

A Message from Our Chairman, Bernard McFadden



I am excited about serving my community in the capacity of chairman of The HORD Foundation for the next two years. The HORD Foundation is a volunteer organization consisting of more than 300 motivated and high achieving volunteers from Danbury and surrounding towns. My association with The Hord Foundation has afforded an opportunity to develop some wonderful relationships that will serve to enhance the mission of the foundation.

I was born in Kingstree, S.C., a small, rural farming community between Myrtle Beach and Charleston. I am the youngest of 12 children. The lives of my parents taught and reinforced values that have guided my personal and professional life. These include: effective leadership, strong work ethic, and commitment to raising a family and giving back to the community. Their active involvement in the causes they believed in, as well as their willingness to take personal risks for those causes, continues to inspire and motivate me.

I am married to my high school sweetheart, Betty, and we have two children. Matthew is a graduate of Newtown High School and currently a computer science and engineering major at the University of Virginia. Our daughter, Nikia, is an active senior at Newtown High who will be attending Yale, Wharton or Duke this fall.

After graduating from high school, I earned a bachelor of science degree in Business Management at Providence College in Providence, R.I. I am currently the director of credit and new business operations for Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services. I am fortunate to work for a company like Pitney Bowes, which encourages its employees to participate in the community and supports them in their efforts. Pitney Bowes also contributes to an annual scholarship administered by the foundation.

2007 Chairman's Goals

I have four major objectives for the foundation this year:

1. To develop a comprehensive database of Hord Scholars and supporters and a process to maintain and update the database
2. To fully use the resources of our alumni through the establishment of a robust Alumni Development Program
3. To create, in addition to the our annual fundraising gala, another major fundraising event, ideally during the summer when our current Hord Scholars are home and can participate
4. To establish frequent and consistent communication with the community through website development, newsletters and annual reports

Danbury Couple Honored at Annual Gala

The Hord Foundation Annual Gala Charity Ball is a major fundraiser that permits The HORD Foundation to make its needs known directly to major contributors. Attendance at the ball this year reached 403 versus 371 last year. The master of ceremonies at this year's gala was Latanya Farrell of West Hartford, a teacher and singer and past foundation scholarship recipient. In 2003, Farrell was named Western Connecticut State University's Educator of the Decade.



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Congratulations!

HORD Foundation Receives State Award

The HORD Foundation received the State of Connecticut Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission Community Service Award at a ceremony at the state Capitol in January.

"The HORD Foundation's service to the community is without comparison, and we are pleased that by helping others, you have helped to keep 'The Dream' alive," wrote Dennis James King, chairman of the commission, in a letter to The Hord Foundation announcing the award.

Dennis King quoted the Rev. Martin Luther King, writing:

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. The true neighbor will risk his position, his prestige and even his life for the welfare of others."

George Coleman, acting commissioner of education and a member of The Hord Foundation Board of Trustees, said, "It is really gratifying that a statewide commission acknowledges the valuable work done by The Hord Foundation in furthering the work of Dr. Martin Luther King in assuring that all young people have access to the education that will allow them to be fully participating citizens."

Calendar of Events

January	HORD Foundation receives state award
February 23	Annual gala
March	College Push – assistance to students and families in preparing college applications
April 3	HORD Foundation Scholarship Application due
May 29	Scholars orientation, WCSU
June 8	Scholarship Awards Program, Ethan Allen Inn, 6:30 p.m.
July 7	Branford Marsalis Concert, WCSU, 8 p.m., \$25, \$35, \$50, \$75, \$100
August	HORD Foundation Volunteer Appreciation (details to be announced)



Synnamon Smith is a HORD Scholar attending WCSU as a freshman. Here she is with HORD Trustee George A. Coleman.

**In Her Own Words:
Synnamon Smith,
HORD Scholar**

“I have had a great freshman year at Western so far and it’s hard to believe that it’s coming to an end so fast! Since arriving at WCSU from New Milford High School, I have been introduced to many new ideas and people. I am currently interested in marketing, but I do want to explore other career opportunities that match my talent and interests.

“I feel so lucky to have been selected as a HORD Scholar and to receive the scholarship that the foundation provides. It has been a great help to me and my family. One of the things that I remember them encouraging us to do is to help other students or to find a way to ‘give back.’

“When I learned that the HORD Academy and the college were looking for volunteers to help tutor elementary students in math, I knew it was an opportunity to help. I enjoy math and have learned that I am effective with conveying math concepts to younger students. The elementary students look forward to us coming into their school and engaging them in games and activities that reinforce math concepts and I, at least, leave with a tremendous sense of satisfaction at having contributed to something that is really important.”

Branford Marsalis Concert



Branford Marsalis, the 44-year-old Grammy award-winning saxophonist, is coming to Danbury with his quartet to perform a benefit concert for The HORD Foundation. The concert will be held on July 7, 2007, in the Ives Concert Hall on the campus of Western Connecticut State University. Tickets are available for \$25, \$35, \$50, \$75 and \$100.

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This year, a Danbury couple was honored. Donald Weeden and his wife, Patricia, were recipients of The Hord Foundation’s Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was created four years ago to honor people who have provided exceptional support for the foundation and for the community.

“Without their involvement and support, there are literally hundreds of kids we would not have been able to help,” founder Noel Hord said Monday. “This award recognizes their long-term commitment to the organization.”

“We’re both very proud to be a part of the work of the foundation,” Donald Weeden said. “In terms of helping people, it does an extraordinary job in both encouraging them and in providing them with great incentives to improve their lives.”

Go to the HORD website for gala photos:
http://www.hordfoundation.org/charity_ball.htm

**Fairfield County Community Foundation
Presents \$15,000 Grant to HORD**

The Fairfield County Community Foundation awarded a \$15,000 grant to The HORD Foundation for school year 2006-07. The grant offers educational support and enrichment to K-12 students and their families by providing resources and assistance through The HORD Foundation Academy. The academy provides the necessary additional support to elementary students in mathematics. It anticipates expanding to help high school students in fostering leadership, public service, personal responsibility and technology. Participation in the academy is open to students without regard to race, gender or ethnicity.

Across the nation, a gap in academic achievement persists between minority and disadvantaged students and their white counterparts. In 2003, The Hord Foundation Academy was established to address the issues associated with the large number of black and poor students not meeting the standards for scholarship consideration and consequently, limited futures. The academy, through its collaborations with the Danbury Public Schools and Western Connecticut State University, helps students improve in specific subject areas.

“As chairman of The HORD Foundation Board of Trustees, I am pleased that The HORD Foundation received this grant. Without the support of the FCCF and our community and corporate sponsors, The HORD Foundation could not fulfill its mission. I would like to especially thank the FCCF’s staff for helping us through the grant application and approval process. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship.”

Bernard McFadden

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of philanthropy to strengthen local communities and the region.

Why We Give

The Perrin Family Foundation has been pleased to support the work of The Hord Foundation. Over the years, we have watched the organization grow from a scholarship fund to a continuum of services preparing young people for college. Recently, The Hord Foundation, recognizing the need to address academic deficiencies early on, extended its work to the elementary school level. Here, it provides extra support to students struggling with math, an important life skill.



Additionally, The Hord Foundation is unique in that it garners real support from parents and the greater community. Parents are included in the process of college preparation and encouraged to provide the necessary support to their children. Board members are extremely active in running the organization and volunteers give of their time doing seminars for students and parents and opening doors to corporate support. Good relationships have been established with the school system to better coordinate services for young people. The Hord Foundation is a fine example of a community working together to help support youth in its efforts to further their education and become contributing citizens of our society. They are to be commended for all their good work and serve as shining example for other communities.