

# News Release

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## Comptroller Franchot Presents the Schaefer Award for Washington County to Brooke's House

*Empowering young women in recovery to make the  
transition to sober living*

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (September 2, 2020) - Comptroller Peter Franchot virtually presented the [William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award](#) to Brooke's House. Kevin and Dana Simmers accepted on behalf of the nonprofit organization they founded to provide young women suffering from substance abuse a safe, supportive environment to successfully transition to sober living.

The Simmers opened Brooke's House after the death of their daughter, Brooke, from a heroin overdose in 2015. The Simmers honored their daughter's life and memory by opening the facility that provides critically needed services in their community. The award honors individuals and organizations that embody the principles held dear by William Donald Schaefer, the late Baltimore mayor, Maryland governor and comptroller.

Brooke's House is equipped with a full staff, nurse practitioner and drug counselor, with career training to help residents successfully transition back to daily life. Residents also learn how to make chocolate, which is sold to help fund Brooke's House.

View the virtual ceremony [here](#).

Since 2012, Comptroller Franchot has annually traveled to each of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions to honor an individual or organization serving their community. This year, all Schaefer Award presentations will be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Individual press releases will be sent announcing each of the honorees, along with a link to view the virtual ceremony.

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