

News Release

Comptroller Honors Eastern Shore Schaefer Award Recipients

*Winners selected for dedication to local causes, people
in need*

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 13, 2021) - Comptroller Peter Franchot today [virtually presented](#) the William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award to recipients in Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester counties.

"These recipients have positively impacted the most vulnerable members of their communities by feeding the hungry, protecting our natural resources and redirecting children to healthier, more fulfilling lives, and so much more," Comptroller Franchot said. "They are heroes dedicated to lifting up those who need a helping hand."

[Choptank Community Health](#) received the nod for Caroline County. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Choptank stepped up to become the county's primary testing center and partner in the battle to successfully contain the spread of the virus, while continuing to provide quality, integrated health care for residents in need.

In Dorchester County, the [Friends of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge](#) was chosen for their tireless advocacy on behalf of the nation's premier migratory bird refuge. Their fundraising and educational efforts will help to preserve this precious natural resource for generations.

Larry Wilson, chief morale officer at the [Kent Center](#), received the Helping People Award for Kent County. He has spent his life in service to others by assisting adults with developmental disabilities to reach their full potential. Additionally, as president of the [Sumner Hall](#) board, Mr. Wilson honors the lives and deeds of black U.S. Civil War veterans at one of the only remaining African American Grand Army of the Republic buildings in the nation.

Queen Anne's County winner Sharon Robinson was chosen for her dedication to improving the lives of underserved and minority youth. She volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate and founded [The Beauty of Being Black](#) to introduce youth to the history of African Americans, inspiring them through tours of historically black colleges and universities.

Shawna Kearsley, the Somerset County recipient, used the arts to drive economic development in Crisfield. When the pandemic hit, she quickly pivoted and turned the [Crisfield Arts Syndicate](#) into a food distribution hub, partnering with [Perdue Farms](#) and other businesses to meet critical needs.

Talbot County Schaefer recipient Trish Payne represents the underserved in her role as executive director of [St. Michaels Community Center](#). Through initiatives like the St. Michaels Youth and Law Enforcement (S.M.Y.L.E.) program, she pushed for healthier, brighter futures for every resident. Trish turned the community center into the heart and soul of St. Michaels, providing critical resources to area residents in good times and in bad.

Amber Greene, founder of the [Fenix Youth Project](#), was chosen as the Wicomico County recipient for her work transforming marginalized youth in her community into vibrant thought leaders. The program provides essential resources and shelter for those experiencing homelessness, while Greene's education, culture and arts programming has become key to the success of participants.

Worcester County recipient Kim Klump is a hero born from heartache. After losing her son to suicide in 2009, she founded the [Jesse Klump Memorial Fund](#) to raise awareness, engage in outreach and provide support to prevent more tragedies. The Fund also provides scholarships and grants to those who establish mental health programs through the annual [Jesse's Paddle fundraiser](#).

Since 2012, Comptroller Franchot has presented Schaefer Awards to individuals or organizations serving their community in each of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions. This year due to continued COVID-19 concerns, [all award presentations will be held virtually](#). Press releases will be sent announcing the honorees in each region, along with video links to view the virtual ceremonies.

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