Until recently only two not-for-profit organizations in Alabama had achieved accreditation from the Standards of Excellence® Institute of Maryland. On October 10, 2014, eight Calhoun County not-for-profits joined in becoming excellent organizations. “A truly historical day,” says Jennifer S. Maddox, President & CEO of the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama. “These organizations have worked tirelessly to meet these standards.”

A Saks High School student and mom check out Scholarship Central at a recent open house. This interactive webpage is designed to easily navigate the college application and scholarship search process. Resource guides provide hundreds of links to scholarships throughout the U.S. Learn what colleges require and how to prepare. Click through the site to search for scholarships offered through the Community Foundation and other organizations. Get tips from an expert on applying for financial aid. Take virtual tours of local colleges & universities throughout the region. All on one site! Reminder! All scholarship applications are due March 1, 2015.

Donor Advised Fund Breakfast

Since 1999, nineteen donor advised funds have been established by individuals to support the causes that matter to them. On October 1, the Community Foundation hosted a breakfast to recognize their generosity. Over the past 15 years 862 grants have been awarded by this group of generous donors totaling $1,267,533.

Seated left to right: Cheryl Potts, Mary Elizabeth Johnson, Judy Toole, Anne S. Carruth, Mary Ann Couch. Standing left to right: Scott Burleson, Stan Ingram, Dr. Arthur Toole III, Mack Burt, Dr. James W. Mallis, Jr., Robert Couch.

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EXCELLENT - continued on page 2
This accreditation illustrates their commitment to upholding the principles and practices of the Standards for Excellence: an Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector, which includes six areas of nonprofit operations: Mission; Strategy and Evaluation; Leadership; Board, Staff, and Volunteers; Legal Compliance and Ethics; Finance and Operations; Resource Development; Public Awareness, Engagement, and Advocacy.

These executive directors are thrilled the dedication of their boards, along with their hard work, has paid off. They are sharing with others how this achievement has improved the work they do and benefit those they serve. “To learn more about Standards for Excellence” Training contact Susan Williamson, 256-231-5160, ext. 29 or email: swilliamson@yourcommunityfirst.org

Executive Directors give special credit to Kate Scarbrough, pictured left, Standards for Excellence Intern, for her assistance in guiding them through the many steps necessary for this achievement. Kate has since graduated from Barnard College in New York. Kate was referred by the Mayor and the City of Anniston for this project.

It’s the holidays and a time for giving, receiving and reflecting! If you are looking for a unique gift this year, consider a gift that is long-lasting and impactful.

The Community Foundation is home to many endowment funds which support the work of many local organizations in our community benefiting human service needs, education, arts & culture, animals, religious organizations and more. Endowment funds create a permanent source of income for many of these organizations. A gift in memory or honor of someone may be just the gift you are looking for. The Foundation staff will design a personalized holiday note to announce your gift and return it to you or mail it for you. Call Susan Williamson, 256-231-5160 or visit us online www.yourcommunityfoundation.org. Give online, mail your gift, or drop it off at our office.

Welcome Randall L. Cole

Honorable Randall L. Cole, Circuit Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit, is a representative from DeKalb County. Judge Cole will serve on the Grants and Audit Committees. A lifelong resident of DeKalb County, he is a member and former Chair, Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission; Past President, Alabama Association of Circuit Judges; Member, Mary C. Weatherly Memorial Foundation; Past President, Landmarks of DeKalb County; Past Chair, Jacksonville State International House Foundation; Past Member, Advisory Board, Boy Scouts of America. Judge Cole holds a bachelor of arts from Jacksonville State University and juris doctor from University of Alabama Law School and is a graduate of National Judicial College. He is very involved in his community. In addition to receiving the Judicial Award of Merit presented by the Alabama State Bar, he was named one of the Times-Journal’s Top Ten Influential Citizens of Fort Payne. Judge Cole says, “I am pleased to become involved with an organization like the Community Foundation that is dedicated to promoting the well-being of the communities it serves, and I look forward to the opportunity to contribute towards that mission.”

New Funds Established

Alabama Giving – to support the organization and help Alabama Giving to carry out its role and mission. Alabama Giving is an association of grant making organizations that works to increase, promote, and encourage philanthropy by helping its members share knowledge, collaborate and advocate to improve conditions in Alabama.

S.A.V.E. – to support their efforts of saving Calhoun County’s pets through low cost spay/neuter. The creation of this endowment fund is a perfect example of how donor generosity can encourage others to give. A very generous donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has given a $5,000.00 gift and challenged S.A.V.E. to raise the same. A gift to this fund in memory or honor of someone or their pet could make a great gift this holiday season.

2014 Juliette P. Doster Award for Outstanding Volunteerism in Community Health

Nominations are due Jan. 3, 2015. The Doster Award recognizes an individual, club, team or group who give of their time and talent at no cost to improve the health of our community. Nominees must be residents of the Foundation’s nine county region (Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, DeKalb, Etowah, Randolph, St. Clair or Talladega counties) or contribute their volunteer services in the region. The winner will receive a $1,000 grant from the Juliette P. Doster Scholarship Fund to a not-for-profit designated by them. In addition, the recipient will receive an engraved plaque acknowledging the many hours of service donated to the betterment of the community. Visit our website to nominate a volunteer.

Fall Grant Awards Total $380,000.00

Fall 2014 Stringfellow Health Fund Grants

Health Services Center Inc. - $45,000 - Calhoun - Early identification of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections.
East Central Alabama United Cerebral Palsy - $40,000 - Calhoun - HVAC system in new facility.
Piedmont Benevolence Center - $25,000 - Calhoun - Phase II of food bank
JSU Foundation for the JSU Nursing Department - $22,000 - Calhoun - Promoting critical thinking in undergraduate nursing students.

Etowah Free Community Clinic - $13,000 - Etowah - Prescription medications to treat acute and chronic conditions.
Interfaith Ministries - $10,000 - Calhoun - Meals-on-Wheels and supplies.
Reaching Out International - $5,000 - Cleburne - A refrigerated truck, 2 freezers, and an Apple computer to expand outreach services.
Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind Foundation - $5,000 - Talladega - Assistive technology loaner lab for senior adults.
Kid One Transport - $5,000 - Calhoun - Transportation to medical appointments for children and expectant mothers.
Lakeside Hospice - $5,000 - St. Clair - Complimentary therapy for healing.
Alabama Land Trust, Inc. - $5,000 - Calhoun - Water-quality educational kiosk, offer an Outdoors Day event at Munford School and place storm drain markers along streets.
Southeastern Diabetes Education Services - $5,000 - Community Family Support education events in Etowah and/or St. Clair County
Knox Concert Series - $5,000 - Calhoun - Improve safety and handicapped access of the Anniston Performing Arts Center.
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Alabama - $5,000 - Calhoun - Adopt a Family Program
Impact Alabama: A Student Service Initiative - $5,000 - Calhoun - Provide free vision screenings to children.

2014 City of Anniston Competitive Grant Fund

Interfaith Ministries, Inc. - $52,000 - Operational expenses.
Public Education Foundation of Anniston, Inc. - $40,000 - Operational expenses.
East Central Alabama United Cerebral Palsy - $33,000 - Operational expenses.
Community Enabler Developer, Inc. - $15,000 - Operational expenses.
Knox Concert Series - $15,000 - Restore lighting.
Cheaha Creative Arts, Inc. - $10,000 - Operational expenses.
Calhoun County Commission - $5,000 - Operational expenses.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Alabama - $5,000 - Operational expenses.
Family Services Center of Calhoun County, Inc. - $5,000 - Operational expenses.

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Executive Directors share with the audience what this achievement means. Addressing the audience from left to right is Valerie Shumon, Big Brothers Big Sisters, who shares how her organization has reached new heights with this accomplishment.

(Left) Maudine Holloway smiles as she accepts the accreditation for Community Enabler Developer. Maudine shares, “Becoming excellent has been a journey but will truly take our organization to the next level!” Pictured left is Curtis Simpson, United Way of East Central Alabama, 2013 Class Sponsor.

(Left) Rose Manford, Cheaha Creative Arts, explains SfE has strengthened their organization, fostering excellence and inspiring trust among their donors and those they serve.

(Left) Stephanie Curvin, Piedmont Benevolence Center, excitedly accepts this achievement and gives praise to her predecessor, Heather Lamney, (Image 4), for her hard work in making this happen for the organization.

Congratulations!

• Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Alabama
• YMCA of Calhoun County
• Piedmont Benevolence Center
• Children's Services
• Interfaith Ministries
• Public Education Foundation of Anniston and the first public education fund in the United States to receive accreditation status.
• Cheaha Creative Arts
• Community Enabler Developer