Growing to Meet Needs and Fulfill Dreams

In the most recent 2011 annual rankings published by the Columbus Community Foundation, East Tennessee Foundation (ETF)’s $162 million in assets placed us 68th, $10.9 million in grants ranked us 75th, and $26 million in gifts received positioned us 50th out of more than 700 community foundations. The Foundation’s rise on the list is an indication of the generous and continuing desire of the people of East Tennessee to meet the needs and fulfill the dreams of our region.

To put this generosity into action, we are building staff and infrastructure to continue providing top notch donor services to make thoughtful and strategic grants and improve the quality of life in our 25-county service area now and in the future. Additionally, as reported in this newsletter, more donors are seeing value in creating scholarships as a means of changing our region one person at a time.

As we now approach $200 million in assets, we are grateful for those who had the vision to see the merits of assembling charitable resources, managing them well, and using them to take action to address the most pressing challenges of our time. Because we know that rankings don’t even begin to tell our story, our success will be measured by the lives we change - the region we improve.  ~ Mike McClamroch, ETF President & CEO

East Tennessee Foundation Scholarships Change Lives, One Person at a Time…

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

-- Benjamin Franklin

Many wise individuals have spoken of the importance and value of education. East Tennessee Foundation (ETF) donors not only recognize the importance of these words, but also take action! Thanks to the generosity of our donors dedicated to investing in students’ futures, we are able to administer more than 40 scholarship funds. Often, our scholarship applicants face daily challenges. Many, if not most, would not be able to afford college without the help of ETF scholarships, and several are the first in their families to attend college. East Tennessee Foundation scholarships truly put a face on what we do at East Tennessee Foundation and really do help make dreams come true. This fall, ETF scholarships will touch the lives of 140 students. As we “invest” in our students, we are also investing in our region’s future.
ETF scholarships make a difference in the lives of the people who establish them. Donors consistently talk about how they view setting up the scholarships as an opportunity to “give something back” to young people and to the community. They express extreme satisfaction knowing their scholarships are truly making a difference and touching lives.

Establishing a scholarship fund also offers an opportunity to honor loved ones while helping change the lives of those pursuing higher education. Many of the scholarships have been established to memorialize a lost parent, spouse or child. Others honor teachers, coaches or prominent community leaders.

Scholarship funds are endowed funds and, therefore, will continue to be awarded for years to come. They serve as a legacy for future students and for the future of our region.

For more information about establishing a scholarship, please contact Beth Heller, ETF Scholarship and Program Officer, or Sherri Alley, Vice President for Advancement, at (865) 524-1223, toll free at 1(877)-524-1223 or by e-mail at bheller@etf.org or sdalley@etf.org.

East Tennessee Foundation
Staff Member Receives Outstanding Teacher Award

Dan Foltz-Gray, Coordinator and Mentor for the Steven L. Coffey Memorial Scholarship Fund, received the Sarah Ellen Benroth Award for Outstanding Teaching at Roane State Community College. The award includes an invitation to the Hawaii National Great Teachers Seminar. Dan is an Associate Professor of English and the Coordinator of Reading and Writing Learning Support at Roane State Community College. He has worked with the Steven L. Coffey Memorial Scholarship program for 11 years.

The Steven L. Coffey Memorial Scholarship was established at East Tennessee Foundation to benefit Anderson County high school graduates and adult residents who wish to pursue a college education. The intent of the program is to provide assistance to students who may not display the highest scholastic rankings, yet still possess great potential and motivation. The support Dan provides to the recipients of the Steven L. Coffey Memorial Scholarship contributes greatly to their success in college.

ETF Scholarship Facts

- There are currently 45 scholarship funds at ETF, 40 of which are actively making awards.
- ETF scholarship program requirements range from financial need to scholastic achievement. Several scholarships are targeted toward specific schools or counties, particular fields of study, students involved in certain extracurricular activities, or those who may not display the highest scholastic rankings, yet still possess great potential and motivation.
- ETF administers approximately $13,558,000 in scholarship funds.
- Scholarships are available to residents in 25 counties in our region and 12 counties outside ETF’s 25-county service area.
- Scholarship funds are endowed funds and scholarship awards range from 1-year to 4-years and from $700 to $40,000.

Did you know?

Although our office is in Knoxville, we make grants and scholarships in 25 counties of East Tennessee.

(See service area map on ETF website)

Follow ETF on Social Media!
Scholarship Opportunities Continue to Grow

The Mickey Forrester Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by Nancy Forrester in memory of her husband Mickey Forrester, to benefit graduates of Sullivan East High School in Bluff City, Tennessee. Preference is given to female athlete applicants who have participated in at least one Sullivan East High School athletic team for a minimum of four years.

The Elman McCutchen Merritt Scholarship Fund was established by Martha Fine in memory of her father, Elman McCutchen Merritt, to benefit graduates of Campbell High School in Campbell, Missouri.

The Brilla Young Scholarship was established to assist graduates of Grainger County High School, Washburn School, and Hancock High School in pursuing programs of study leading to Registered Nurse Licensure and/or a Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing.

East Tennessee Foundation’s scholarship program is continuing to expand as several more scholarships are in the process of preparing to make their first awards in 2014 and beyond!

For a full listing of ETF’s scholarships please use this link:

The impact of ETF scholarships is best described in the recipients’ own words:

“I can only hope to have as great of an impact on our community as Gordon and Agnes Cobb did….I look forward to using this scholarship to help better our community one classroom, one patient, and one step at a time.” 2013 Gordon W. and Agnes P. Cobb Scholarship Recipient

“You are creating the ability for me to reach my dreams of becoming a Trauma Nurse….I promise the committee did not make a wrong decision in picking me to receive this scholarship; I will not let you down….I will be a graduate of TSU and will one day be living my dream. This will be done due to the help you have provided. I will forever be grateful.” 2013 R.G. and Ruth Crossno Scholarship Recipient

“Growing up in a single parent home I have come to have an appreciation of what a quality education can do. I want to make my mom proud. Your scholarship has given me not only the ability to go on to college, but boosted my confidence as well. Thank you for believing in me and providing me with this opportunity. I promise I will not disappoint you.” 2013 Steven L. Coffey Memorial Scholarship Recipient

“This scholarship means so much to me. Because of this I will be the first in my family to go to college. Knowing that there are people who care about the youth in the community is amazing. It makes me want to help as well. Living in a camper for so much of my life has made me dream of being able to provide more for myself and for others. Having this will help me achieve my dream. I really thank you from the bottom of my heart.” 2013 Steven L. Coffey memorial Scholarship Recipient

“I am extremely grateful for the support you will be giving me as I embark upon my college career. My family unfortunately is unable to help me with much of my college expenses, but associations like yours are giving students like me a chance to better their education and follow their dreams. You are a blessing and I wish you luck with your future endeavors in changing lives of the young dreamers, lovers of knowledge, and minds of the future.” 2013 Knox Central Class of ’50 Alumni Association Scholarship Recipient

“I cannot possibly express a thank you sufficient enough for the gift that you have given to me! It came as such shock to me on class night when my name was called for this scholarship. I believe I was the happiest senior in the room….I have never been picked for anything special or given an award as special as this….I want you to know that this scholarship will not be taken for granted. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for lending a hand in my journey to a prosperous and very successful life!” 2013 McMinn County High School Alumni Scholarship Recipient
Where Are They Now?

2009 Jack and Edith Updyke Harmon Scholarship recipient: Graduated from King College (summa cum laude and a Snider’s Honor Scholar) with a major in cellular and molecular biology. Will be entering medical school this August.

2008 Craighead Limestone Scholarship recipient: Graduated from Tennessee Wesleyan College with a degree in music. Enrolled in science classes and plans to attend dental school and practice in Madisonville.

2008 Johnson County Scholarship recipient: Graduated from Vanderbilt University with a degree in anthropology and art history. Curatorial Assistant at the Natural History Museum and East Tennessee State University. Plans to pursue doctorate in anthropology with a specialty in bioarchaeology and teach at the university level.

2008 Johnson County Scholarship recipient: Graduated from King College with a degree in education. Teaching sixth grade reading/language arts at Roan Creek elementary school in Mountain City, TN.

2008 Johnson County Scholarship recipient: Graduated from East Tennessee State University with a major in criminal justice. Financial Services Representative with Sun Trust.

2008 Knoxville Business Association Scholarship recipient: Attending graduate school at The U of T, Knoxville. Plans to sit for CPA exam and work for a small regional or local accounting firm.

2007 Gordon W. and Agnes P. Cobb Scholarship recipient: Graduated from Belmont University with a degree in biology. Attending medical school at Wake Forest University.

2007 Gordon W. and Agnes P. Cobb Scholarship recipient: Graduated from Sewanee: University of the South. Attending medical school at Wake Forest University.

2007 Steven L. Coffey Memorial Scholarship recipient: Graduated with a degree in elementary education. Teaching at Emory Valley Early Learning Center in Anderson County.

2004 Gordon W. and Agnes P. Cobb Scholarship recipient: Veterinarian in Athens, TN.

2000 Gordon W. and Agnes P. Cobb Scholarship recipient: Family Practice Physician in Bluff City, TN.

ETF STAFF NEWS

Susan Blair served as ETF’s Assistant to the President and Receptionist until her cancer diagnosis. We recently celebrated her return with cake, ice cream, and a special “band cutting ceremony” where Mike McClamroch cut off the “No one fights alone” wristband he had been wearing in support of Susan. We rejoice in her return!

Trudy Hughes’ experience as executive director of New Hope - Children’s Advocacy Center in Blount County will serve her well as she joins the ETF team as Director of Regional Advancement. Her background includes experience in social service, juvenile justice, and program development with at-risk children and families.

Terry Morgan’s proven success in fundraising, development, marketing, and managing foundations prepared her well to be the first Women’s Fund of East Tennessee Director. In this new position, Terry will work with the Women’s Fund Advisory Board and ETF to transform the lives of low-income women and girls in East Tennessee.

Anna Whitener joins us as our Financial & Administrative Associate. She processes gifts, prepares gift acknowledgment letters and other correspondence. She also provides administrative and technical assistance when needed. Prior to joining ETF, Anna received her Master’s in City and Regional Planning.
The Pat Summitt Foundation Fund will be featured in a 30 second PSA (should we say “commercial” here?) in every Regal theatre across the country during the entire month of September. During the month of October, the PSA/commercial will be shown via Comcast on TVs throughout the Southeast. Pat Summitt and Honorary Co-Chairs Kara Lawson and Peyton Manning star in the PSA/commercial, which was produced by RIVR Media here in Knoxville. We are very grateful to RIVR Media, Regal Entertainment Group, and Comcast for their very generous support.

Together We Will Win!

Oh! Babies!
We are pleased to announce the arrival of two new additions to our ETF family!

Sofia
Isabella
Alley,
daughter of
Sherri and
Keith Alley

Samuel
Kuster
Dunn, son of
Mary Amber
and Daniel
Dunn

Women’s Fund Announces Technical Assistance Workshops for 2014 Grants

The Women’s Fund of East Tennessee, a fund of East Tennessee Foundation, will hold Technical Assistance Workshops for interested organizations on Wednesday, September 18th at 3:00 p.m. in Johnson City at the Johnson City Public Library (100 W. Millard St., Johnson City, TN 37604) and on Wednesday, September 25th at 3:00 p.m. in Knoxville at the Public Defender’s Community Law Office (1101 Liberty St., Knoxville, TN 37919). Please call East Tennessee Foundation at 877-524-1223 if someone from your organization will attend one of these workshops.

The Women’s Fund of East Tennessee will provide information about its grantmaking process for 2014. The second year of grantmaking will build upon the work of the 2012 Women’s Fund Research Project which endeavored to set priorities to transform the lives of low-income women and girls by eliminating barriers to self-sufficiency.

In reviewing data, it is clear that issues preventing or deterring many low-income women from achieving self-sufficiency are complex and interwoven. For this reason, coupled with the amount of funding available, $80,000, the Women’s Fund seeks to fund exemplary programs that address skill attainment in two focus areas: Life Skills and Education and Work-Related Skills.

For additional information, please visit our website www.womensfundetn.org.

Union County Community Foundation
An Affiliate Fund of East Tennessee Foundation

2013 Grant Awards

The Union County Community Foundation (UCCF) was established as a project of Leadership Union County, the Class of 2010. As community leaders and visionaries, the Class of 2010 made a lasting commitment to the people of Union County by developing a resource to achieve community goals and promote Union County. UCCF is a fund that has been created to support opportunities to advance and improve the quality of life of the residents of Union County.

Through a partnership with the Union County Mayor’s Office, the following grants were awarded in four areas of study to Union County High School to support teachers and/or career counselors:

ARTS
Rodney Brown, for his purchase of the Pyware computer program to help the marching band prepare for shows and competitions; Lesley Sexton, for her purchase of art supplies;

ATHLETICS
Lisa-Marie Brown, for her purchase of supplies and equipment for boys’ and girls’ tennis teams;

ACADEMICS
Sherrie Collins, for her purchase of non-fiction books for student research papers; Andrea Williams, for her purchase of new textbooks for her reading intervention class;

CAREER and/or VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL
Matthew McGinnis, for his purchase of the CEV Multimedia: Advanced Animal Science Unit, a program to supplement the Animal Science curriculum.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING AWARDED: $3,830
Johnson County Community Foundation (JCCF) was established through the work of the Johnson County Community committee and generous gifts of time, vision and resources. This group of Johnson County residents was committed to strengthening communities and improving the quality of life in Johnson County. Organizations which were awarded grants and the summaries of their funded projects follow:

**Barter Theatre**
Barter Youth Academy will educate students in theatre arts and storytelling.

**Dry Run Volunteer Fire Department**
Helmet lights and gloves will be purchased to help firefighters fight brush fires.

**First District Volunteer Fire Department**
The Fire Prevention education program for elementary school aged children will be expanded.

**Friends of the Library of Johnson County**
Author/illustrator Chris Soentpiet will present an assembly and/or workshop to Mountain City students.

**Heritage Hall**
Tickets will be provided for Johnson County children and their parents to attend a performance of Dr. Gary Flegal’s “The Magic of Smiles.”

**Johnson County Arts Council**
Local artist and educator Crystal Dunn will paint a series of large murals on downtown buildings that honor Johnson County’s rich musical heritage.

**Johnson County Arts Council**
Youth will collect and incorporate natural objects into their work with earthenware clay.

**Johnson County Emergency Heating For Seniors Fund**
Funds will be provided to low-income seniors who cannot afford their heating bills.

**Johnson County Farmers Market**
Children will be educated about the importance of eating healthy, staying active, and buying locally.

**Johnson County Government**
Johnson County Imagination Library will provide free, age appropriate books each month for children from birth to age five.

**Johnson County High School**
Joel Penton, a youth motivational speaker, will present assembly programs to Johnson County high and middle school students.

**Johnson County High School**
Future Farmers of America students will build small chicken houses to raise laying hens whose eggs will be distributed to families in need.

**Johnson County High School**
Johnson County Vocational School students will attend the Health Occupations Students of America National Leadership Conference in Nashville.

**Pregnancy Support Center of Johnson County**
The Crib Incentive program will promote the importance of early prenatal care for pregnant women.

**Johnson County Education Growth Scholarship Fund (A fund of JCCF)**
Funding will support the tuition for a graduating senior or non-traditional student who will attend a college or a trade school of the student’s choice.

**TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED:**
$20,500
CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER:
A CHARITABLE GIFT COUNTS AS IRA DISTRIBUTION

Recent tax law changes could result in higher income taxes in 2013 for many individuals and couples. Taxpayers with adjusted gross income over certain thresholds may face additional taxes and/or limits on deductions and exemptions they can use. However, for senior citizens desiring to make a charitable gift, a “charitable IRA rollover” (also called a “qualified charitable IRA distribution”) may have some distinct tax advantages. At present, this favorable tax treatment for charitable IRA rollovers expires December 31, 2013, so those wishing to take advantage of this planning tool must take action before the end of this year.

The advantages realized from a charitable IRA rollover really depend on a donor’s particular financial and tax situation, so donors are encouraged to consult their professional advisors for personalized advice. The option to make charitable gifts from an IRA may allow a donor to make a major gift during his or her lifetime without impacting his or her general standard of living. The donor must be at least 70 ½ years old, but the amount of the charitable IRA rollover distribution (up to $100,000) will count towards the donor’s required minimum distribution for the year. Yet, unlike IRA distributions paid to the donor, the donor is not taxed on the amount of the distribution and it will not be included in the donor’s adjusted gross income, so this type of gift may help prevent the donor from reaching income thresholds that trigger additional taxes or limit deductions and exemptions. Finally, donors who do not itemize deductions or have already maximized charitable deductions for the year may find it useful to make charitable gifts through charitable IRA rollover.

As with any transaction created and defined by federal tax law, there are particular requirements for a charitable IRA rollover to qualify for the tax advantages. One of those requirements, that the funds be paid to a “qualified charity” makes community foundations, such as East Tennessee Foundation (“ETF”), uniquely qualified to accept charitable IRA rollover distributions while affording donors many options regarding the charitable use for the funds. Because endowment funds are permanent funds that grant out only a percentage of the fund’s value each year, an endowed ETF fund can allow a single charitable IRA rollover distribution to have a long-lasting charitable impact. Moreover, a wide variety of ETF funds can be established with this kind of distribution: Funds that make annual grants to a particular charity (such as a church, school or social services organization), for a particular charitable cause (such as at-risk youth, the arts, or care of animals), to charities working in a particular East Tennessee county, for scholarships, or to allow ETF flexibility to make strategic one-time grants for important charitable needs.

To discuss how ETF can assist you and your tax advisor in creating a lasting charitable impact through a 2013 charitable IRA rollover, please contact Sherri Alley at (877) 524-1223 or sdalley@etf.org.

Knoxville Bar Association and East Tennessee Foundation present:
“Smooth Sailing Ahead: Keeping the Nonprofit Ship Off the Rocks and Lawyers, Board Members, Staff, and Donors from Falling Overboard”
October 2, 2013
2:00 - 5:15 p.m. at East Tennessee History Center
If you are serving a nonprofit as a lawyer, board member, or executive staff, this seminar will help you and the organization you serve avoid dangers you know about and some you might not have recognized.
CLE credit available. To register, visit www.knoxbar.org/?cle=506
Has your contact information changed?
If so, please let us know so we can keep in touch.

E-mail and Website Options
To receive this newsletter and other helpful and exciting updates from East Tennessee Foundation, please contact us at etf@etf.org or read it on our website: www.easttennesseefoundation.org.

To have a copy of this newsletter sent to someone, please contact us by phone, toll-free (877) 524-1223, (865) 524-1223 or e-mail, etf@etf.org.

ETF STAFF

L to R: Front: Patrick Wade, Precy Sturgeon, Mike McClamroch, Carolyn Schwenn, Jackie Lane
Back: Anna Whitener, Beth Heller, Jeanette Kelleher, Adam Waller, Susan Blair, Deborah Phillips, Jan Elston, Trudy Hughes
Not Pictured: Sherri Alley, Leanna Brackett, Mary Amber Dunn, Terry Morgan

East Tennessee Foundation is a public, nonprofit, community foundation created for the purpose of building charitable resources to make communities stronger and lives better through thoughtful giving.

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East Tennessee Foundation respects, celebrates, and encourages diversity that positively contributes to our healthy and caring community.