



William O. Lockridge COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

EMPOWERING. EDUCATING. ENRICHING.

The William O. Lockridge Community Foundation, founded in 2011, is a non-profit organization located in Southeast Washington, D.C. The Foundation promotes access to higher education to students in Wards 7 and 8 by offering scholarships, transportation assistance to college and international travel.

Spread Your Wings

Volume 6: Edition 4

December 31, 2024

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER/CHAIRWOMAN

Dear Friends,

Happy Holidays to you and yours from the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation (WOLCF)!

During this festive season, I am reminded of the words of the late American poet, author and civil rights activist, Maya Angelou: "When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed"

The WOLCF is very thankful for your support of our impactful work in Wards 7 and 8 since the Spring of 2011.

Thanks to your support, the WOLCF is closing out 2024 on a very high note. For example, over 100 Ward 7 and 8 high school seniors have received scholarships totaling over \$350,000. Last July, we also took a delegation of four Class of 2024 Lockridge Student Ambassadors to the East African nation of Madagascar.



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WOLCF HONORED BY THE CENTER FOR NONPROFIT ADVANCEMENT

The WOLCF is honored to have been selected as a participant in the 2024-2025 Center for Nonprofit Advancement Chief Executive Leaders Ascend Program (CELAP). Thanks to JPMorgan Chase and the Jane Bancroft Robinson Foundation, CELAP provides grantmaking, capacity building, and wellness to support Black women non-profit leaders in Wards 7 and 8.

As a CELAP participant, the WOLCF will receive customized capacity-building support and a \$25K grant to help further its mission. We're excited for what's to come!

Thank you to the Center for Nonprofit Advancement and congratulations to all the CELAP grantees.



About the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation:

Founded in 2011, the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation (WOLCF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the educational aspirations of students in Wards 7 and 8 in Southeast Washington, D.C. Our mission is to ensure students have access to higher education through scholarships, emergency financial aid, and international travel opportunities. WOLCF initiatives include the Emergency Financial Assistance Fund, the International Ambassadors Program, the U.S. Foreign Service Initiative, Showcase Southeast and various scholarship programs aimed at helping students achieve their academic dreams.

To learn more about the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation, visit www.WilliamLockridgeCommunityFoundation.org

cont.

BOARDMEMBER OF YEAR



Tiffany L. Brown has been recognized as the Board Member of the Year for her leadership, dedication, and commitment to the organization's mission. As the Chair of the Scholarship Committee, Tiffany has played a pivotal role in shaping opportunities for scholars, ensuring that students receive the support they need to pursue their educational goals. Her tireless efforts have been instrumental in maintaining the integrity and success of the scholarship program. In addition to her work on the Scholarship Committee, Tiffany has gone above and beyond, she successfully maintained sponsorships for the highly anticipated "Dancing with the Stars" (DWTS) fundraiser, ensuring its continued impact and success. Moreover, her ability to identify and secure a new sponsor reflects her dedication to advancing the organization's financial health and sustainability. Tiffany's exemplary contributions embody the spirit of service, making her a deserving recipient of the Board Member of the Year Award.

Congratulations Tiffany!

In addition, we held two sessions of the U.S. Foreign Service Initiative (USFSI), introducing local students to careers in international affairs. We launched the Showcase Southeast Initiative which introduced students to physical art, dance and music production. On November 9th, over 200 friends and supporters of the WOLCF attended *Dancing with the Scholars (DWTS) XIV* at THEARC for a celebratory evening of music and dance competition.

President Joe Biden, U.S. Embassies on the African continent, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, the DC Council, and a host of local community organizations have recognized the work of the WOLCF.

I look forward to an even more successful 2025 with your continued support.

Thank you again, and I wish you a Blessed New Year!

Wanda D. Lockridge
Founder & Chairwoman

The Spice is Right



Ginger is used in many forms during the holiday season. In powdered form, it is used in many recipes, from cakes to cookies to meat dishes. The root may also be ground and used in culinary dishes. It may also be candied or used to produce ginger ale and ginger beer, popular drinks during holiday celebrations.

DANCING WITH THE SCHOLARS (DWTS) XIV

On November 9th, the WOLCF hosted its annual fundraiser at THEARC in Southeast Washington, DC, *Dancing with the Scholars (DWTS) XIV*. This year's theme was "Shine Like a Diamond," and featured student dancers from Ballou, Bard, and KIPP Legacy, along with school administrators and educators. Once again, we welcomed our favorite Mistress of Ceremony, Britt Waters of ABC7, and DJ Flava from 93.9 WKYS provided entertainment.

The Ballou dance team retained their first-place title as they were victorious in the dance competition, earning the \$500.00 prize, followed by KIPP Legacy and Bard, respectively, in second and third places, with prizes of \$250 and \$100.00. Our returning judges, Chairman Phil Mendelson, Dr. Carlene Reid, SBOE, Ward 8 Representative, and Eboni-Rose Thompson, SBOE Ward 7 Representative had the tough job of judging the amazing dance teams.

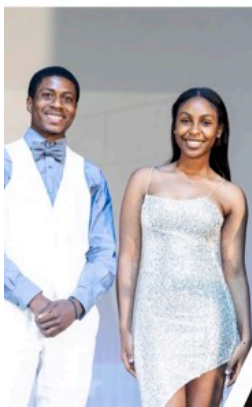
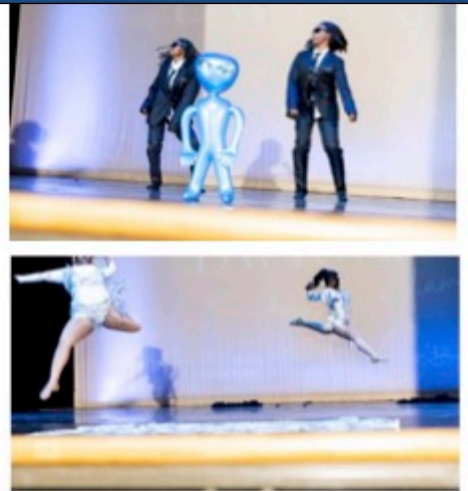
The WOLCF was honored to pay special tribute to the Honorable Vincent C. Gray, Ward 7 Councilmember. He has long supported the WOLCF and has previously judged our dance competition. As his public service legacy draws to a close, we were proud to honor him.



DID YOU KNOW?

According to the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, over 46% of DC public school students are enrolled in charter schools, making DC's participation rate one of the highest in the nation.

DANCING WITH THE SCHOLARS (DWTS) XIV CONT...



**Top: Left to Right
Bottom: Left to Right**

Sheila Bunn (center) receives award on behalf of Vincent C. Gray (Councilmember Trayon White, Chairman Phil Mendelson, Wanda Lockridge, and Councilmember Brianne Nadeau)

Jazzmyne Townsend, DC Teacher of the Year & Guest Speaker, presented with Flowers

Britt Waters, Mistress of Ceremony

Judges: Chairman Phil Mendelson, Dr. Carlene Reid (SBOE, Ward 8 Representative, and Eboni Rose Thompson (SBOE, Ward 7 Representative)

WOLCF 2024 International Ambassadors (Jaylen Parker, Amber Jackson, Tyler Branch

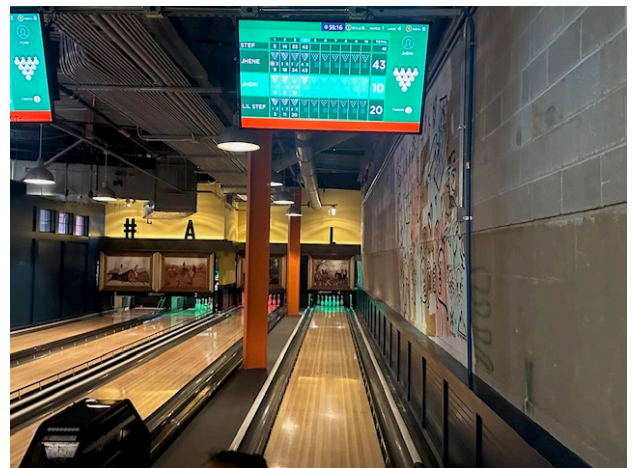
DJ Flava, 93.9 WYKS

WOLCF: HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

On December 22nd, the WOLCF hosted its annual holiday celebration at Punch Bowl Social in Arlington, VA. The event brought together board members for an evening filled with fun and camaraderie. Members enjoyed a variety of activities, including bowling, karaoke, and arcade games, creating a festive atmosphere that embodied the spirit of the season.

A highlight of the evening was the WOLCF Gift Exchange. Each member received a gift, but there was a playful twist: members picked a wrapped gift and could either keep their gift, exchange it with another player's gift, or select a new gift from the unchosen pile. The game added excitement and laughter to the celebration as members strategized and swapped gifts in good fun.

The event also included a special moment of recognition, as Tiffany L. Browne was honored as the 2024 Board Member of the Year. Her unwavering commitment to the Foundation's mission and her dedication throughout the year were celebrated by all in attendance. The evening served as a joyful reflection of the WOLCF's impact and the collective efforts of its members.

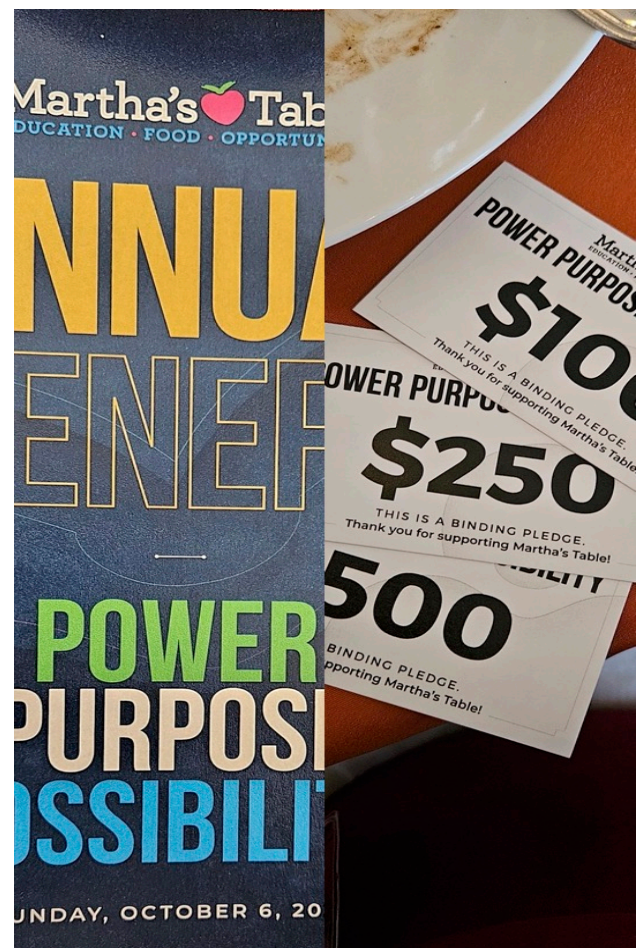


WOLCF In the House at Martha's Table Annual Benefit

On October 7th, the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation (WOLCF) was honored to attend Martha's Table's Annual Benefit, *Power, Purpose, Possibility*. This event celebrated the transformative impact of community leadership and philanthropy in the Washington, D.C. region. The benefit brought together influential community members and organizations dedicated to advancing equity and opportunity for all.

The evening recognized two outstanding honorees, Kathy Hughes and Joe Houston, Jr., also known as Mr. WeFitDC, for their contributions to the community. Kathy Hughes, a media pioneer and founder of Urban One, was celebrated for her decades-long commitment to uplifting diverse voices. Joe Houston, Jr., a fitness advocate and community leader, was acknowledged for his dedication to health and wellness initiatives that empower individuals and families across the District, practically, Wards 7 and 8.

The event highlighted Martha's Table's mission to support strong children, strong families, and strong communities. The WOLCF's presence at the benefit reflected its shared commitment to fostering opportunities for our Wards 7 and 8 Scholars.



The U.S. Foreign Service Initiative (USFSI) is a six-week program that exposes high school students to public and private-sector careers in international affairs. It will commence on January 18 and ends March 15th. Four student participants from the program will be selected as the Class of 2025 WOLCF Student International Ambassadors for travel to the Republic of Angola next July.

A virtual information session will be held on Saturday, January 11th at noon.

Register @
<https://tinyurl.com/USFSIInfo2025>

ANNOUNCEMENTS



DEADLINE
January 31, 2025

Join the WOLCF Youth/ Young Adult Committee

Are you a young leader passionate about making a difference in your community? Do you want to help shape programs that support youth education, travel, and leadership development? If so, the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation (WOLCF) wants YOU!

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Share ideas and help plan WOLCF events and initiatives
- Serve as an ambassador for the Foundation within your school and community

READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Empower yourself. Empower your community. Join the WOLCF Youth & Young Adult Committee today!

WHO CAN JOIN?

- Youth/Young adults ages 16-24
- Residents of Wards 7 & 8
- Individuals passionate about education, leadership and community service

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- Leadership Opportunities
- Community Impact
- Networking

Help us shape the future of education and empowerment in Wards 7 & 8, apply today at <https://tinyurl.com/WOLCFYouth>

For more information, please contact us @ info@WilliamLockridgeCommunityFoundation.org



The William O. Lockridge Community Foundation
U.S. FOREIGN SERVICE Initiative
Coming Soon

Sessions begin
Jan. 18, 2024

Students receive a passport and community service hours after successfully completing the program.

Join us for an information session on
January 11, 2024 @ 12:00 P.M.

Register for the information session @
<http://tinyurl.com/USFSIInfo2025> or scan the QR Code

The USFSI exposes Wards 7 & 8 high school students to careers in international affairs. It is a six-session program that provides learning experiences on topics including:

- Media
- International Trade
- Diplomacy
- Environment/Land Resources
- Travel/Tourism (African History)
- Culture (Fashion & Food)

Use the link below to register for the sessions
<https://tinyurl.com/USFSIJan2025>

contact info: info@WilliamLockridgeCommunityFoundation.org

IN THE NEWS

Black Female Non-profit Leaders Get \$25,000 *(The Washington Informer)*

Eight Black female leaders of nonprofits in the District's Wards 7 and 8 are recipients of the second cohort of the Chief Executive Leadership Ascend Program

Read full article below.

"Let It Be Known" (LIBK)

On October 17th, WOLCF Board Member Austin R. Cooper, Jr., was interviewed on the National Newspaper Publishers Association's (NNPA) program, "Let It Be Known" (LIBK). He discussed DWTS XIV and the impact of the WOLCF in Wards 7 and 8.

Click below for the full interview.

Dancing with the Scholars XIV: Shine Bright Like a Diamond *(The Narrative Matters)*

Celebrate and dance at the Dancing with the Scholars XIV, embracing the vibrant theme "Shine Bright Like a Diamond."

Read full article below.

DWTS XIV A Night Filled with Entertainment and Empowerment *(The Washington Informer)*

Vincent C. Gray, Councilmember, Ward 7 honored and Ballou dance team wins first place.

Read full article below.

Meet the Board of Directors

Wanda D. Lockridge, *Founder/Chairwoman*

Stefan Lockridge, *Vice Chairman & Scholarship/
Development Committee*

Linval Crosdale, *Treasurer*

Tori Hawkins, *Secretary & Scholarship/
Development Committee*

Yvette Alexander, *Public Relations Committee*

Tiffany L. Brown, *Chair, Scholarship/Program
Development Committee*

Austin R. Cooper, Jr., *Chair, Public Relations
Committee & US Foreign Service Initiative*

Angela Chester-Johnson, *Scholarship/Program
Development Committee & US Foreign Service
Initiative*

Adewale Farid

Jaren Hill Lockridge, *Events Planning Committee*

Jacque Patterson, *Chair, Fundraising Committee*

Tatiana Robinson, *Chair, Young Adult Committee*

**Click on the link below and learn about the
leadership team of the WOLCF**

Upcoming Events

U.S. Foreign Service Initiative

January 18 – March 15, 2025

Dancing with the Scholars XV

November 8, 2025

Committees

Events Planning

Sheila Bunn, *Co-Chair*

Barbara Jones, *Co-Chair*

Yolanda Fields

Fundraiser

See Board of Directors

Public Relations

David Beckford

Scholarship/Program Development

See Board of Directors

Young Adult

Jamarah Bowman

Rashema Melson

Terra Minor

Myniah Sweetney

US Foreign Service Initiative (Ad Hoc)

Ada Anagho Brown

Greg Simpkins

Contact Us

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William-O-Lockridge



PO Box 54012

Washington, DC 20032

202.810-9478 direct / 202.478.0499 fax

www.WilliamLockridgeCommunityFoundation.org