



Front Royal Women's Resource Center Celebrates the Ingenuity of Local Women with 2018 Dare to Dream Grant Awards

Front Royal, VA (March 27, 2018) – The Front Royal Women's Resource Center (FRWRC) announced its 2018 Dare to Dream grant recipients, Elaine Bromfield Memorial Scholarship recipient and Kim South Girl Grant recipient at an annual breakfast celebration at the Shenandoah Valley Golf Club. The FRWRC awarded a total of \$8,400 in grant and scholarship money to 10 local women, all with goals and dreams to better their lives, the lives of their families and the lives of other women in the community.

FRWRC members, family members and community leaders attended the ceremony to honor and support the grant recipients and their dreams.

"We often hear from our award recipients that the financial support that these grants and scholarships provide is a lifeline to starting or growing a business or pursuing educational opportunities," said Rebecca Vaughan, FRWRC Dare to Dream Chairperson. "But more importantly, many women tell us that the recognition, encouragement and support they receive from other women, by the awarding of these grants, helps them build the confidence they need to accomplish their goals. So many of our grant recipients go on to not only achieve success in their own careers, education and lives, they are also giving back to help support other women striving to reach their dreams and build a stronger community."

The eight Dare to Dream grant recipients, Elaine Bromfield Memorial Scholarship recipient and the 2018 Kim South Girl Grant award recipient were chosen from 25 applications received by FRWRC this year.

This Year's Award Winners:

2018 Dare to Dream Grant Recipients

- **Jennifer Avery** is a single mother of three children. She has a marketing degree from West Chester University and has held several corporate sales positions in the past. While working as a real estate agent, Jen also began to grow a video/marketing business three years ago. She created community videos for small businesses and nonprofits in the area at no cost and also created Town Tip Thursday. After producing 400 videos using basic video equipment, Jen launched a video marketing business called Jenspiration. Jen was awarded a \$1,000 Dare to Dream grant to support the purchase of a professional quality video camera that will step up the quality of her videos and grow her business.

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- **Tierra Burke**, just 21, dreams of achieving a certification leading to a career in the field of information technology. She has always enjoyed the challenge of computers and serves as the “go to” person in her family for anything to do with technology. She is the first person in her family to attend college. Enrolled at Lord Fairfax Community College, Tierra plans to take a fundamentals class in computer technology per the recommendation of the college. Tierra was awarded a \$900 Dare to Dream grant cover her educational expenses.
- **Phyllis Carmean** moved from Indiana to Front Royal at the end of 2016 to help her daughter, who was experiencing a high-risk pregnancy with two small children at home. In Indiana, Phyllis had worked full time as a LPN while also attending school full time pursuing her bachelor’s degree in nursing. Her lifelong dream is to be an RN. While helping her daughter, and also working part-time to pay bills, Phyllis continues to pursue her dream by also attending school full-time at Chamberlain College of Nursing in Crystal City, VA. She is just five classes away from earning her degree. Phyllis was awarded a \$1,000 Dare to Dream grant to help her with tuition on her remaining five classes she needs to complete her degree.
- **Valerie Knight** worked as a validation consultant in the pharmaceutical industry until her health issues (rheumatoid arthritis) caused her to stop working. She has been an artist since she was young and throughout her science career she participated in art exhibits and sold her work. In 2012 she found an online art market and began selling her collectible miniature paintings on eBay. She has sold more than 171 paintings online, providing her with both an income and a sense of having something to offer others. Valerie was awarded a \$600 Dare to Dream grant to purchase an adjustable ergonomic chair and art equipment to help her organize and produce her art while also addressing her health needs.
- **Viviane Knight** lives in the area with her husband and two young grandsons. She has a bachelor’s degree in biology and numerous nationally recognized fitness certifications. She owned, operated and taught classes in a Jazzercise Dance Fitness franchise for 10 years and for past 11 years she has worked as a personal trainer, group exercise instructor and nutrition coach at Fitness Evolution in Front Royal. Her dream is to bring **free** group exercise classes to the Front Royal Community. She has been given space to hold these groups at Marlow Heights Baptist Church. Viviane was awarded a \$500 Dare to Dream grant towards the cost of licensing narrowroadfitness.com, an exercise instruction program that will allow Viviane to offer free exercise classes where community members can move their bodies at their own pace, create new friendships and learn about nutrition to support their health.
- **Heather McWhinney** is married and a mother of two sons. She is a self-taught artist who makes beautiful wire trees using copper wire and various gemstone chips. Each tree is unique using fluorite, tiger eye, amethyst, quartz, etc. She has also begun experimenting with different gemstone bases. She finds the creative work calming and her sons have become interested in creating art as well. Heather sells her art work locally, using her

income to help support her family. Heather was awarded a \$600 Dare to Dream grant towards the purchase of supplies and tools to expand her business.

- **JamiLynn Pastore** is married with four children. She recently moved to the area from south Florida where she had a thriving business as a seamstress. She was hired by several local companies to sew for their online businesses. During this process she trained and hired 10 additional people, offering the opportunity for other women to earn a living wage from home. This was especially good for women with families, women who were caretakers for loved ones or for women who had no transportation. JamiLynn now dreams of expanding her business, Wraedoll, in Front Royal, and training and hiring local people that can work from their homes. JamiLynn was awarded an \$800 Dare to Dream grant to purchase a professional fabric cutter to cut large quantities of patterns to be sold and sewn.
- **Jenny Simpson** was a single mother of two daughters on a tight budget. Raising her children consumed much of her time and energy. While Jenny has worked in the child care field for over 20 years, she is working towards her early childhood education certificate at Lord Fairfax Community College and dreams of pursuing a longer goal of earning her associate degree in early childhood education. Jenny was awarded a \$600 Dare to Dream grant to purchase a laptop to help her complete her school work at home.

2018 Elaine Bromfield Memorial Scholarship

- **Angela Schroeder** is a single mother of three children, two of whom have special needs. She left her nursing career two-and-a-half years ago in order to be more available to her children. Angela took college classes online and earned her associate degree. She is now attending George Mason University, as well as working part-time as a residential activity assistant for a nonprofit organization. She also volunteers as a board member of a nonprofit organization. Angela is working towards a bachelor's in health, fitness and recreation resources with a concentration in therapeutic recreation. She has a unique opportunity to apply to the Bachelors Accelerated Master (BAM) program which would allow her to complete a master's with one additional year of school at a reduced rate. Completing a minor in psychology and BAM requires her to take a couple of summer courses which are not covered by financial aid. Angela, a former Dare to Dream grant recipient was awarded the 2018 Elaine Bromfield Memorial Scholarship for \$1,500 to use toward her educational expenses.

2018 Kim South Girl Grant

- **LaTasha Do'zia-Earley** is married with two children. She graduated from the Governor's School for Performing Arts then went on to study Musical Theatre at Shenandoah University. She opened and operates the Selah Theatre located in Front Royal where she has also provides dramatic arts and education for area youth through the Selah Theater Project. In 2017, she took 12 high school students enrolled in the Selah Theatre Project to the Virginia Theatre Association (VTA) conference in which her students, the majority of whom are from Warren County, were the only community theatre high school program to perform in the VTA Fringe Festival. LaTasha knows how the theatre arts can impact the lives of young people by helping them gain self-confidence

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and self-worth along with giving them a safe place off the streets and a sense of being a part of a larger ensemble/family. Her dream is to establish a full-time, tuition-free performing arts school in Front Royal. This summer Selah Theatre Project will hold a musical theatre camp with the award winning Dolly Stevens of Loudon County as a summer director. The camp will run for four weeks, culminating in the production of a full-length musical. LaTasha was awarded a \$900 Kim South Girl Grant that will support three Warren County female middle school age students with free tuition for the summer camp this year.

About Front Royal Women's Resource Center

The Front Royal Women's Resource Center (FRWRC) is a 20-year-old non-profit organization, dedicated to providing a support network for women in the Warren County area through programs, information and education. Over the last two decades, FRWRC has provided networking opportunities, spotlighted women leaders in our community and awarded more than \$105,500 in grants and scholarships to 148 Warren County women and girls to support education, and professional and personal enrichment opportunities. We empower women to change their world. Visit our website frwrc.org and follow us on Twitter [@FRWRC](https://twitter.com/FRWRC).

Media Contact Information:

Rebecca Vaughan, FRWRC Dare to Dream Chairperson Email: rvaughan51@comcast.net Tel: 540-551-0799

or

Melanie Mullinax, FRWRC Communications Chairperson Email: melaniemullinax@comcast.net
Tel: 540-336-5444

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