Fund Spotlight - Oxford City Schools Education Foundation Fund

“Where Tradition Never Graduates”

The Oxford City Schools Education Foundation was established in 2008 as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization to build school, community, alumni, and business partnerships that enhance all educational endeavors of the Oxford City Schools. Its mission is to assist the Oxford City School System in continuing a strong tradition of educational excellence and outstanding academic achievement by providing supplemental resources and strengthening community engagement.

The fifteen member board of directors works diligently to raise funds which are used to promote innovative educational opportunities. Funds are raised through various community events such as: the “Walk of Champions” engraved brick pavers located at the entrance of Oxford High School, an annual golf tournament, a golf ball drop after the homecoming football game, Breakfast with Santa, Dancing Through the Decades and an Edible Evening for Education.

The board has been able to provide over $400,000 to advance best teaching practices to raise student achievement. The Oxford City Schools Education Foundation has invested in students with $170,000 in technology; $97,000 in teacher instructional support; 37,000 in outdoor classrooms; $29,000 for the STEM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math); $27,400 for the Robotics Program; 31,400 for Student Instructional Support; and, $10,000 for a Piano Lab.

An endowment fund has been established with the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama to enhance financial support to the Education Foundation. You may contribute to this fund in a variety of ways and at any time. You may donate by cash or check, leave a gift in your will, make a gift of stock, or recognize a special occasion, memorial or honorarium.

Use the Donate Now button on our secure website: www.yourcommunityfirst.org or mail your gift to the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, P. O. Box 1826, Anniston, Alabama, 36202. To learn more about the wide variety of gifts we accept, please call our office, 256-231-5160, ext. 29. All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent as allowed by law.
New Trustees

Anthony Cook returns to the Foundation as a representative of Talladega County. Mr. Cook will serve on the Audit and Ad-Hoc Strategic Planning Committees. He is employed with The Daily Home as Editor. Mr. Cook is active with the Men of Legacy with Rotary of Talladega and serves as pastor at Christian Fellowship Bible Church in Anniston. Mr. Cook says, “I’m glad to be a part of this board and the tremendous work it does throughout northeast Alabama. I know the people who serve on the Community Foundation to be generous and selfless in their commitment to meeting needs and I’m honored to join them.”

Judge John Rochester joins the Foundation as a representative from Clay County. Judge Rochester will serve on the Ad-Hoc Strategic Planning and Scholarship Review Committees. He is a retired Circuit Court Judge. In addition to holding office on numerous volunteer and civic organizations, Judge Rochester received the Wayne Greenhan Service Award from the Alabama Humanities Foundation; was named an Alabama Health Care Hero (Birmingham Business Journal); and, earned the Heart of an Eagle Award through the Greater Alabama Council of Boy Scouts. “I am extremely honored to join the Board of the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, and look forward to working with our board, staff and partners to help improve the lives of those in our community, especially in the areas of education and healthcare. I am especially excited about the possibilities of partnering with other individuals, not-for-profits and organizations to increase the role of philanthropy in our region in addressing the common problems we face, and in improving our quality of life.”

John Stevenson joins the Foundation as a representative from Randolph County. Mr. Stevenson will serve on the Audit and Scholarship Review Committees. He is the publisher and president of Randolph Publishers, Inc. In addition to his involvement with numerous civic organizations he received the 2010 Distinguished Alabama Community Journalist Award. Mr. Stevenson says, “I look forward to helping the citizens of Randolph County learn about the important work being done by the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama as well as helping the Community Foundation become more aware of some of the critical needs of Randolph County.”

New Funds

Anniston/Calhoun Community Christmas Parade Fund - to provide a Christmas parade for the citizens of Anniston, Alabama and Calhoun County, Alabama.

Workforce Investment Network Region 5 Fund - to support economic development in northeast Alabama (specifically, Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Cherokee, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, Talladega, and Tallapoosa counties).

Standards for Excellence® Training 2016 Comes to Talladega

The Community Foundation, along with the United Way of Talladega County and the Alabama Association of Nonprofits, will bring Standards for Excellence® training to Talladega County on February 3, 4 and 5, 2016. The training is free! Make sure your not-for-profit organization is registered to attend. Contact Donta Council at dcouncil@yourcommunityfirst.org.

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 donation 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 give it to you for mailing or we can mail it for you. Call Susan Williamson at 256-231-5160 or visit us online: www.yourcommunityfoundation.org. Give online, mail your gift, or stop by our office!
Grant Awards

$316,996 boosts area not-for-profits

The Community Foundation announced its 2015 Fall grants recipients at a reception held November 18, 2015 at the First Presbyterian Church of Anniston. Twenty one (21) not-for-profit organizations received various grants totaling $249,999 from the Stringfellow Health Fund. Also from the City of Anniston Competitive Fund, ten (10) Anniston not-for-profits organizations received various grants totaling $66,997.

Grants Committee Chair, Dr. Terry Graham, announced the winners, while the Vice President of Programs, Eula Tatman, presented the grant awards. Community Foundation Board Chair, Rod Nowlin, brought greetings to the attendees on behalf of the board. "I would like to thank the following committee members for their work in reviewing the grants: Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama Trustees: Randall Cole, Terry Graham, Al Shumaker and Cheryl Potts; CFNEA Staff; and Community Volunteers: Gary Lewis, Dawn Wilczek, Lisa Stone, Jessica Westbrook, Cotina Stroud, Jennifer Grace, Shannon LaBudde, Tyrone Smiley and Linda Hearn. For more information please visit our website at www.yourcommunityfirst.org/currentnews.

2015 Juliette P. Doster Award

The Juliette P. 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. The winner will receive a $1,000.00 grant from the Susie Parker Stringfellow Health Fund to a not-for-profit organization 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. Nominations are due January 5, 2016. Visit www.yourcommunityfirst.org to nominate a volunteer. Questions? Contact Susan Waldron at 256-231-5160, ext. 27 or email at swaldron@yourcommunityfirst.org.

Jennifer S. Maddox, President and CEO, Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama joins Leadership Alabama 2016. During the program year, class members will meet for presentations and group discussions in Montgomery, Mobile, Huntsville and Birmingham. Leadership Alabama provides a platform to bring together a diverse cross-section of committed Alabama leaders enabling them to better understand each other and the issues and potential solutions for advancing the state's educational, business and quality of life opportunities.

Hi Mrs. Susan,

I hope this email finds you well. I just wanted to update you about my experience at college so far. I love Jacksonville State University and am incredibly blessed to attend this amazing university with the help of Katy's scholarship. We have a patch of sunflowers planted on campus that I pass every day on the way to class. I think of Katy and your family and how blessed I am. I have not forgotten Katy, nor will I ever. Her legacy finds its way into my conversations, studies, and campus involvement. I have been selected as a member of our campus's elite honor's program and have been given the opportunity to volunteer in Jacksonville and Anniston as well as be mentored by some of the most prestigious professors. One of my mentors, Dr. John Kline from Troy University, has been teaching me how leadership and servitude go hand in hand. I cannot help but think of Katy and your family as the best example of leadership and servitude. May God bless you! Please give everyone hugs for me.

With love, Sarah Hicks, recipient of the Mary Katherine "Katy" Williamson Scholarship 2015

Left: Sarah Hicks with mentor, Dr. John Cline, Troy University Professor.
Do you need money for college or career training?

Evans Litigation Scholarship Fund
If you answered YES and were the owner of residential property in Calhoun County between 1999 to 2010, you may qualify for $250 to $500 in financial assistance for each piece of property owned.

Qualified applicants must be:
The owner, spouse, child, grandchild or dependent of the residential property owner.

Apply online, click the QR code or call for information
Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama
256-231-5160 or www.yourcommunityfirst.org