



Greenwood County Community Foundation News

September 2013

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?
HOW CAN WE HELP YOU MAKE THAT HAPPEN?

Ridgely Bequest to Create Operations Endowment for Community Foundation

Moving to Lake Greenwood in 2007, Walter and Glenda Ridgely have genuinely made this area their home. Their wills include four endowment gifts: a student athlete scholarship at Presbyterian College, Harris Baptist Church, the Vet Tech program at Piedmont Technical College (reflecting their love of animals) and the Greenwood County Community Foundation.

In the very earliest days of the Greenwood County Community Foundation, Glenda (then VP of Business and Administration at Lander University) mentioned that her husband Walter was retiring as Treasurer at Presbyterian College, and that he may wish to volunteer with the Community Foundation. His work with the accounting side of college endowments at both Mary Baldwin College (Staunton, VA) and PC, made him the perfect candidate to set up record-keeping for the new Foundation in Greenwood.

Over twelve months he did just that, setting the course for prudent GCCF financial operations. During this time, Walter became familiar with the varied ways GCCF reaches out into the community and beyond through meaningful philanthropy.

Recently Glenda and Walter contemplated their retirement plans—financial and philanthropic. Keenly aware of the power of endowment, they updated

Presbyterian College, Harris Baptist Church, the Vet Tech program at Piedmont Technical College (reflecting their love of animals) and the Greenwood County Community Foundation. Through their estate, the Walter W. Ridgely, Jr. and Glenda E. Ridgely Endowed Fund will be created. From their educational operations experience, this couple knows that raising operations dollars can sometimes be a challenge.

As an endowed Fund, the bequest assets will be invested, and each year the Foundation will receive a portion of the Fund for its budgetary needs. The gift is designed to last in perpetuity. The Ridgely's believe that by supporting the operational budget of the Foundation, their gift will support the entire county.

Now that Glenda has retired, she and Walter have chosen to spend more time together and Walter has left his position with the Foundation. The Board of Directors recently gratefully acknowledged his valued contribution as the Foundation's first Volunteer Financial Officer.

Grants Recently Made Since June 12, 2013—\$43,025

From Foundation Unrestricted and Field of Interest Funds:

- *The Arts Center*
- *The Aviation Expo*
- *Cokesbury College Historical and Recreational Commission*
- *FESTIVA*
- *Greenwood Area Studio Potters*
- *Greenwood Community Theatre*
- *Greenwood Lander Performing Arts*
- *Festival Chorale*
- *Lions Club Foundation*
- *Town of Troy*
- *Upstate Forever*
- *Veterans Center*

From Donor Advised and Designated Funds

- *24 Hours of Booty*
- *A Place For Us*
- *Boy Scouts—Blue Ridge Council*
- *Child Evangelism Fellowship of the Lakelands*
- *Greenwood District 50 (Mentoring For Success)*
- *Greenwood Soup Kitchen*
- *Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation*
- *Pan Mass Challenge*
- *Potters Wheel*

From GreenwoodGives.org

- *Alston Wilkes Society*
- *American SRed Cross*
- *Cambridge Academy*
- *Food Bank of Greenwood County*
- *Greenwood Family YMCA*
- *Megs House*
- *Piedmont Agency on Aging*
- *Voice For the Children*

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



One of our donors recently brought in this message from C. S. Lewis; I believe it is worth sharing . . .

. . . as it so clearly embodies the imperative of community foundation work:

"I think each village was meant to feel pity for its own sick and poor who it can help, and I doubt it is the duty of any private person to fix his mind on ills when he cannot help. This may even become an escape from the works of charity we really can do to those we know. God may call any one of us to respond to some far away problem or support those who have been so called. But we are finite and He will not call us everywhere or to support every worthy cause. And real needs are not far from us."

The work of community foundations is to be LOCAL and STRATEGIC in meeting human need and increasing the livability of our own village. This means starting at home—getting to really know our closest neighbors and responding to their needs—mowing a lawn, changing a light bulb, carrying a paper to a porch. Then, we can reach out to those throughout our towns--providing tools to self-sufficiency, tutoring those with educational difficulties, creating places for food and housing.

When all of us, throughout the land, take responsibility for making our own locales stronger, healthier and more vibrant, then our entire nation and ALL of our inhabitants will be richer.

--Mark Kasper



Dating to the early 1900's, the Blacksmith Shop and the Corn Mill (pictured here) were important businesses in the Town of Troy. A recent GCCF grant will help preserve them.

Community Enhancement Grants Announced throughout Greenwood County!

For a second time, the Board of GCCF has made grants from its unrestricted assets in the Community Enhancement focus area--arts and culture, parks and recreation, economic development, human rights.

Grants Review Committee volunteers are Rhett Baker (First Citizens Bank), Nicholas Beasley (Church of the Resurrection, Episcopal), George Ligon (professional photographer), Julie Minor (Partnership Alliance), John Patrick (Park Sterling Bank), Shelia Reynolds (SC Vocational Rehabilitation) and Amaryllys Turman (Capsugel).

Of the grant review work, Committee member Rhett Baker commented, "It is extremely important to recognize and support local efforts that directly impact our fellow residents and their families. Without prejudices or favorites, the committee tries to identify the applications that best serve the community as a whole. It is a great feeling to be asked to recommend grants to organizations that do so much to enhance the quality of life in our community."

Sixteen organizations requested a total of \$69,550. Twelve grants made totaled \$28,000. The Board approved grants to the following organizations:

The Arts Center: \$4,000 to support expanded summer outreach camps in community centers in underserved areas (GLEAMNS at the Brewer Complex, La Puerta de Esperanza in the New Haven community, PLEAD in Promised Land, and Community Initiatives in Mathews Village)

The Aviation Expo: \$1,500 to a Festival of Flowers sanctioned event to promote the history of aviation and

honor military heroes by bringing WWII era planes to the event, the Experimental Aircraft Association, and Greenwood County/Airport Advisory Group.

Cokesbury College Historical and Recreational Commission: \$1,800 to assist with the preservation and promotion of this pre-Civil War structure in Hodges, SC.

FESTIVA: \$500 to underwrite the cost for the artists participating in the 2013-14 season.

Greenwood Area Studio Potters: \$2,100 to expand marketing for the Heritage Pottery Tour and fund events where the public will decorate bowls for the Soup Kitchen's "Empty Bowls" fundraiser.

Greenwood Community Theatre: \$3,800 to offset royalties for "The Wizard of Oz."

Greenwood Lander Performing Arts: \$2,500 to fund an outreach activity, "Master Class with Dallas Brass" on November 19, 2013.

Greenwood Festival Chorale: \$500 to support the 2013-14 concert season

Lions Club Foundation: \$4,800 to enhance vision screening with binocular, wi-fi enabled, portable equipment

Town of Troy: \$3,500 to complete a revitalization project of a historic corn mill and blacksmith shop and create a community park.

Upstate Forever: \$500 to assist with publication of a fine art photography book highlighting the critical importance of the watershed that creates Lake Greenwood.

Veterans Center: \$2,500 to honor Greenwood County veterans at the Hall of Heroes and Greenwood Military Museum.

McKinney Endowment will be saying “Thank You” to Sheperd Center for generations to come

In 1958, Martha and Roland McKinney chose Greenwood, SC to start a medical practice. Together he and Martha began establishing a wonderful life in Greenwood where they raised their growing family of four daughters and one son.

At the age of 18, John Roland McKinney, Jr. was critically injured in an automobile accident. Through his own determination, and the incredible care and medical attention he received at the Sheperd Center, John Roland regained the ability to function far beyond what he and his family had anticipated after the crash. Though a quadriplegic, he touched and influenced many lives in his career as a counselor, working with troubled and disabled children and adults.

While the family has consistently expressed their gratitude to Sheperd, last year Dr. McKinney and his children decided to make a permanent statement of their gratefulness. They created the Martha C. and J. Roland McKinney Fund at the Community Foundation. Year in and year out, in perpetuity, this endowed designated Fund will make a contribution from its growth to the Sheperd Center to carry on the work of giving life back to those who have suffered such injury.

American Red Cross and Juvenile Diabetes ... and ... 24 Hours of Booty???

One great thing about a Donor Advised Fund is that you can make ONE gift when it is most tax-advantageous and



then recommend grants from that Fund at your leisure. And making a wide VARIETY of grants is exactly what our Fundholders have been up to lately!

Grants to organizations that our donors care deeply about, such as the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, may not be unusual. Nor might a grant to the American Red Cross. That organization will use their grant to provide food, shelter and medications in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

But...when one donor recommended we send a check to **24 Hours of Booty**, our eyebrows were certainly raised. Sure enough, staff researched the organization and its work, and the Board approved the grant. This is a 24-hour cycling event to raise local and national funds in the fight against cancer. The



event brings together cyclists of all abilities and unites people who are passionate about fighting this disease. Held on a traffic-free loop, the event has raised more than \$7 million since 2002.

Our generous donors are making a great difference locally and far beyond.

Have You Ever Said, “I Give Up”?

Now here is your chance to “Give Up” for a good cause. Each quarter the Foundation’s ability to grant is far exceeded by worthy requests for funding. Now you can help local organizations complete projects which have been fully vetted, but only partially funded, by the Foundation Board and Grants Review Committees. If you would like to “give up” to “add to” any of the great projects listed elsewhere in this newsletter, or to “give up” to increase our grantmaking in **Community Enhancement** or **Youth/Education** or **Health/Human Services**, let us know.

We’ll assist you in your strategic philanthropy.

“It is an honor to help donors make meaningful gifts by pairing their interest to a project. Many donors know the specific organizations they want to support, but some people have a broader interest and are looking for projects to support that are making a difference in the “field” (i.e. education) they care about,” notes GCCF Director of Community Partnerships Joanne Burkett.

For example, Upstate Forever plans to publish a fine art photography book celebrating Lake Greenwood and the watershed that creates it. The cost of this project far exceeds the \$5,000 maximum Community Enhancement

grant. After reviewing the grant application, the committee wanted to be included in this effort to highlight one of the greatest resources in Greenwood County but could only provide a small grant for the project. “People in Greenwood who appreciate the lake may want to (“give up”) and give to this project through the Foundation, beyond what we were able to grant,” notes Review Committee member Julie Miner.

Others may want to support their community by contributing to the one of our grant cycles which most closely matches their personal interests.

Ready to “Give Up”?— We can help!

Never Too Early (Seldom too Late) For Year-End Tax Planning

Last year as one of our busy (read: procrastinating) donors began year-end tax planning in mid-December, her accountant suggested that she consider increasing her charitable contributions. The advisor knows that giving back is an important piece of this client's life, and it will help reduce her taxes.

The generous client agreed with the advice but expressed concern about not having much time to consider which community organizations to support with a gift. She also had misgivings about donating a large sum of money to one charity.

"If I give it this year, they may expect as much or more in years to come.

And, I need more time to think strategically about my giving," she said. The accountant encouraged her to consider using the community foundation as a flexible vehicle that will allow her to delay and also fulfill her varied charitable interests.

She met with GCCF's professional grant-making staff to discuss giving choices and elected to establish a donor-advised Fund in the name of her family, allowing them to stay actively involved in suggesting gifts from the Fund for years to come, while providing an immediate tax deduction in the year the gift is made.

Each year, the donor will meet with foundation staff to recommend gifts from the Fund. She, and later her family, can take advantage of the community foundation's knowledge of

local needs and resources to find the charitable organizations and projects that best match her interests.

Because the community foundation is a public charity, it offers the highest level of tax benefits for charitable giving. Donors can match high-income years with high charitable tax deductions that generate long-term community benefits. In addition, donors can add to their donor-advised fund any time they wish and integrate further contributions within their overall financial and estate plan.

Even now, for help with year-end giving plans, contact GCCF.

Is Greenwood included in your will or estate plan? Contact us to create your own custom, permanent legacy!

For more information, go to the GCCF Website at: www.GreenwoodCF.org



GREENWOOD COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Interesting local projects need your support at GreenwoodGives.org

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Since 2011, we have granted more than \$638,000 as investment in our area's future!