Milestones
1999 – 2018

1999 – 2002 A Smoking Cessation Program was offered free of charge through a grant of $120,000 from the Stringfellow Health Fund of the Community Foundation. This initiative would be the springboard for a Stringfellow Health Fund grant to the American Cancer Society to improve the Calhoun County Smoking Ordinances.

2000 The Prescription Drug Taskforce develops an Internet platform with a $65,000 grant, which expands statewide and generate more than $136 million annually in free prescription drugs directly from pharmaceutical companies. Today this is the Senior Rx Program.

2002 The Dental Care Taskforce with $350,000 in grant and community funding plans, renovates, equips and staffs the Calhoun County Dental Center providing preventative and restorative care for 2,800 low-income children. Today this is the Sarrell Dental Center.

2003 The Piedmont Education Trust adds 16 scholarship funds in excess of $250,000 to the Community Foundation for the benefit of Piedmont High School Graduates. Fast forward eleven years later, this fund now offers 29 scholarships totaling approximately $700,000.

2004 The Council on Foundations recognizes the Community Foundation of Calhoun County in the first tier of foundations to achieve full compliance with the National Standards among 700 U.S. Community Foundations.

2005 The estate of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Saks gifts $1 million to the Community Foundation to establish a permanent scholarship fund benefiting graduates of Saks High School.

2005 The Early Education Taskforce convened a long-term collaborative effort to complete the objectives of the Blueprint for School Readiness to work toward quality early learning programs for area children.

2006 The Community Foundation holds five regional listening sessions based on the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA) Community Counts Quality of Life Indicators to establish a seven-year strategic vision.

2007 The Career Tech Taskforce with $300,000 in grant and community funding equips, expands course offerings and sustains business and industry accreditation for the Career and Technical Education Curriculum at Anniston High School.

2008 The Foothills Community Partnership Endowment Fund, established with a $500,000 corporate gift, becomes the 100th charitable fund established with the Community Foundation.
2009  The Board changes name from Community Foundation of Calhoun County to Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama (CFNEA) and expands geographic service area to include 8 counties: Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, DeKalb, Etowah, Randolph, St. Clair and Talladega, in addition to Calhoun.

2010  The Foundation receives a gift of $2.7 million from the Ritch Family to establish a fund to support the work of Rainbow Omega, a residential community that cares for adults with developmental disabilities in northeast Alabama. Also this year, the YMCA received a matching grant to restore an aging facility to better meet the needs of the community. The Foundation celebrated with Habitat for Humanity on the completion of its 136th home, making it the third home to be built with the help of the Foundation.

2011  The Foundation was selected by the U.S. District Court to steward a legal settlement in the Evans Litigation lawsuit, becoming responsible for distributing the settlement to property owners in the form of higher education scholarships. Contributions to the Fund total approximately $963,000.

2011  A Tornado Recovery Fund was created to assist in the rebuilding of homes and lives following the April tornadoes. Through partnerships within the community and a challenge grant from The Patterson Foundation of Sarasota, Florida, $500,000 was raised to assist the four counties affected.

2012  The Community Foundation served as a convener to discuss rural housing opportunities in Alabama. This event was in partnership with the Housing Assistance Council, Alabama Giving, Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises, Inc., the United Way of Etowah County, the United Way of East Central Alabama, and the Cherokee County Family Resource Center. Event sponsors were the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation and the Jessie Ball DuPont Fund. This event successfully connected the people who wanted to help improve and increase affordable rural housing and generated new ideas to address the need.

2012 - 2018  The Community Foundation and its partners hosted Standards for Excellence® training for not-for-profit organizations in our region. The first program of its kind in the United States, the Standards for Excellence® program is a national initiative that promotes the highest standards of ethics and accountability in nonprofit governance, management, and operations, and facilitates adherence to those standards by all nonprofits. To date, 109 organizations have attended the trainings offered by CFNEA. Fifteen organizations have achieved this national recognition.

2012  Longtime minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Anniston and his wife, Dr. William Howard and Jessie Aiken Hodges Kryder, leave a generous legacy of $1.6 million in support of organizations important to them.

2013  Freedom Riders Park Fund was created to support the establishment of the Freedom Riders Park as a place of reflection, appreciation, and public education regarding Civil Rights.

2014  Hosted a Social Media Workshop for area organizations.
2014 Celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Community Foundations with a brunch at Classic on Noble.

2015 The Community Foundation began a collaboration as the fiscal sponsor for the Workforce Investment Network, Region 5 (after realignment is now known as Region 2) to improve economic development in northeast Alabama.

2016 Harland C. Jones of Oxford leaves his estate valued at $1.6 million to CFNEA to establish two funds: The Harland Jones Charitable Fund to promote and support literacy, education, safety, and development (moral and physical) of children up to age nineteen (19); and the Harland Jones Scholarship Fund to provide funding for any high school student in our region attending any institution of higher education.

The Longleaf Fund Reaches $1 million. The Longleaf Fund was established in 2000 by the Board of Trustees who set a goal of reaching $1 million in the fund prior to any grants being awarded.

2016 Central Alabama Best Robotics Fund was established to support the Central Alabama BEST Robotics program.

2016 Jennifer S. Maddox, President & CEO, received her Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP®) Designation.

2017 Out of the Shadows Summit – an awareness program focusing on mental health was made possible through a grant from CFNEA. The Summit was for consumers, family members, mental health advocates and professionals. The Summit will be an annual event.

2017 CFNEA received compliance from the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundation for demonstrating transparency and financial responsibility. CFNEA first received compliance in 2006, then again in 2011.

2017 Worlds of Work Fund was established to support Worlds of Work, an annual workforce development event designed for students. Workforce Investment Network Region 2 Fund to support economic development in northeast Alabama (specifically, Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Cherokee, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, Talladega, and Tallapoosa counties).

2018 CFNEA again receives accreditation from the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.

2018 In celebration of Susie Parker Stringfellow’s 100 Year Legacy, 15 not-for-profit organizations, throughout our region received $10,000 grants to create an Open Spaces Sacred Places outdoor space.

2018 Five funds were established to receive donations following the March 19, 2018 tornadoes.

2018 J. Mitchell Rogers, Director of Scholarships and Initiatives, received his Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP®) Designation.

2018 20th Anniversary “Big Idea” Grant Announced