Traditions, A Legacy & Fellowship

Fund Spotlight - Mary Katherine “Katy” Williamson Scholarship

A family tradition continues with a different meaning. For over fifty years the Williamson family has looked forward to the fall and the opening day of Dove Season. Opening day is filled with family and friends gathering to celebrate the start of hunting season. Preparation begins months in advance with the planting of sunflowers and bush hogging fields. Also eager for opening day are the hunting dogs. They have a special job to do — retrieving the birds as they fall and delivering them to the hunter.

Over the last eight years opening day has taken on a new meaning. It has become a legacy and fundraiser for one beloved hunter who is no longer a part of it, Katy Williamson.

At a very young age Katy began hunting with her father, John; uncle, Walter; and grandfather, Percy. Her trusty black lab, Samson, was by her side ready to retrieve her birds. After Katy’s sudden and tragic death in June of 2005, her family created the Mary Katherine “Katy” Williamson Scholarship Fund with the Community Foundation to share her dream with others of becoming a nurse. The fund further continues Katy’s legacy of caring and sharing all that she loved. Most important to Katy were her family and friends. Now each year on opening day, loved ones come together for a special day to remember Katy’s love for the outdoors and support her scholarship. Friends gather for a traditional lunch of BBQ with all the fixings served on the porch of Walt and Naomi Williamson’s home. Then it is off to your spot in the field to wait for the birds to fly. Pictured right is Jillian Bridges who currently holds Katy’s scholarship. Jillian is a sophomore at UAB studying Pediatric Nursing. Through donor generosity (continued on page 2)

**Strengthening the community through our commitment to not-for-profits.**

**Fall grant awards total $ 724,387.11** (see Fall Grant Awards/page 3)
(Katy from page 1) Through donor generosity, each year a deserving student receives a $2,500 college scholarship. The scholarship focuses on healthcare for humans and/or pets. Throughout high school and college, Katy worked as a veterinary technician at Animal Medical Center in Anniston. At the time of her death, she had completed her EMT training at Gadsden State. Since 2006, four Calhoun County students have benefitted from the Mary Katherine “Katy” Williamson Scholarship; Tiffany York, Mildred Brewster, Tyler Hubbard and Jillian Bridges. Pictured right is Katy (at age 10) with her dad ready for opening day.

New Funds Created

**Calhoun County Juvenile Drug Court Fund** to benefit the delivery of service to youth in the juvenile court system.

**Disaster Response Fund** to grow and distribute funds for disaster recovery in northeast Alabama.

**Freedom Riders Park Endowed Fund** to provide support to Freedom Riders Park, Inc. of Anniston, Alabama.

**Freedom Riders Park Non-Endowed Fund** to support the establishment of the Freedom Riders Park as a place of reflection, appreciation, and public education regarding Civil Rights.

Why Give?

*In helping others, we shall help ourselves, for whatever good we give out completes the circle and comes back to us.*

Take a minute to consider the impact of charitable giving in our society--the programs and services established to improve our community.

By giving through the Community Foundation, you can support the charitable causes that are important in your life. You come to the Community Foundation with a unique and passionate reason for giving. Our passion is to make your charitable goals a reality.

So you ask again... why give? And we answer... to support your passions now and forever. We offer a wide array of funds and are here to work with you to establish a donor advised fund, an endowed fund, an estate gift, a bequest through a will, and many other types of charitable gifts.

*Let's explore the options together and make your "Why Give" a reality.*

*Jennifer S. Maddox, President & CEO*
The Community Foundation, in partnership with the United Way of East Central Alabama offers Standards for Excellence® training for area not-for-profits. We believe that one of the best ways to improve our community is by encouraging and strengthening the not-for-profits in our region. Registration deadline is January 3, 2014. There is no charge to attend. However if you register for training and don’t show, you will be assessed a $100 fee per person. January 15 & 16 is for the most senior paid staff person (president/CEO/executive director/or other title). January 17 is for two board members per organization (preferably board officers). This will be the only training offered in 2014. Contact Susan Williamson at swilliamson@yourcommunityfirst.org or call, 256-231-5160, ext. 29 or register online at http://2014standardsforexcellence.eventbrite.com

SCHOLARSHIP CENTRAL
http://www.yourcommunityfirst.org/scholarship-central/

An interactive webpage to help students and parents navigate the college application & scholarship process. 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!

Special thanks to the above colleges for sharing their expertise in the development of Scholarship Central.
Welcome New Trustees

**Manju Purohit** is a representative from Calhoun County. Mrs. Purohit will serve on the Community Investment and Juliette P. Doster Award Committees. She owns and manages the Purohit Group Hotels. An active community member, she is a board member of Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, serving on the Hotel/Motel Committee and the Small Business Committee; and a board member of Children's Services. *Mrs. Purohit says, "Since the Community Foundation's inception in 1999, it has brought many opportunities to the communities it serves. I am honored to be a trustee and look forward to bringing continued benefit to our community."*

**Albert L. Shumaker** joins the Foundation as a representative from Cherokee County. Mr. Shumaker will serve on the Audit and Scholarship Review Committees. He has been the attorney for the City of Centre, Alabama since September, 1965, and represents other cities as well. He is very active in his community serving on numerous boards and holds memberships in area clubs. *Mr. Shumaker says, "I hope to bring some new ideas to a presently successful organization."*

**Gloria K. Bennett** is a representative from Cleburne County. Mrs. Bennett will serve on the Scholarship Review and Juliette P. Doster Award Committees. She holds a master's degree in science in education. She worked with the Cleburne County School System for 31 years as an elementary school teacher and high school library media specialist before retiring. She is very involved in her community. *Mrs. Bennett says, "The more I learn about the Community Foundation, the more honored and excited I am to be a board member of an organization that has such a positive impact on the lives of people in the area."*

**Dr. Terry Graham** is a representative from Talladega County. Dr. Graham will serve on the Finance & Investment and Community Investment Committees. He retired as president of Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind in 2012. Dr. Graham received his doctorate in education from the University of Alabama majoring in Educational Administration and Planning. *Dr. Graham says, "The administration and governing Board of Trustees of the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama has earned a stellar reputation for philanthropic leadership initiatives in communities throughout Northeast Alabama. Consequently, I am honored and humbled to be appointed to the Board of Trustees at a time when the Foundation is expanding its outreach to Talladega County."

**2013 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 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 3, 2014 and the winner will be announced March 3, 2014. *Visit our website to nominate a volunteer.*