

News Release

Comptroller Franchot Presents William Donald Schaefer Awards

Five recipients in Baltimore City and northern suburbs honored

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 19, 2021) - Comptroller Franchot today [virtually presented](#) the William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award to honorees in Baltimore City, and Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil and Harford counties.

“The past year has shined an even brighter light than normal on the many selfless individuals and organizations who are transforming lives by helping those in need each and every day to strengthen our communities,” Comptroller Franchot said. “Now more than ever, we need these leaders in our lives and each of these award recipients serve as an inspiration to me and others. I am truly blown away by their passion and altruistic spirit.”

[Reading Partners Baltimore](#) received the nod in Baltimore City for their tireless efforts to ensure underserved children are reading at grade level, empowering them to succeed in school and in life. Senior Executive Director Jeffrey Zwillenberg, his staff and entire team of volunteers have positively impacted the lives of thousands of young people through their evidence-based children's literacy program.

In Baltimore County, George E. White was selected the Helping People award recipient for his work on behalf of the homeless, which includes daily bread deliveries and frequent clothing donations to county shelters. Through his [Connecting the Dots Ministry](#), Mr. White has linked the county's vulnerable population with the resources they desperately need.

Sixth-grader Jameson Greenwood, founder of the nonprofit [Replay Hampstead](#), received the Carroll County Schaefer Award for his work providing struggling families with donated equipment and paying for registration fees so their children can participate in sports.

Raymond Lynn, Cecil County's former [heroin outreach coordinator](#), was chosen for his unwavering determination to change the lives of children victimized by the

opioid epidemic. The retired Maryland State Police trooper was committed to securing free assistance that helped young people overcome their struggles so they could pursue healthy, productive lives.

In Harford County, Melynda Velez and her staff at [LASOS](#) (Linking All So Others Succeed) were honored with the Schaefer Award for providing a network of services for newly-arrived nonnative English speaking immigrants to help them assimilate into American society. Adult literacy and citizenship classes, at-risk youth development programs and translation services are just a few of the critically needed programs they offer.

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

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