



Foster Grandparents Program Honored by NAACP

Recently, the Wicomico County Branch of the NAACP held its annual Freedom Fund Awards Gala at Salisbury University. The event showcased many organizations and individuals who are supporting and empowering the black community in Wicomico County.

We are delighted to report that SHORE UP's Foster Grandparents Program was honored with the Wicomico NAACP's Village Award! Our Foster Grandparents range in age from 60 to 88 and they volunteer their time to love and nurture special needs children. The children love their Foster Grandparents and typically call them "Mom Mom" and "Pop Pop." The program is a great example of how when people come together to support each other, wonderful things can happen!

Program Director Joyce Farrare, in speaking about the program, stated that the Foster Grandparents "are mentors on a mission to create the greatest impact in their community and in the lives of children." The program operates in Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester and Dorchester Counties, and our Foster Grandparents log an average of 53,000

hours each year, working with over 1000 young children who have special needs and require some extra attention.

The Foster Grandparents Program is funded by AmeriCorps Seniors. The motto for the program is "Share Today. Shape Tomorrow," which couldn't be more fitting. These beloved Mom Moms and Pop Pops are investing their time in the lives of the children with whom they work, and it is an investment that always has great returns!

We are grateful to the Wicomico Branch of the NAACP for bestowing this honor on our program. If you are age 55 or older and would like to become a Foster Grandparent, please call 410-749-1142, extension 1050.



How to Be a Scammer Sleuth

The holidays are upon us, and pretty soon many of us will be distracted by a seemingly never-ending to-do list of things to buy, bake, wrap, mail, and attend. When we're trying to juggle so many things at one time, it's easy for us to ignore some red flags and fall prey to scammers. Bank of America recently shared four scams of which we should be aware:

1. **Someone pretending to be who they aren't.** That could be a relative, friend, business, etc. Independently contact that relative/friend/business to verify the identity of the suspected scammer. If they call you (which most banks and businesses will not do), tell them you cannot talk right now, but will call them back. If they email, look at the sender's email address, specifically the part that comes after the @ symbol. If they say that they're representing your bank but the email address is gmail.com or any site other than the business' website domain, they aren't legitimate.
2. **Someone claiming that you owe money** that is past due and stating you will suffer dire consequences if you don't pay. This tactic is meant to make you panic. It has been used most recently with callers claiming to be from the IRS and threatening jail time. The IRS does not contact taxpayers by phone.
3. **Pressure to provide payment or information right away.** They might tell you to initiate a wire transfer or send money through a payment app like Zelle, Venmo, or CashApp. Once funds have been transferred in this way, you cannot undo it.
4. **Social media friends.** Sometimes scammers will send you a friend request that looks like someone you know, right down to the profile picture. If they're someone that you thought you were already friends with, check your friends list. If they are listed there, send them a direct message and asked if they've set up a secondary account. If not, report the request as an impersonation.

If that seems too hard to sort out, there are some basic guidelines that will keep you safe from scammers if you follow them every time without exception. They are:

- Don't give anyone your security code, account information, PIN, passwords, etc.
- Don't click links in unsolicited email messages.
- Verify requests for money by independently contacting the company that is allegedly requesting it.
- Independently research any sellers or deals that you find on social media before making a purchase.

Please Join Us!

Our esteemed Executive Director, Freddy L. Mitchell, will be retiring at the end of this year. We are asking our community partners, program participants, and other well-wishers to stop by the Civic Center on January 11 to thank him for his service to the community. Stop by any time between 2:00 and 5:00 PM that day to wish him well.



Giving Tuesday Recap

Every year on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore hosts a Giving Tuesday campaign for local nonprofits called "The Shore Gives More." This year, SHORE UP had a goal to receive \$500 in Giving Tuesday donations.

Our supporters donated a total of \$1335, including a very generous gift of \$1000 in support of our Foster Grandparents program.

We are incredibly grateful for the support from the community, and we extend our sincere appreciation to those who gave.