Fund Spotlight

Jacksonville Meals on Wheels

The Jacksonville Meals on Wheels Program started in 1983 under the auspices of Interfaith Ministries, Inc. in Anniston, AL. After a period of time the program became their own 501(c)(3) entity. Their mission is to address the nutritional requirements of the elderly and all others with a verifiable need while they remain in their home environment.

In the early years of the Jacksonville Meals on Wheels Program there was a need for funding which came from miscellaneous donors and the United Way of East Central Alabama.

“In 2000, the Community Foundation made us aware of grant opportunities they had available through the Susie Parker Stringfellow Health Fund. The first grant we received was in 2000 for $1,250. Subsequent successful grant applications continued to support the program and totaled $38,700. This valuable support provided the financial strength needed. By this point we had a strong donor base which filled the needs of the program and we no longer needed grant awards,” says Ron Cypher.

Each day, 40–50 meals are delivered. The average person is 80 years of age or older. The Jacksonville Meals on Wheels Program prides themselves on having no overhead. Any costs incurred such as gas, stamps, etc. are absorbed by the board of directors, volunteer drivers or others.

During the aftermath of the March 2019 tornadoes which ravished Jacksonville, the Meals on Wheels Program continued to support the community with 80% of the total meals served being free or below cost. This showed the organization was able to deal with such a financial challenge.

The first mission of the drivers is to deliver healthy, hearty meals. The secondary mission of the drivers is to do a wellness check. A special bond develops between each driver and their clients. Each time a meal is delivered, the driver makes sure they make contact with the client. This is called a wellness check. Should this contact not be made, the driver follows a protocol to ensure the client is safe. In December of 2018, a driver noticed a change in a client’s behavior. Typically the client would always meet them at the door. This pattern began to change which alerted the driver to make a report. Follow up found the client sitting in a chair beside his space heater unable to move and suffering from burns on his legs. The protocol set in place by the Jacksonville Meals on Wheels Program enabled a quick response that rescued the client and got him the care he needed.

Ron Cypher says, “The Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama reached out to us during a time when we were building the financial security needed to sustain the Meals on Wheels Program for the City of Jacksonville. They helped us get our feet on the ground and I strongly believe that their support is why we are such a strong organization today.”

The Jacksonville Meals on Wheels Fund was established on August 1, 2017 to support the Jacksonville Meals on Wheels program. Donations can be accepted at www.yourcommunityfirst.org or by mail: Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, 1130 Quintard Ave., Suite 100, Anniston, AL, 36201.
New Funds

Cheaha Charter Chapter of ABWA Fund - to provide business women with leadership and educational opportunities.

Emma Jean Lipscomb Memorial Scholarship Fund - to provide financial support to the Opelika City Board of Education in Opelika, Alabama for the Emma Jean Lipscomb Memorial Scholarship.

Welcome New Trustees

Anna Berry of Cleburne County is the Deputy Executive Director of the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust, a not-for-profit organization protecting land for present and future generations. Anna is retired from Southwire Company in Carrollton, GA as vice president and treasurer. She serves on the board of Tanner Medical Center and is the chair of BB&T Bank of West Georgia Advisory Board. She served two terms as Mayor of the City of Heflin and served on the executive committee for the Alabama League of Municipalities.

She attends the Episcopal Church of the Messiah in Heflin where she has held leadership roles including Senior Warden of her parish.

Anna lives in Heflin, AL with husband, Glenn Berry. Her hobbies include time in nature, reading, gardening and being “Gammy” to granddaughter, Ripley Shelnutt.

Nanda Patel of Etowah County is owner/manager of the Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Gadsden and in Ft. Payne. Nanda was born in Kenya, raised in England, and immigrated to the United States in 1981.

Nanda received her BA in Health Administration and her MA in Health Education from UAB. She also received her Leadership and Hospitality Certification from InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG). She takes an active role in regional tourism and economic development and serves on several boards. She is a member of The Business Council of Alabama, the Rotary Club of Gadsden, the Etowah Chamber of Commerce, the Mary G. Hardin Center of Cultural Arts, and AMLA.

Nanda and her husband, Dr. Ghanshyam (Gee) Patel, have one son and one daughter.

CFNEA Celebrates 20 Years

The Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama (CFNEA) began on November 1, 1999 with one fund – The Stringfellow Health Fund – in one county – Calhoun. Since 1999 CFNEA has grown to serve nine counties: Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, DeKalb, Etowah, Randolph, St. Clair and Talladega.

From the growth of one fund to now over 200 we are reflecting on the impactful history that we have as well as dreaming of a future with big ideas to benefit our communities.

To celebrate our 20th Anniversary, CFNEA is offering a unique grant opportunity that will cultivate and showcase our region’s creativity. Not-for-profit organizations may submit a video application proposing an innovative “Big Idea” that will benefit the community. Scoring is based on the content of the project (80%) and video production and technical skills (20%).

First Place - $20,000
Second Place - $2,000
Third Place - $200
Honorable Mentions - $20

BIG IDEA TIMELINE

Pre-application due – March 20, 2019
Complete Video Application due – June 20, 2019
Announcement and Presentations of Winners - November 1, 2019

For information contact Heather K. Lamey, Director of Donor Grants and Standards for Excellence®, at (256) 231-5160 ext. 18, or email hlamey@yourcommunityfirst.org.

Please visit www.yourcommunityfirst.org/grants for guidelines and/or to apply.
$250,000 in Grants Boost Area Not-for-Profits

CFNEA hosted a reception for representatives from 18 not-for-profit organizations on December 12, 2018. The Susie Parker Stringfellow Health Fund awarded $250,000 in grants.

Recipients include:

Boys and Girls Club of East Central Alabama: The Fitness Challenge
City of Anniston: Removal of Unsafe, Unhealthy and Abandoned Structures
Coosa Riverkeeper: Coosa River Swim Guide
Easterseals of the Birmingham Area: Expanding Provision of Equitable Healthcare in St. Clair County
Family Links Inc.: Linked Up Intensive Outpatient Program
Family Success Center of Etowah County, Inc.: Helping Families Family Counselor
Gadsden State Community College Cardinal Foundation: Video-recording Nursing Skills utilizing technology to teach and to validate competence
Health Services Center, Inc.: HSC Stringfellow Hepatitis Grant
Impact Alabama a Student Service Initiative: Focus First: A High-Tech Vision Care Initiative
Independent Reading/Counseling Services, Inc.: Educational Mental Health Awareness Training
MANNA: Meals and Program Expense
One World Adventure: DeKalb County Youth Services Ride to Focus
Piedmont Benevolence Center: Food Building Awning
Piedmont City Schools: mPower Piedmont
Piedmont Historical Society: The Piedmont Historical Society's Southern Rail Road Depot Museum Development
The Arc of Calhoun and Cleburne Counties: Summer Day Camp for Children and Youth
The Health Care Authority of the City of Piedmont: The Healing Power of Music for Dementia and residents with Alzheimer's.
YWCA Central Alabama: Our Place: Emergency Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence

The Arc of Calhoun and Cleburne Counties also received a grant from the Leamon (Lea) Fite, Jr. Memorial Fund for program support in their work with individuals with disabilities.

"Partnering with not-for-profit organizations in our region gives us an opportunity to work together as we create positive change and positive impact in our communities. Congratulations to this year's grant recipients," Fred Smith, Director of Stringfellow Health Fund Grants, CFNEA.
Confirmed in compliance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations

2019 SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications due March 1, 2019

OVER $100,000.00 WILL BE AWARDED

Please visit the scholarships page at www.yourcommunityfirst.org for more information and to access the online application.

For more information, contact Mitch Rogers at 256-231-5160 ext. 17