



GREENWOOD COUNTY  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

# FOUNDATION NEWS

Summer 2016

## PROJECT HOPE NAMED AS 2016 INNOVATION GRANT RECIPIENT



*Representatives from Project Hope receive the Innovation Grant check from GCCF staff and Board members while touring the organization's future home in Greenwood. Pictured left to right are: Jeff Smith - GCCF President, Mary Woodiwiss - GCCF Projects and Grants Manager, Lisa Lane - Project Hope Co-Executive Director, Mamie Nicholson - GCCF Board member, Susan Sachs - Project Hope Co-Executive Director, Martha Barnette - GCCF Board Member and Amaryllis Turman - GCCF Board member.*

Project Hope, a Greenville-based organization that offers a wide range of services to individuals who have been diagnosed with autism was recently awarded \$50,000 through the Greenwood County Community Foundation's Innovation granting cycle to be used for the start up of an Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy program in Greenwood. ABA therapy has proven to be transformative in the lives of those with autism as well as their families.

According to Co-Executive Director, Lisa Lane, Greenwood was the logical choice when they were looking to expand their program. "Greenwood presents us with tremendous opportunities for collaboration that are not available in other communities. The Genetic Center, the Burton Center, Lander University and Piedmont Tech, plus a number of non-traditional support programs have already been identified, and more are being presented as we move closer to opening in the fall." Lane added, "We're very excited to bring this program

to Greenwood and expand it over the next few years." Co-Executive Director Susan Sachs added to Lane's sentiment. "We're amazed at the support we have received from the Greenwood community - financially and emotionally. We know coming to Greenwood is the right next step in our growth and we want to thank everyone, including the Greenwood County Community Foundation, for their warm and generous welcome." GCCF's Innovation Grant supports creative ideas that foster strategic change within the Greenwood County community, generates collective excitement for original and courageous approaches to addressing root causes of systemic problems or deficiencies, and contributes to a healthy, thriving community. When considering applications for the Innovation Grant, the Foundation's Board of Directors actively seeks proposals that stretch the imagination and enrich lives, while fostering collaboration and partnerships among organizations.



*President's Note*

*This Close . . .*

Greenwood is on the verge of truly remarkable partnerships and collaboration that will change our charitable landscape for the better

What a wonderful county we live in! Evidence of partnerships and collaboration abound as Greenwood continues to grow and re-invent itself. The spirit of cooperation is almost palpable at times as disparate groups and individuals come together to make yet another Greenwood dream a reality.

Our new Uptown Market is a collaboration between area farmers and gardeners and the City of Greenwood. On any given day, live music emanates from a host of locations around Greenwood County while patrons enjoy a variety of visual and performing art offerings. The Partnership Alliance and the County are teaming together to attract more new industries to Greenwood, and our institutions of higher learning are partnering with them to ensure a skilled workforce is available.

And there is more good news on the horizon. Just recently I had the good fortune to issue GCCF's Innovation Grant to Project Hope Foundation, a cutting edge Greenville-based autism therapy and education program that will soon expand to serve Greenwood and surrounding counties. There is a growing sense of excitement over what the presence

of this program in Greenwood signifies. Collaboration between all of our educational institutions, research facilities, training programs, and cultural organizations have already been discussed with more waiting in the wings.

Also, our Foundation is finalizing a strategic plan that will chart our path forward for the next five years. Our vision will allow us to be a catalyst for new programs and a revitalized spirit of giving in Greenwood County. This is a role we relish and readily accept. Our goal is to provide everyone an opportunity to support the issues and programs that are important in their lives.

Throughout my life, not just in my role at the Greenwood County Community Foundation, I have found that people desire to be generous - to support worthy causes that better their communities. Our goal going forward is to be the conduit through which everyone can make an impact, with ease and confidence.

I encourage you to contact our office to see how you can be a partner in the continued growth and progress of our community.

Jeff

## Recent Funds Created

Anne B. Urquhart Endowment  
The Parham Family Endowment  
The Parham Family Trust

S.C. Jaycees Eternal Hope Endowment  
The Strawn Family Promise

**\$4.5 Million - Total Endowment**  
**\$1.78 Million - Total Grants Awarded**  
**26 Named Funds**

## Youth and Education Grants Awarded

GCCF is committed to quality educational experiences that take learning beyond the school walls and provide unique opportunities for enrichment. Our Youth and Education grant cycle helps support a wide variety of programs that enhance the learning experience.

The 2016 Youth and Education Grant Review Committee included: Selynto Anderson, Wendi Andrews, Daniel Crockett, Georgia Deal, Shell Dula, Donna Foster, David Henderson, Randy Randall, and Casey Tompkins.

2016 Youth and Education grant recipients are:

**A Place for Us Ministries** (\$3300) to continue providing high school, GED or other educational opportunities for residents.

**Greenwood Community Improvement Foundation** (\$3,000) to create a South Carolina Student Leadership Conference.

## Agency Funds Provide Long Term Security

Greenwood is blessed with an abundance of organizations that enrich the lives of all its citizens, but that frequently have to scramble for needed funds for operations and programs. Usually, these organizations can make ends meet and live to serve another day. But without some type of long term funding plan, the future becomes very uncertain.

That's where the Greenwood County Community Foundation enters the picture. Through the creation of an endowed agency fund, non-profit organizations can develop a robust funding source that will supplement other revenues, and could eventually become their primary source of operating and programming income.

There are several local organizations that have recently created funds through GCCF and will be able to access the funds generated from the funds investments. The Greenwood Community Theatre and the Arts Center Greenwood both have invest-

**Greenwood Family YMCA** (\$4300) for their Safety Around Water Initiative aimed at all children, but primarily minority and underserved youth.

**SC Festival of Flowers** (\$2200) for their Youth Topiary Project to provide horticultural and environmental education to school-age children in grades K-12.

**SC Governor's School for Science and Mathematics** (\$4500) for the CREATEng Engineering Summer Camp in Greenwood.

**United Way of Greenwood and Abbeville Counties** (\$2,000) for their annual Stuff the Bus school supplies initiative.



ed in their futures through endowed funds. Others are considering fund creation as well.

The beauty of the agency fund is that individuals, businesses or other organizations can contribute as well, and receive the same tax deduction as they would by donating directly to the organization. And GCCF handles all of the paperwork - issuing checks, tax receipts, donor acknowledgements, etc. With the implementation of an endowment campaign focused primarily on an identified donor base, the fund can grow rapidly.

For more information about our fund options and how they can benefit your organization, contact Jeff Smith at [jsmith@greenwoodcf.org](mailto:jsmith@greenwoodcf.org).



## Community Indicators Project Names Grant as New Coordinator



*Robert Grant, Community Indicators Project  
Coordinator*

If you sense some excitement in the air, it could be children excited about summer break, or there's a good possibility it's Robert Grant's enthusiasm seeping into every nook and cranny of Greenwood County. Grant was recently hired as Coordinator of the Community Indicators Project (CIP) - a position that had languished for several months before he came on board. A Greenwood native, Grant attended public schools here before following his father's footsteps at South Carolina

State University. After a 4-year stint teaching in Spartanburg County, he decided to follow his passion for community engagement, attending NC State University where he received his Masters degree in Public Administration. It was during this time that Grant developed a keen awareness of the non-profit community and the impact these organizations have on the communities they serve. This interest led him to accept the position with the Community Indicators Project.

"CIP is really a needs assessment tool that determines the major areas of concern in the community," said Grant. "Previous work identified five areas of need, so I have been working to create task forces around each area, each with a leader or, in some cases co-leaders, to help direct that group." Grant plans to have all task forces up and running this fall. "My goal is to have each group addressing issues and identifying solutions as soon as possible."

## GCCF Embarks On 5-Year Strategic Planning Process

GCCF has had tremendous success since its official start in November, 2011. Begun by an anonymous \$2.5 million gift, the foundation has grown in less than five years to a total endowment of over \$4.6 million, and has granted an amazing \$1.78 million in that same time period.

But as impressive as those numbers are, it is recognized that GCCF has to grow, and grow significantly, in order to become truly self-sustaining and to have the culture-changing impact it was created to accomplish.

In January of 2016, GCCF President, Jeff Smith and the Board of Directors determined that a strategic planning process, led by an objective facilitator with a proven track record, was the optimal course of action to determine the foundation's path forward for the next three to five years.

Linda Salane, a renowned educator and strategic consultant, was secured to guide the organization through the

planning process. Through a series of focus group sessions and Board exercises, the Foundation is close to finalizing its strategic goals, major objectives, and action items to secure GCCF's future as the hub of community philanthropy in Greenwood with an impact that reaches far beyond the county line.

The Foundation has as a primary goal to at least double its current total endowment with the ultimate aim to reach \$15 million. There will also be an emphasis on nurturing a giving culture in Greenwood, identifying new philanthropic communities, establishing funds around areas of common interest, and increasing communication with current fundholders so they are aware of emerging funding opportunities.

Smith anticipates the plan to be in place by fall of 2016 and in full implementation by January, 2017.

*NonProfit Spotlight:*  
**Teresa Goodman and Community Initiatives**  
Serving critical needs in Greenwood County



*Teresa Goodman*

*Community Initiatives has received GCCF grant awards in several grant cycles.*

**Tell us a little about your educational and professional backgrounds.**

I've worked in various roles in the social services arena since 1998; including SC Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, SC Department of Social Services, and SC Department of Juvenile Justice. I hold two graduate degrees: Master of Science in Individual and Family Development and a Master of Arts in Management and Leadership.

**How long have you been with Community Initiatives (CI)?** I joined the Community Initiatives team in March of 2014.

**How did your past work experience lead you to this career?** Working in the human service arena gave me a great understanding of the need for an agency such as Community Initiatives, while working in management grew my understanding for managing an agency of this size. In 2002, I partnered with Community Initiatives during my time as the G-CAP project coordinator in Laurens County for Gateway Counseling Center. Both agencies started community coalitions to address underage alcohol use and prevention

strategies. I led the Laurens County efforts and Community Initiatives led the Greenwood County efforts; I was familiar with the work being done here and the impact that it made on the residents of Greenwood and surrounding counties.

**What work does CI do in the community?** Community Initiatives' outreach efforts focus on health and education and are categorized into youth, community, and health strategies. Clinica Gratis is a medical home that provides a primary care provider for anyone with no, or very little, medical insurance. Youth programs focus on literacy efforts, academic assistance, and physical and mental wellness. Community events ensure residents are aware of local resources.

**What has been your most notable accomplishment at CI?** I would have to say facilitating our Neighborhood Center's relocation from Grier Street to our current location on Church Ave. We remained in the Mathews Community but the move allowed CI to triple the numbers served through our youth programming, expand health outreach efforts, and increase our community based services.

**What areas of critical need do you hope to address in the near future?** The areas we serve are all critical need areas and require our continued focus on health for the underserved, academic assistance for children to improve their academic performance, and support for communities that face major challenges such as poverty, substance abuse, and lack of resources. We continue to develop and improve our programs as research becomes available to support our efforts.

**What is the ONE thing you would like for people to always remember about CI?** That our vision of "working with the community, for the community" is not just a saying but are the heartfelt words we live by!

## Funds In Focus: ‘Serge’



Donor Advised Funds established with GCCF can have broad impact, extending to the world’s farthest corners. Through donations designated to Serge, an international mission agency (previously known as World Harvest Mission), one local donor’s fund substantially supports long-term missionaries in several locations.

According to the organization’s website, [serge.org](http://serge.org), “Serge is a verb that means

*International mission agency allows local donor advised fund to have far-reaching impact*

‘joining together rough edges to form a smooth seam.’ We believe God weaves His goodness and grace into the ragged parts of our lives, making the tattered beautiful . . . This is the heart of Serge.” More than 250 Serge missionaries serve in 16 countries, where they are involved in “community and business development, combating poverty and slavery, health care, discipleship, equipping, and church planting.” Through Greenwood friendships, this fundholder became aware of a specific Serge missionary to support. Interest grew with attendance at a regional Serge mission conference. “As a family, we are trying to help carry out the Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations.” GCCF assists this donor in playing a part in international outreach while also continuing to do good work at home in Greenwood.