foundation staff throughout the year to learn about local needs and opportunities and to review proposals. Since its inception, the fund has awarded $388,000 project-based grants to 13 organizations.

If you wish to join us in this effort, you may contribute online through the Community Foundation website or contact Sarah Arenstein Levy at sarenstein@cfrichmond.org.