

Making A World of Difference

From raising their three daughters and working in careers that enrich the lives of others, to contributing time and money to causes they believe in, Alison and Arnie Richman have been committed to building community.

Alison is an adoption specialist for Adoption Alliances, a program based at Jewish Family Services of Central Maryland, and Arnie is a partner at the Shelter Group, LLC, a Baltimore-based national real estate development and property management company specializing in building multi-family and senior living communities.

The couple has quietly enjoyed the practice of giving for a number of years and in 1993 created the Richman Family Foundation, a supporting foundation of The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, to help further the family's charitable objectives. The Foundation focuses its giving on Jewish concerns, health, culture, human services, and education. "There's a deep sense of satisfaction and accomplishment that comes from knowing that you've made a difference," Arnie notes. "We want our children and grandchildren to know that they can act to make a positive difference in this world and in the lives of people. Creating the foundation keeps us focused on that."

He and Alison recently established an endowed scholarship at the School of Social Work to benefit MSW students in the Families and Children Specialization. As an alumna of the School, Alison says, "supporting the School of Social Work means a lot to me because I've observed throughout my career, the power of social work and the way in which the practice can change lives and transform people." She adds, "the fact that the profession has been traditionally devalued makes

it all the more important for those of us with first-hand knowledge of the power of social work to do what we can to ensure that qualified, competent social workers are available to meet the needs of children and families."

The scholarship represents the School's first privately funded full scholarship and the largest gift ever by an alumnus. "The Richman Scholarship is more than a financial commitment" notes Dean Richard Barth. "This represents a partnership between the Richman Family and the University of Maryland School of Social Work to promote student access regardless of financial need, to achieve educational excellence, and to advance the well-being of children and families."

"Nothing is more important than raising happy, healthy, and productive children. Supporting others in achieving this goal is important to me," states Alison.



Alison Richman '84 is a member of the University of Maryland School of Social Work Board of Advisors and a member of the Board at Temple Oheb Shalom Learning Ladder. Her husband, Arnie is a member of the UMBC President's Board of Visitors, the Baltimore Community Foundation Board of Trustees, the Institute for Christian & Jewish Studies Board of Directors, and the Board of Trustees at Johns Hopkins Medicine. He is also a member of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Board of Trustees for which he serves as Treasurer.

The scholarship the Richmans have created will be awarded based on academic achievement and financial need to ensure that outstanding students have the financial support they need to achieve an advanced social work degree.

Strengthening financial aid resources for scholarships, special training, extra curricular training, and professional development is one of the key priorities at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. To learn more about giving to the School of Social Work, contact Donna J. Howard, Director of Development at (410) 706-2357 or by email at dhoward@ssw.umaryland.edu.