Fund Spotlight

Workforce Investment Network Region 2 Fund

The Workforce Investment Network Region 2 Fund was established at the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama to support economic development in northeast Alabama (specifically, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Etowah, Randolph, and Talladega counties). Its mission is to have a trained and available workforce with the skill sets needed for employers throughout their seven-county region. Lisa Morales joined the staff of the Community Foundation as the Director of East AlabamaWorks. Lisa has been traveling the region meeting with educators, business leaders and others to address the workforce needs of the future.

Region 2 is one of 7 workforce regions within AlabamaWorks which seamlessly links employers looking for skilled workers with Alabamians seeking jobs or job training. AlabamaWorks is the result of an ambitious, business-driven initiative and partnership between leaders in the private and public sectors.

“The Alabama Workforce Council and our partners are focused on helping transform the state’s workforce system to dramatically improve the livelihoods for millions of Alabama families for years to come,” said Zeke Smith, executive vice president at Alabama Power Co. and chairman of the Alabama Workforce Council. “We are doing that today by providing a tool to match the needs of employers with job seekers across our state to grow our economy and raise the standard of living for Alabamians.”

This is a major milestone in the unification of Alabama’s workforce system, bringing together key components of the K-12 and two-year college systems, state workforce training and placement services, and industry.

Ed Castile, deputy secretary of the Department of Commerce and executive director of Alabama Industrial Development and Training (AIDT), said the backbone of AlabamaWorks is the seven local Regional Workforce Councils and local Alabama Career Centers. Visit the Region 2 website: www.EastAlabamaWorks.com.

“Our system is driven by local businesses and will therefore be responsive to the current and future needs of businesses in Alabama. Each Regional Workforce Council will be able to focus on the business sectors within its geographical area,” he said.
New Funds

Legacy Club

To support the Legacy Club whose mission is to motivate, educate, inspire and provide guidance to students grades 7 – 12 through mentoring and life-skills development.

Oxford Christian School Concert Choir

In the spring of 2018, the Oxford Christian School Concert Choir (OCSCC) will embark on its first tour, performing in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Washington, D.C. During the tour, they will have the opportunity to perform and visit historical sights. The Choir is led by Jennie Wall, Director and assisted by Christopher Henley.

The OCSCC has established a fund with the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama to provide a charitable vehicle for individuals to support the costs associated with travel and other expenses. The Community Foundation serves as the fiscal sponsor. To make a donation to the Fund, please send your gift to the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama with OCSCC in the memo. Donations may be mailed to the Community Foundation at 1130 Quintard Avenue, Suite 100, Anniston, AL, 36201 or, you may donate on line through our website, www.yourcommunityfirst.org and click Donate Now.

Achieving Excellence

Since 2012, CFNEA has been committed to not-for-profit organizations throughout our region that desire to achieve excellence.

These organizations are the most recent not-for-profit organizations in our region to receive the Standards for Excellence® national accreditation successfully completing their rigorous accreditation program. These organizations have voluntarily opened their organization up to scrutiny by a “jury of their peers.” The peer review team examines these organizations for compliance with the Standards for Excellence: An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector®.

Boys & Girls Club East Central Alabama and The Council on Aging of Etowah County join fourteen not-for-profit organizations from our region that have earned accreditation since 2014: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Alabama, Cheaha Creative Arts, Children's Services, Community Enabler Developer, Interfaith Ministries, Piedmont Benevolence Center, Public Education Foundation of Anniston, West Anniston Foundation, Saving Animals Volunteer Efforts, (SAVE), and Independent Reading & Counseling, Community Actors Studio Theatre (CAST) and Coosa Riverkeepers.

The Community Foundation is pleased to announce that Heather K. Lamey, Director of Donor Grants and Standards for Excellence® has been recognized by the Standards for Excellence Institute® for successfully completing their rigorous Licensed Consultant training program.

Presently celebrating “Ten Years of Advancing Excellence,” the Licensed Consultant training is an exclusive, professional development initiative that gives independent consultants the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to work with nonprofit organizations across the country interested in learning about the Standards for Excellence®, implementing the code, and becoming accredited by the Standards for Excellence Institute.
Fall 2017 Grant Awards

The Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama awarded $251,730 in grants to 26 not-for-profit organizations on December 6. These awards were possible through the Stringfellow Health Fund. For the first time in the history of the Stringfellow Health Fund, organizations in each of the nine counties served by the Community Foundation were funded.

Stringfellow Health Fund Grantees

Family Success Center of Etowah County, Inc. – Healthy Families Family Counselor
Mental Health America of Etowah – Stress and Anger Management
Extended Family – Extended Family for Kids Programs and Training
Impact Alabama: A Student Service Initiative – High Tech Vision Care Initiative
One World Adventure – Healthy Families and Healthy Future
Piedmont Historical Society – Roof for the Roberts Home Historic Museum
Calhoun - Cleburne Children's Center - Operational Grant
Northeast Alabama Bicycle Association - Headquarters Renovation
Clay County Community Food Bank - Community Food Bank
The Learning Tree - Children's Center of Calhoun County
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Alabama - One to One Mentoring
City of Oxford- Multi-City Bike Share Program
Health Services - Hepatitis C Project
The Arc of Calhoun and Cleburne Counties - Special Olympics
Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind Foundation - Marianna
Greene Henry Special Equestrian Center
Boys and Girls Club of East Central Alabama - The Fitness Challenge
Coosa Riverkeepers - Coosa River Swim Guide
YMCA of Calhoun County - Healthy Heroes Nutrition Program
Angel Flight Soars - Providing Patient Flights for Northeast Alabama
Habitat for Humanity - Home Renovation Project
Children's Services, Inc. – The Parris Home
Gateway to Life Ranch - Educational Walking Trail
Greater Birmingham Chapter of AMBUCS - Therapeutic Amtrykes
Independent Reading/Counseling Svc. – Making a Change Counseling
Piedmont Benevolence Center - High Performance Utility Vehicle
Calhoun County Commission - 4-H Health Rocks

Mary Ammons - a native of Randolph County and a retired educator. She is a graduate of Jacksonville State University, having received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Vocational Business Education in 1974 and her Master's Degree in 1977. She taught business education in Randolph County for 26 years and for another 10 years she was a Customer Care Representative for TEC in Roanoke.

Alexandra “Blair” Goodgame - a native of St. Clair County, living in Pell City. She attended The Donoho School and graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. Her hobbies and special skills of graphic design and calligraphy have led her to meld her creativity, artistic talent and communication skills into a special events business: “Alexandra Blair Calligraphy and Celebrations”. 
Website Provides College Scholarship Information

Visit [www.yourcommunityfirst.org](http://www.yourcommunityfirst.org) and click on Scholarship Central.

Scholarship Central is an interactive site designed to help students find what area colleges have to offer. The site provides quick links to area colleges and scholarship offerings on the local, regional and national level.

For more information, contact Mitch Rogers, 256-231-5160, ext. 17 or email, mrogers@yourcommunityfirst.org