A Legacy Comes Full Circle

Fund Spotlight - Oleta B. Spearman Endowment Fund supporting the Public Library of Anniston and Calhoun County

Oleta Spearman was a devoted patron of the public library both in life and in death. Always an avid reader, she was a Friend of the Library, supporting the organization with her interest, her time and her financial resources. Upon her death in August of 1999, Mrs. Spearman left a bequest to the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama benefiting the Public Library of Anniston and Calhoun County. Her bequest was designated for the purchase of large print books and materials and to the Children’s Department. Her desire was to encourage children to read and develop an interest in the store of knowledge contained in the library. While never having children of her own, Mrs. Spearman made an investment in the future of the young sons and daughters of Calhoun County.

Dr. and Mrs. Spearman began their association with the public library in the early years of their marriage as they researched the destinations of their extensive travels. They were constant companions. In later years, as his eyesight began to fail, Dr. Spearman became a patron of the Library for the Blind and Handicapped, first checking out large print titles and then audio books. Mrs. Spearman’s patronage followed the same pattern.

Teresa Kiser, Director of the library states, “These books are extremely popular with senior citizens with vision problems. Each large print book is stamped with an acknowledgement to Oleta B. Spearman for her generosity.”

Through a planned gift to the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, Oleta B. Spearman insured that the library patronage that so enriched her life will be available to those who follow through the library doors. Mrs. Spearman’s spirit will live on through future generations.
New Fund Established

Jennifer S. Maddox, President & CEO

The Collaborative Education (CORE) Academy is a three-day conference that focuses on technology and teaching methodologies. The second annual academy was hosted on the campus of Jacksonville State University on June 3-5, 2014. In 2013, the CORE initiative received a grant from the Foothills Community Partnership Fund at the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama. This grant helped to secure Marc Prensky, author of Teaching Digital Natives, as a keynote speaker for the 2014 second annual academy.

The Foothills Community Partnership Fund supports JSU’s CORE Academy.

Grant Spotlight

Foothills Community Partnership Fund supports JSU’s CORE Academy

3 Ways Not-for-Profits Generate Revenue

Jennifer S. Maddox, President & CEO

Fees for Services or Goods – Not-for-profit organizations earn income by charging for services performed such as performances, tuition, counseling, etc. as well as by selling items such as t-shirts, food, advertising space in programs, thrift store items, etc.

Contributions – Whether current or planned, not-for-profits receive donations of cash, stock, or tangible personal property from individuals, corporations, and service organizations (Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.). Grants are a form of contributions and are awarded by foundations (community, family, corporate), governments (federal, state and local), and other public charities. Fundraisers are typically a hybrid of fees for services and contributions where the donor receives something of value (usually a meal) in exchange for a donation. The cost of the meal is a fee for goods and the excess value of the donation is a contribution.

Endowments – Endowments build a permanent source of dependable income for an organization. This permanent pool of assets is intended to both grow and help financially stabilize an agency forever. An endowment fund at a community foundation is comprised of donated assets that provide income for the maintenance of, or programmatic support for, a not-for-profit organization.

Importance of Endowments – Most not-for-profit organizations do very well with the first two sources of revenue. Where they often fall short in endowment building. Many can only focus on the immediate needs they see and are unable to plan and allocate finances toward an endowment. It’s like only having a checking account—not enough savings. Endowments provide a steady stream of income to the not-for-profit organization each year forever. Some donors like to support today’s needs and other donors like to leave lasting legacies for the future of charities they love. Without an endowment, donors who prefer this charitable option are overlooked and not-for-profits lose one of the three ways to generate revenue for their organization.

Dr. Nina King, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education and Dr. Celia Hilber, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education present “Using QR Codes Across Content Areas in Grades K-6” at the CORE Academy.

Scholarship Spotlight

Frederick Monteze (Tez) Boyd is studying to be a mechanical engineer. He attends Alabama A&M University. He received the Joseph & Amelia Saks Memorial Scholarship and the Nathan Jackson Sparks Memorial Scholarship established through the Community Foundation. Tez says, “The scholarships from the Foundation are more than just funding, it’s a special opportunity and without it I wouldn’t have the chance to make the most out of my life and be a better positive influence in my community.”

Junior Police Academy

This summer Calhoun County High School juniors and seniors had the opportunity to spend some quality time training with police officers. The free one-week training program provided hands-on training in traffic stops, domestic violence situations, firearms, investigations, first aid and many other areas. Students received training materials, uniforms, meals and snacks. Funding for this summer program was made possible through a grant from the Anniston Police Outreach Fund of the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama.

Members of the City of Anniston Police Department volunteer many hours mentoring area youth in sports and life skills. Chief Shane Denham says, “We are excited to offer programs like this to the youth of Calhoun County. We want them to experience the work we do daily to protect and serve them, their families, friends and community. These junior officers are our future police force.”

The Anniston Police Outreach Fund was established with the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama through an anonymous donor to ensure financial resources are available to support the outstanding youth outreach work of the force.

If you would like to support the work of the Anniston Police through a contribution to their fund, simply visit the website: www.yourcommunityfirst.org and click the Donate Now button, or mail your gift to P.O. Box 1826, Anniston, Alabama, 36202.

Restoring a Sense of Community – Alabama Grassroots Initiative

When communities are looking for a partner to lend expertise in funding, organizational skills and administrative support, a community foundation is a perfect choice! This need has arisen in the Town of Ranburne in Cleburne County, Alabama. Nestled in the bottom right corner of Cleburne County, Ranburne has a population of approximately 406. The median age is 45.8 and median household income is $35,982.

Ranburne citizens are embarking on a project to construct an outdoor educational pavilion behind the Ranburne Senior Center. The pavilion will provide a gathering place to facilitate home town spirit and pride and offer an atmosphere where knowledge can be shared. Skilled can be taught, creative opportunities are encouraged and families and community can come together.

To assist with this initiative, the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama has partnered with Auburn University and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in Cleburne County to facilitate a Rural Leadership Program. Four counties in Alabama have been selected to initiate such a program which has been funded by The DuPont Foundation. Each county is partnering with a community foundation in their region for support. Jennifer S. Maddox, President & CEO of the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, and Debby Mathews, Cleburne County Extension Agent, are partnering with Pam Richardson, Ranburne City Clerk, Ranburne residents and Pat Skinner, Project Coach, in this effort. The Foundation staff has provided grant writing training and will continue to support their efforts in the future.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

• AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

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