

Love in Action: Why We Give

February is often associated with love. Romantic gestures, handwritten notes, small moments that remind us we matter to one another. At The Didlake Foundation, we believe love shows up in another powerful way too: through giving.

When you give, you're investing in dignity, opportunity, and possibility. You're helping ensure that adults with disabilities have access to meaningful work, community connection, and the support they need to thrive. That's love in action and it's something we're proud to build together with this community.

As we look ahead to an exciting year, we're thrilled to share that our Gala website is officially live! Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are now available, and we would love for you to be part of this evening as we celebrate impact and look boldly toward the future.

Whether you join us in the room, support as a sponsor, or help spread the word, your involvement matters more than you know.

Thank you for continuing to show up with generosity, compassion, and heart.

Visit the Gala site to purchase tickets or explore sponsorship opportunities today.

With gratitude,



Kelsey DeWispelaere, CFRE, ACNP
Executive Director
The Didlake Foundation, Inc.



The Didlake Difference Podcast

Have you caught the latest episode of The Didlake Difference?

In this episode, Erica sits down with Bernice Martin Lee, President & CEO of the Epilepsy Foundation of America, a nonprofit leader with more than 25 years of experience in healthcare and philanthropy.

Bee shares her powerful journey as a woman of color living with epilepsy, from her first seizures in college to becoming the leader of a national organization dedicated to making sure no one faces epilepsy alone.

Together, they unpack what true health equity looks like, how storytelling can fight stigma, and why centering lived experience changes the way we design services and supports for people with disabilities and chronic health conditions.

You'll also hear how the Epilepsy Foundation is innovating with technology, data, and partnerships to better serve the 3.4 million people in the U.S. living with epilepsy - and what all of us can do to be better allies in our own communities.

<https://didlakemediaworks.podbean.com/>



Project SEARCH is an international transition program for students ages 18-21 with an Applied Studies Diploma. Didlake supports five programs across Virginia, partnering with schools and businesses to offer 9-10 month unpaid internships that combine classroom instruction with hands-on workplace training.

Recently, interns at UVA Health Prince William Medical Center connected with the community through the Manassas Christmas Parade, volunteer service at the VictorWear Expo, and career exploration at the Manassas Regional Airport Aviation Fair building social skills, confidence, and job readiness along the way.



Project SEARCH Internship Program
UVA Health Prince William Medical Center

Didlake



In the Spotlight

Congratulations to Dr. Rachel Payne, who was recently nominated for the Prince William Living Influential Women Award!

This well-deserved recognition celebrates Dr. Payne's leadership, advocacy, and lasting impact across our community. Her work reflects a deep commitment to service, collaboration, and creating opportunities that strengthen Prince William County and beyond.

➔ [Learn more about the Influential Women Awards and Dr. Payne's nomination by clicking here!](#)