www.vagazette.com

December 6, 2016

Williamsburg Health Foundation awards more than $1 million in final grant round

The Virginia Gazette

In its second and final grant round of 2016, the Williamsburg Health Foundation has awarded 18 grants, more than $1 million, to 15 organizations.

The funds support a mixture of new programs and longtime grantees, according to Jeanne Zeidler, Foundation president and CEO.

A $25,000 grant to Child and Family Connection will allow purchase of neurofeedback equipment for the organization's Neurofeedback Counseling Program, teaching self-regulation of brain activity.

"This type of treatment offers an alternative to medication for some children and adults," Zeidler said in a press release. "Without our investment, this therapy would be inaccessible to many of our neighbors with low incomes and/or no insurance."

A $46,505 grant will underwrite another program new to the community - Peninsula Metropolitan YMCA will present at R.F. Wilkinson Family YMCA a Diabetes Prevention Program, coaching adults diagnosed with prediabetes.

For the first time, the foundation presented a grant to The Doorways, a hospitality house in Richmond for Medical College of Virginia patients and families. Many Williamsburg-area residents stay at The Doorways, the release stated.

Among remaining funds, grants totaling $78,400 support access to health food, while $194,000 will support mental health services, according to the release.

"Working towards a healthier community is complex," Zeidler said. "We are fortunate to have many organizations doing good work in and for our community."

A private grant-making organization, the health foundation's 2016 grants total more than $4.5 million.