West Virginia Health Right, Inc. is the state's oldest and largest free and charitable clinic. The organization was founded and continues to operate on the principle that everybody is entitled to quality health care regardless of financial or insurance status. Since its inception in 1982, WV Health Right has provided care and treatment to the working poor, uninsured, and underinsured adults of our state. The cornerstone of the clinic and its model of care is the 400+ volunteer medical and dental professionals who provide care to WV Health Right patients totally free of charge; they too share our mission and value our efforts to improve the quality of life for our medically at-risk, vulnerable neighbors. For 36 years, WV Health Right has continued to add services in response to identified community health needs. The clinic now provides on-site medical, dental, pharmaceutical, behavioral health, vision, addiction/harm reduction, and health education as well as mobile dental services and mobile harm reduction services. The clinic currently provides healthcare to over 25,500 unduplicated unique West Virginians in need.

The two latest additions to our clinic services are the mobile dental and harm reduction programs. The mobile dental clinic is a state-of-the-art clinic that consists of three dental chairs, a digital panorex, sterilization area, restroom, and a small waiting area. It is housed within a 38-foot gooseneck, pull behind trailer. The program launched in July 2017 to serve needy patients three days a week in McDowell, Logan, Boone, Roane, Harrison, and Clay counties. The staff consists of a WV Health Right dental assistant, a dental hygienist, and a CDL trained driver. Additionally, Marshall University provides a faculty dentist through their dental residency program. To date, the program has served 2,300 low income people with limited or no insurance with free dental cleanings, dental exams, X-rays, fillings, and extractions. The total value of services provided to date is over $650,000. The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation was one of the significant funders that made this much needed program possible.
In the fall of 2017, in response to the growing opioid epidemic and rising rates in cases of Hepatitis C, WV Health Right developed a partnership with the Charleston Area Medical Center’s Ryan White Program to offer mobile Harm Reduction services. Harm Reduction is a recognized best practice designed to link injection drug users with rehabilitation services through testing, counseling, and education. In addition, the program provides a supply of clean, retractable needles for those who are not yet ready to quit to help prevent the spread of disease. Participants are required to return all the retractable needles provided before more will be dispensed.

The overarching goal of Harm Reduction is to develop a relationship with the patient, identify any comorbidities contributing to their addiction (e.g., undiagnosed bipolar condition), eliminate barriers to treatment, and successfully help the patient commit to treatment and enter rehab. A psychologist/social worker meets one-on-one with each Harm Reduction participant to assess individual needs and to gauge readiness for rehabilitation. An equally important goal is to prevent the spread of infectious disease by providing clean needles and supplies for those who refuse to enter rehab immediately. The cost to treat just one case of Hepatitis C is nearly $100,000. Several southern WV counties have been identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to be among the most at-risk counties in the nation likely to have a Hepatitis C outbreak. The mobile Harm Reduction program goes to Covenant House in Charleston twice a month and to McDowell and Roane counties once monthly. These services have also been offered since 2011 at WV Health Right’s Charleston office, Monday through Friday, 8-4pm. The rate of entry into rehab is 33% or about 1 in 3 patients in the program. WV Health Right’s Harm Reduction model has strict compliance rules for participants and those not returning 100% of their needles are expelled from the program. These checks and balances are in place and conveyed to patients upon enrollment in order to balance the needs of the patient with the protection of the city’s first responders and citizens from discarded dirty needles.

These two innovative and deeply impactful programs designed to help improve the health and wellbeing of West Virginians in need could not be possible without the support of private donors and grants from foundations like The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation. WV Health Right remains committed to providing care for the most vulnerable among us through ensuring that the working poor have access to medical care, medications, testing, health education, dental care, and specialty care. Healthier, productive residents not only have an improved quality of life, but improve the vitality and quality of life for the entire community.

Dr. Christine Teague
WVHR Board member and Director of the Ryan White Program of Charleston, working with a patient of the mobile Harm Reduction
Citizens stepping up to address the effects of the opioid epidemic

In light of the opioid epidemic that is ravaging West Virginia, many of us are feeling the fierce urgency to take action. This epidemic poses public health, public safety, educational, and economic challenges that are encumbering many units of government as well as the private sector and individual families.

In a February 6, 2018 article in the *Charleston Gazette-Mail* Newspapers, Eric Eyre reported that “the opioid epidemic is costing West Virginia’s economy an estimated $8.8 billion a year; according to an analysis by a researcher at the American Enterprise Institute.” The newspaper article also reported that West Virginia’s economic burden from the opioid crisis was calculated to be $4,793 per resident and our state has the highest drug overdose death rate in the nation (881 in 2016). For comparison sake, at $465 per resident, Nebraska had the lowest economic burden from the crisis.

“It’s a health problem of unbelievable proportions, and it’s also an economic problem. It’s hurting our economy significantly,” said Bill Crouch, who heads the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. “It’s also a social services problem — 83 percent of our children in foster care are in foster care because of the drug problem.”

At TGKVF, we are grateful for the hardworking nonprofits that tackle the opioid issue daily, as well as the generous partners who establish donor-advised funds to assist. The Bridge of Hope Fund and the C. C. Dickinson Family Giving Circle are two fine examples of this proactive kindness and foresight.

Established by Fruth Pharmacy’s Lynne Fruth in late 2017, the Bridge of Hope Fund supports “training and education for people in recovery.” The Fund has already surpassed its annual development goal of $100,000. Starting in 2018, the fund will award scholarships of at least $1,000 and thus assist eligible applicants in achieving their educational goals. Ms. Fruth envisions that this financial support will equip award recipients with new skills as they traverse the path to economic stability. For its first round of scholarships, the Fund is accepting applications through May 15, 2018. To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be in recovery from drug addiction;
- Have completed a recovery program and demonstrate good standing in regards to the recovery program’s after care requirements; and
- Actively participate in a mutual aid group or alternative peer support group.

An independent scholarship committee reviews applications and recommends award recipients to TGKVF’s Board of Trustees. Applications are available online at https://tgkvf.org/special-initiatives/bridge-hope-scholarship/

The C.C. Dickinson Family Giving Circle is another example of a donor-advised fund intending to support those in substance abuse recovery. Three generations of C. C. Dickinson’s family members came together in 2016 to establish a family giving circle. With assistance from TGKVF’s staff, family circle members selected “women...
transitioning out of substance abuse treatment” as a 2017 funding priority area. Community Access, Inc. and Rea of Hope Fellowship Home, Inc. were the first two grantees.

The Community Access, Inc. program “Horses & Journeys: Women’s Wellness” combines equine-assisted therapy and wellness with guided hiking to assist women exiting substance abuse treatment identify and strengthen their practices for wellness. The project promotes healthy lifestyles and helps develop natural and community-based supports. Through the program, Community Access provides a resource for the continued clinical support that isn’t otherwise available through current insurance markets, and without the stigma that often marks traditional substance abuse treatment.

The Rea of Hope Sober Living Facility offers another path to recovery. The facility provides safe, affordable housing for West Virginia women and their minor children in a positive homelike environment that is focused on recovery from alcohol and drug addiction and the development of self-sufficiency. Historically, all residents successfully complete substance abuse treatment in an inpatient or outpatient setting.

Community Access, Inc. and Rea of Hope are two programs working toward epidemic solutions; however, overcoming the opioid crisis will take all of us working together in harmony. To this end, TGKVF invited Dr. Jean Bennett, the Regional Director of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to deliver the keynote address at our May 15 Annual Report to the Community. Dr. Bennett will focus on solutions and help us explore ways to support each other’s efforts.

Thank you to all of the donors, organizations, individuals, and volunteers working toward solutions. We hope to help strengthen all community partnerships and deepen our connections in response to this issue. While there may be no “one size fits all” approach to recovery, we firmly believe that it will take all of us working together. TGKVF is gearing up to play an even greater role in alleviating the opioid epidemic and we welcome you to activate your gifts and join us.

Reserve your seat by emailing jpowell@tgkvf.org or calling 304.346.3620 by May 4, 2018
Victor Grigoraci: With new tax law, consider options for your charitable giving
(Charleston Gazette-Mail Mar 16, 2018)

FestivALL Charleston is pleased to announce that we have established a donor-advised fund with The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation to build a future fund for supporting year-round FestivALL events.

Both FestivALL and the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation enhance “All the Arts All Over Town.” We have changed the landscape of our community.

According to foundation President and CEO Michelle Foster, donor-advised funds allow current federal income deductions of charitable contributions made to a foundation, even though the gifts to the charities you select are distributed at a later date and can be distributed years in the future.

**Donor-advised funds**

With a gift of $10,000 or more, a donor may create a donor-advised fund at the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation. According to the foundation:

- The fund can have its own name and charitable purposes.
- A donor reserves the right to make grant recommendations to specific charities.
- Such a fund allows donors to vary charitable contributions from year to year.
- It encourages philanthropy of future generations.
- Investments, paperwork and grantee monitoring are done by the foundation, with recognition to the donor.
- More information is available by calling foundation President Michelle Foster, 304-346-3620 or by visiting tgkvf.org.

For example, if you establish a donor-advised fund with the foundation, or other qualified organization, with say $10,000 or even a much greater amount, such contribution would be currently deductible for federal income tax purposes. Then, over the time that you would select, with limited exceptions, the distributions may be made to the charities that you select. The fund has the potential to grow income tax-free, although the fund would have nominal management fees.

For 2018, federal income tax law increased the standard deduction to $12,000 per taxpayer and $24,000 for joint filers. The itemized deduction for state and local taxes is now limited to $10,000 per single or couple filers, and miscellaneous itemized deductions are not generally allowed.

It is, thus, my suggestion that you may want to plan your charitable contributions to alternate in some fashion to itemize large charitable contribution deductions when warranted and to claim the standard deduction at other times.

For example, Mary and Bill usually make charitable gifts of $10,000 a year and have other itemized deductions, all totaling $20,000. In this case, the standard deduction would be greater at $24,000 on a joint return. On the other hand, if they gave $10,000 for the current year and prepaid $10,000 for 2019, they would have a
$30,000 deduction for the current year, skip the charitable deduction for the next year and claim the $24,000 standard deduction in 2019. They would be ahead with a $6,000 deduction for both years combined.

Now, with a donor-advised fund contribution of say $50,000 by Mary and Bill, there would be a full current deduction (unless subject to percentage limitations) and they could use the standard deduction for the next four years, and still make annual charitable distributions of $10,000 per year using their donor-advised fund. Another advantage of the standard deduction is that it simplifies filing income tax returns.

Another idea is the IRA direct transfer to charities. Individuals 70½ and older may give as much as $100,000 annually from their traditional IRAs directly to charities. If married, the spouse can also give $100,000 from separate IRAs. The beauty here is that the transfers count as required minimum distributions and are not taxable income; nor is there an income tax deduction. Plus, there is no addition to adjusted gross income for other tax purposes.

Simply stated, the transfer satisfies your charitable goals and required minimum distribution; your personal income tax return is not affected, and this also saves West Virginia personal income taxes by not being in adjusted gross income.

Cash is always a great gift. But, many other ways are available for charitable giving, including using appreciated long-term capital-gain assets (fair market value deduction with no taxable income); giving a residence, while continuing to live in it (present value deduction of the residual value); life insurance; or certain annuities.

Here is an important planning idea: Anyone in business who makes charitable contributions may fare better by sponsoring an event with promotional value, which results in a direct business expense, thus avoiding charitable planning techniques.

This article has tried to share charitable giving ideas for all your interests. I hope that FestivALL is on your list for current gifts, including sponsorships, and to help us grow our future donor-advised fund at the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation. Call 304-470-0489 with questions, or email director@festivallcharleston.com.

P.S.: This article is not intended to give financial and/or tax advice. Therefore, consult your advisers for professional advice before taking any action.

Victor Grigoraci is a CPA, Charleston’s city treasurer and a FestivALL board member.
The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation (TGKVF) Board of Trustees approved the distribution of eight grants totaling $256,933. One of these grants will support the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department’s Harm Reduction program. Below Derek (named changed), a 2016 program participant, tells his story:

“I was an opiate addict for 17 years. I did not come for help, just needles. Upon arrival, Rachel, a recovery coach, approached me. She gave me her number to call if I wanted help but didn’t pressure me. This was the only judgment-free environment I had ever experienced around healthcare professionals. The nurses there made it feel okay to be honest, which was difficult based on the way I was living my life. I did not stop getting high that day or that week. I visited the program for the next few months and was always treated like a person. That’s what I remember most; that nowhere else in my life was I treated as a human being during my addiction. On February 28th, with over a foot of snow in Charleston, I was freezing to death in my car. I messaged Rachel who said to call when I was ready to quit. Three days later, I had a bed at Recovery Point Huntington. After completing their program (10 months), I became a peer mentor. During that time, I helped others through the program and 12-step recovery. Now I live in Parkersburg and work as a staff member for a new Recovery Point. I contribute to society in ways that I never dreamed of while in active addiction. I make sure when telling my story that my recovery journey may have never happened for me without first attending the needle exchange/harm reduction program in Charleston.”

TGKVF awarded two responsive grants totaling $40,000 to Arts & Culture programs and six grants totaling $216,933 in the Foundation’s proactive priority areas of Education, Health, and Community Economic Development.

**Community Access, Incorporated - Horses & Journeys: Warrior Wellness: $15,000 (Health)**

Funding will support the Horses & Journeys: Warrior Wellness project, which assists active duty military service members and veterans identify and strengthen their practices for wellness. The project combines equine-assisted learning with guided hiking activities. Horses and Journeys, now in its third year of funding from TGKVF, promotes healthy lifestyles and strengthens natural and community-based supports. The project will also serve first-responders in 2018.

“I have attended Warrior Wellness for 2 years, and the program has continued to help me focus on my personal wellness. Attending sessions with other Veterans creates a comfortable environment and helps remind me that I am not alone.”

– Program Participant

**Kanawha Charleston Health Department - Harm Reduction Syringe Service Program Expansion: $55,000 (Health)**

The Kanawha-Charleston Health Department Harm Reduction/Syringe Service Program Expansion is a community-wide initiative to address the spread of blood-borne pathogens by offering clean syringes and wraparound services to people experiencing substance abuse issues. The program, which is in its second year of support from TGKVF, provides participants with identification cards, treatment and recovery, testing, and primary care services to individuals that inject drugs. This grant will fund supplies.

“I contribute to society in ways I never dreamed of while in addiction. I make sure when telling my story that my journey in recovery may have never happened for me without first attending the needle exchange/harm reduction program in Charleston.”

– Demian a 2016 participant at the Kanawha County Harm reduction program in Charleston and opiate addict for 17 years.
WVU Extension Services -
STEM Ambassador Program: $53,500
(Education)
The STEM Ambassador Program provides STEM-learning opportunities for K-12 youth in each of the counties TGKVF serves. The college students who serve as STEM Ambassadors plan and implement community STEM programs during 4-H camps, community events, and public programming. Now in its fourth year of funding from TGKVF, this program encourages participants to aspire to careers in STEM and lifelong learning. This grant will support Ambassador stipends and sustainability efforts.

The Education Alliance -
Born Learning Academy: $12,840 (Education)
The Born Learning Academy program connects schools with families of young children during the early learning (birth to Pre-K) critical period, before school enrollment. Families participate in “academy” training where they learn how to create teachable moments for their children. This is the third TGKVF grant that the program will receive; funding supports staff, family-style dinners for participants, and program incentives.

Legal Aid of West Virginia - Lawyer in the School Program: $34,593 (Education)
This program helps to stabilize the lives of Mary C. Snow West Side Elementary students, by providing onsite legal assistance to their families. Legal assistance is provided on issues like eviction, disrupted income, and legal custody for caregivers. In doing so, the project seeks to reduce childhood trauma and promote the home environment necessary for educational success. This is the first grant that TGKVF has awarded to the program. Funding will support the on-site attorney and family workshop events.

FestivALL, Charleston, West Virginia, Inc. -
FestivALL 2018: $25,000 (Arts/Culture)
FestivALL 2018 includes music, theatre, dance, visual art, humanities performance and learning opportunities. This annual festival features a combination of local, regional, and national artists. This grant award will help fund nine specific FestivALL events.

“We had a group of 5 friends, all female, that attended camp. By the end of the week, all they were more interested in STEM and a couple of them were now considering STEM careers.”

“We had one new family for our December meeting. They were a lower income family and kept talking about how nice it was. The mother could not spell her child’s name. She however wanted to benefit her child. Even though we only reached one new family that night I feel it was beneficial.”

“Being able to provide assistance where it is truly needed was beneficial to both those served by the clinic and the participants from the firm. We look forward to our continuing involvement with this worthy and needed endeavor.”

– Michael Victorson, Member of and General Counsel to Jackson Kelly Law Firm and LAWYER IN THE SCHOOL volunteer

“When I want to nourish my soul, I look to FestivALL.”
**WV Community Development Hub - Energizing Entrepreneurial Community Development in Lincoln and Boone Counties: $46,000 (CED)**

This project will invest in the diversified growth of the Madison (Boone County) and Hamlin (Lincoln County) business communities by supporting small business growth and sustainability. This project, which is in its second year of funding from TGKVF, will continue to: (1) promote diverse, locally driven leadership teams who build economic diversification strategies; (2) energize entrepreneurial community development. TGKVF funding will support community leadership teams that provide services to local area entrepreneurs.

“Many entrepreneurial programs develop the business resources and then wait for users/customers to show up. E-Communities program is different in that it reaches out directly to business owners, inviting their input.”

**West Virginia Symphony Orchestra - Symphony Sunday 2018: $15,000 (Arts/Culture)**

This funding will assist the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra (WVSO) in engaging an estimated 9,000 people in the power of music on Symphony Sunday. The free outdoor concert will feature WVSO, West Virginia Youth Symphony, and other West Virginia performers and artists on June 3, 2018, at the University of Charleston. Symphony Sunday will also offer children’s games, food, and fireworks.

“Thank you WVSO for sharing the joys of music with me and for helping me reach my full potential.”

– a former member of the West Virginia Youth Symphony and James & Ruth Kessler String Educator Program

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**FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHT**

**Angela Dobson**

Financial Assistant

Angela Dobson, a native of Dunbar, is the Financial Assistant at The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation. She started working with the Foundation in October 2017. Before joining the Foundation, Angela worked 17 years for the Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action, Inc. (KISRA) as Executive Assistant to the CEO and then as the Quality Financial Manager. Angela loves to travel, read fictional books and enjoys sporting events. She and her husband are very family-oriented and are proud of their three children.