Fund Spotlight

Guin-Stanford Scholarship

The Guin-Stanford Scholarship Fund benefits students pursuing a graduate degree in education or law at the University of Alabama. The Fund was established by the University Church of Christ as a tribute to Judge Guin's parents; J. Foy Guin Sr. and Ruby Pace Guin, and uncle and aunt; Herman T. and Terrell Pace Stanford. The Stanfords, never having children of their own, served as honorary parents to their nieces and nephews. Mr. and Mrs. Stanford were educators in the Oxford School System.

Hon. J. Foy Guin had a long understanding of the value of higher education, being a son of school teachers. His father was John R. Guin, a longtime school principal and a three-time Franklin County Superintendent of Schools. He built the first consolidated school in Franklin County. His grandfather, J. M. I. Guyton, was the first Superintendent of Education in Lamar County, and his other grandfather, Jason Guin, was that county's first sheriff. His mother taught first and second grade, and his sister, Lucille, was also a teacher. At age 14 he earned a special certificate which allowed him to work as a school teacher in order to pay his way through what was then called Normal School (Jacksonville State) and law school at Alabama. He worked as a teacher to earn the money to open a law office, after which he served in the army in World War I. After returning from France, he worked as a school teacher to acquire the money to reopen his law office. He retired as a federal judge for the Northern District, in Birmingham.

Both the Guins and Stanfords were strongly committed to their families, their churches, their communities and to excellence in their fields of endeavor. Mr. Guin was an elder in the Church of Christ. In all of these ways, they had great influence for good and were recognized as leaders by all who knew them.

“When I think of this scholarship opportunity I think of Micah 6:8; “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” As a student of law pursuing a legal career in the future, this scholarship provides me the opportunity to honor the Lord through my ability to insure that others receive justice and I need to walk humbly with him. It’s a real blessing to receive some assistance so that I can move forward and hopefully make a difference one day in the State of Alabama.”

– Richmond Gunter, 2017 Guin-Stanford Recipient
Susie Parker Stringfellow 100 Year Legacy Project

Open Spaces Sacred Places™

The Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama is pleased to announce a new grant opportunity, Open Spaces Sacred Places™. These spaces are intended for the encouragement of community well-being, and resilience of mind/body/spirit of both individuals and communities. Open Spaces Sacred Places™ are conceived by an individual or organization inspired with the idea that access to nature can make a positive impact on the various community and personal challenges individuals and communities face. If you are that individual then you might be the “Firesoul” needed to conceive, design and implement an Open Spaces Sacred Places™ in your community.

Organizations that are able to conceptualize, plan, design and implement an open and sacred green space in their community are eligible to apply for a $10,000 grant. Organizations include: not-for-profit organizations, community groups, church groups, city or county government, educational institutions and community gardening groups. Two spaces are available for each county served by the Community Foundation which include: Calhoun, Clay, Cherokee, Cleburne, DeKalb, Etowah, Randolph, Talladega, and St. Clair.

The grant application deadline is March 15, 2018. Visit www.yourcommunityfirst.org for more information on Open Spaces Sacred Places™, along with details regarding the application process and deadlines. Need ideas for your site? See photos of what other communities have created. For more information on this opportunity, contact: Fred Smith, Director of Stringfellow Health Fund Grants, phone: (256) 231-5160, ext. 26, or email: fsmith@yourcommunityfirst.org

This unique grant opportunity celebrates the generous legacy left to northeast Alabama by Susie Parker Stringfellow almost 100 years ago. What began as one woman’s legacy has impacted millions of individuals through the provision of quality healthcare services and support to not-for-profit organizations which have received just under $8 million in grant awards since 1999. These grants have promoted health and well-being through: feeding programs, sight, vision and dental programs, physical fitness, free health clinics, education on all levels and much more. Stringfellow Memorial Hospital has existed in Calhoun County for 80 years and cared for millions of people. To this day the hospital remains a valuable asset to our community, both as a healthcare provider and employer. What began in 1920 as one person’s charitable legacy to provide a hospital to her community has grown into a philanthropic endeavor attracting thousands of other like-minded individuals who also care about their communities.

For more information and/or to apply for a grant visit www.yourcommunityfirst.org/grants/Open Spaces Sacred Places™.

Each Open Space Sacred Place Will Contain the Following Four Design Elements

**Surround** - Design elements such as plantings, fencing or trees provide an encompassing sense of boundary, safety and enclosure with the Open Space Sacred Place™. The sense of surround ensures that one experiences an emotional separation from the rest of the world and the challenges of life.

**Portal** - When one passes through an archway, a gate, a stand of trees, a pergola, or other marker there is a clear movement from the space of everyday life and function. One enters a reflective space and encounters the fascinations of nature.

**Path** - Whether linear and well-defined, or more meandering, a path allows one to focus attention and achieve a mindfulness about the surroundings. A path can ground one with the earth while offering a sense of connection to a greater reality than its sacredness.

**Destination** - An appealing feature or end point draws in a person to the welcoming space. The sojourn, however brief, is rewarded by a feature that encourages quiet, fascination, joy, and spiritual connection with nature.
Did you know?

In Alabama, 22 not-for-profit organizations have been accredited by the Standards for Excellence® Institute. Fifteen of these organizations have received training and been assisted in the accreditation process by the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama (CFNEA).

Standards for Excellence® accredited not-for-profit organizations consistently receive top scores on CFNEA grant applications.

From 2015 to 2017 CFNEA has awarded $117,476.34 in Standards for Excellence® grants.

What Standards for Excellence® can mean for your Not-For-Profit Organization

Financial benefits starting with a free training offered by CFNEA to any not-for-profit organization in our region. CFNEA pays the Standards for Excellence® application fee. Grant available only for accredited not-for-profit organizations in the amount of $5,000.00.

Bonus points applied to the final score of grants written to CFNEA.

CFNEA hosts Quarterly Lunch and Learn sessions.

Your organization is featured on CFNEA’s website.

New Funds

Jason Cobb Fund – to recommend charitable grants.

Jacksonville Meals on Wheels – to provide financial support to the organization.

Northeast Alabama Education Impact Fund - to meet and enhance the educational needs of our students. The fund provides a charitable vehicle for individuals and corporations to join the Community Foundation in supporting our schools.

Worlds of Work - to support Worlds of Work, an annual workforce development event designed for students.

Mark your calendar for February 6, 7, & 8, 2018 for the next Standards for Excellence® training opportunity.

Contact Heather Lamey, Director of Donor Grants and Standards for Excellence®, hlamey@yourcommunityfirst.org; 256-231-5160, ext. 18.
As we approach the season of giving, please remember the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama is home to more than 170 funds, each with a specific meaning to the individual or organization it supports.

When making your holiday gift list please consider a gift to one of the many funds held with the Community Foundation. Your gift of any amount may be designated as a memorial or honorarium. Gifts can be processed through our secure website: www.yourcommunityfirst.org or mailed to the office. We are honored to acknowledge all gifts.

“Being committed to a cause or issue moves philanthropy away from the margins and towards the center of your life,”

– Jennifer S. Maddox, President & CEO