I am extremely honored to serve a second term as East Tennessee Foundation’s (ETF) board chair. 2017 exceeded all growth expectations and our board recognized the advantage of maintaining consistency as we entered 2018, thus the opportunity to continue my service as board chair. I wholeheartedly accepted!

I continue to be struck by the impact ETF has had on individual lives. As each life is improved, in ways big and small, we see the ripple effect across our 25 East Tennessee communities and beyond. This impact has been accomplished through the grants we make. The Foundation’s cumulative grantmaking, including scholarships, has exceeded $285 million, and we expect to exceed the $300 million mark by year-end.

If you’d like to participate in grantmaking, I encourage you to start an ETF Donor Advised Fund. My family established a fund in 2016 we call the Willson Family Fund. As a family, we have been personally invested in the process of grantmaking and reaped emotional rewards. It has been a great way to build memories together and positively impact our community and the lives of those in need.

I want to thank you for your interest in this Foundation. Please help us spread the word about the necessary and very important work we do and how we are building stronger communities and better lives.

My very best,

Paul Willson
East Tennessee Foundation
Board Chair

“WE HAVE 3 GENERATIONS INVOLVED with organizations in and around McMinn County where we were each born and raised in an effort to continue to build a thriving community now, and for generations to come. I can get emotional thinking about the expressions of gratitude from those organizations regarding the difference we were able to make. I was especially touched when my mother, Dr. Mintie Willson, received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from one of our grantees, Tennessee Wesleyan University.”

-Paul Willson
Kiran Singh Sirah, executive director of the International Storytelling Center (ISC) in Jonesborough, is passionate about storytelling and its potential to be used in many ways. But when he talks about plans to use storytelling to help at-risk students, one only has to watch his face to see that it is a project he is taking very personally. Sirah is hoping that the ISC’s newest projects — Stories of Change workshop series and the Leveraging the Power of Storytelling Youth Conference — will help at-risk youth overcome some of the challenges he himself once faced.

Self-admittedly an at-risk youth, Sirah tells of his early years growing up in a home with a mother who struggled with mental illness. He speaks openly of his brushes with the law and his constant fear of bullying by racist groups. But he also tells of how being able to “articulate,” — to tell one’s own story — can transform one from a victim to victor. “All of us have an internal dialogue,” he said. “You start thinking of the bad things that have happened and you say to yourself, ‘I’m not good enough.’ Someone needs to reach out an arm and say ‘you are good enough.’ For me, that was my dad.”

Faced with adversity both at home and at school, Sirah, an immigrant growing up in southern England, knows what it means to be “at-risk.” “I got into a lot of trouble as a kid,” Sirah said. “I stole cars when I was 15. My mom was in the hospital, suffering from mental health problems, schizophrenia. There was a time when I was six years old, I witnessed my mom overdose. I had to fight against Neo-Nazi groups and was once attacked. I had to deal with all that as a kid.” So Sirah learned how to fight — not with his fists, but with his words. Once he learned how to “articulate” and share his own stories, things started to change for the better. He was soon able to talk himself out of bad situations and into believing in himself.

Sirah says he hopes to teach other young people how to empower themselves through an upcoming series of workshops called Stories of Change. The ISC will work with at-risk youth from six counties, helping them develop critical interpersonal skills. Participants will receive storyteller training on ways to transform their own lives, envision a better place for themselves, and become the story of change in a world where their stories matter.

The work is being financed by a 2-year $20,000 grant through East Tennessee Foundation’s Youth Endowment.

The ISC will also launch its first Leveraging the Power of Storytelling Youth Conference this year. The annual leadership conference, funded by a 3-year $100,000 Humanities Access Grant awarded to ISC from the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) will bring youth from East Tennessee, western North Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky to Jonesborough. They will explore their own narratives, as well as those of Appalachia, and how to apply those narratives to the Appalachia they want to create. Sirah says he believes both projects can bring about positive change for many of these young people.

“My memory (of my own youth) stays with me, and helps me be a better teacher,” he said. “It’s my empathy bubble. When I see a kid sitting in the corner, I know what that kid’s going through. And I also know that kid has a voice and story to tell. That’s why we have started this program. ”We want young people to learn techniques to help them rewire the stories they tell themselves. We’ll be saying to them, ‘Don’t let someone else put a label on you before you have a chance to speak out.”

“It’s the Dolly Parton story, in a sense,” Sirah added. “What if she had followed her story? I’m poor, from Appalachia and I don’t deserve to be anything bigger than this.’ If she had stopped there, she would never have moved forward. But she didn’t. She followed her dream, she moved forward and she told her own story. We want to show them how to use storytelling to help them think about change in the bigger picture,” he said.
“When young people realize their voices can change society, they do change society. When they can envision a world where their voice matters, they can change the trajectory of their own lives as well as the lives of others.”

More information on International Storytelling Center is available at storytellingcenter.net.

Lynn J. Richardson
The Johnson City News & Neighbor
Originally published, May 9, 2018

THE PAT SUMMITT FOUNDATION

“THE VOICE” WINNER, CHRIS BLUE, PERFORMED AT THE PAT SUMMITT FOUNDATION’S 2018 SALUTE FOR A CURE IN APRIL AND RAISED $70,000. OVER 380 GUESTS ATTENDED THE EVENT HELD AT THE NEWLY-OPENED VENUE, THE PRESS ROOM.

THE UPCOMING PAT SUMMITT FOUNDATION EVENTS

TASTE OF TURKEY CREEK
SEPTEMBER 7, 2018
Knoxville, TN

BRISTOL GOLF TOURNAMENT AT THE VIRGINIAN
SEPTEMBER 17, 2018
Bristol, VA

THE PAT SUMMITT INVITATIONAL AT PINE TREE COUNTRY CLUB
OCTOBER 1, 2018
Kennesaw, GA

THE PAT SUMMITT INVITATIONAL AT WINDRIVER
OCTOBER 22, 2018
Lenoir City, TN

THE PAT SUMMITT FOUNDATION RECEIVED THE MOST VOTES AND A CHECK FOR $12,500!

THANK YOU

TYLER SUMMITT AND FORMER LADY VOLS TEAM MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

PHOTO BY KEVIN WURM

CHRIS BLUE WITH PAT SUMMITT FOUNDATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER MARY ELLEN BREWINGTON, STEVE BREWINGTON, AND THEIR GUESTS

PHOTO BY KEVIN WURM
1. The first-ever grant made by Oak Ridge Fund for Achieving Community Excellence (ORFace) was to the Flatwater Tales Storytelling Festival, an inaugural event led by the three Rotary Clubs in Oak Ridge, in June. It was kicked off with an interactive workshop, “Create Your Own Story.” Kiran Singh Sirah, executive director of the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, Tennessee spoke, and internationally recognized Bil Lepp, Tim Lowry, and Minton Sparks performed throughout the weekend.

2. The second of three planned $7,500 grants was awarded to Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation to help sponsor a commemorative book for the 75th anniversary of Oak Ridge Schools.

3. The ORFace advisory board continues its search to identify a distinctive project which improves the quality of life in Oak Ridge and builds upon the Oak Ridge legacy of achievement in science, education, and community for its third grant award recipient.

MONROE COUNTY FUND AWARDS 2-YEAR GRANTS

The John D. Grubb and Louise G. Sumner Monroe County Fund was established through a generous gift by Monroe County natives, John and his sister, Louise. Louise and John’s desire to help secure advanced educational opportunities for students and leave a philanthropic legacy dedicated to improving the lives of residents of Monroe County became a reality in 1998 with the establishment of a permanent charitable endowment for Monroe County. Grant awards totaling $112,340 were awarded in June 2018 to fourteen charitable organizations for 2-year terms. Programs supporting youth, families, and seniors were selected. These include:

+ Supportive services for older teens involved in the juvenile court system
+ Alternative sports programs
+ Fitness and nutrition programs for students
+ Backpack weekend meals for students
+ Calculators for high school mathematics classes
+ Life skills training for teens
+ Food, school supplies, garden supplies, and fans/AC/heaters for those in need
+ Healthcare for those without insurance and/or under-insured
+ Socialization in conjunction with meals
+ Free-reduced spay/neuter services for economically disadvantaged families
+ Home repair for elderly and disabled home owners
+ Senior Citizens’ attendance at performance art opportunities
+ Arts programming in the schools and cultural enrichment opportunities in the community for youth

LOUDON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (LCCF) made a $2,500 grant as a challenge opportunity to restore “The Hill,” a historic athletic field in Loudon. Pictured are Jeff McQueen, LCCF advisory board member Billy Jo Pickel, LCCF advisory board member Nicole Curtis, Coach Brian Kelch, and President, Loudon Quarterback Club and LCCF advisory board member Gary Whitfield. Their challenge was met by multiple donors and restoration is currently underway!
JEFFERSON HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION FUND (JHCF) awarded first-time grants in late 2017. Funds totaling $259,000 were awarded to 14 nonprofit organizations whose programs directly benefit the health and well-being of Jefferson County residents.

JHCF was created with funds from the former Jefferson Memorial Hospital. The board and advisory board are comprised of individuals whose expertise and knowledge of the healthcare needs and resources in Jefferson County guided their funding recommendations. The Fund is pleased to be on track for a second grant cycle prior to the end of 2018.

MIKE MCCLAMROCH PRESENTED TENNESSEE STATE DIRECTOR FOR USDA-RD, JIM TRACY, WITH A MATCHING GRANT TO PROVIDE SECURED ENTRANCES AND EXITS PLUS SECURITY CAMERAS TO COSBY ELEMENTARY, INTERMEDIATE, AND HIGH SCHOOLS. ETF MADE A GRANT OF $1,750 TO COCKE COUNTY SCHOOLS FROM ETF’S OPPORTUNITY FUND FOR THIS PURPOSE.

THE BRITTANY JOHNSON INAUGURAL GOLF CHALLENGE

AUGUST 27, 2018
WINDRIVER GOLF COURSE

To register, visit etf.org/brittanyjohnsongolf
All proceeds benefit the Brittany Johnson Memorial Fund, a scholarship fund of ETF
For questions, contact Crystal Johnson, (865) 567-8939 or cmjohnson15@aol.com

BBQ, BLUES & BREWS FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 15, 2018
COVERED BRIDGE PARK
DOWNTOWN ELIZABETHTON

Tickets available now at bbqbluesandbrews.org
All proceeds benefit the Elizabethton Carter County Community Foundation, an affiliate fund of ETF
On May 1, 2018, ETF had the pleasure of hosting Sam Beall, members of his and Mary Anne's family, their friends, founding board members of Mount Rest Fund, and grant recipients, along with ETF board and staff in our office. This was the first Mount Rest Fund gathering since Mary Anne's passing in October 2017. Everyone enjoyed refreshments and décor inspired by what Mary Anne would have likely selected.

It is hard to believe this work of helping others, elderly women at the time, began nearly 125 years ago in 1894 as Mount Rest Home. The home has evolved and continues today as a women's residence owned and operated by Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries. In addition, Mount Rest Fund was established in 1994. Mount Rest Home and Fund were part of the fabric of Mary Anne's life and continues on as part of her legacy. Mary Anne once shared, “I think most people like to help other people and if you're doing anything to help other people, you'll be a happier person yourself.” For more information on the Fund, visit www.etf.org/mountrest.

Attendees had an opportunity to remember Mary Anne and learn more about the programs selected to receive Mount Rest Fund's most recent grants.

**In 2016, a total of $225,000 in two-year grants was awarded to:**

- Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley
- Cancer Support Community of East Tennessee
- Catholic Charities of East Tennessee
- Centro Hispano of East Tennessee
- Crutcher Memorial Youth Enrichment Center
- East Tennessee Technology Access Center
- Interfaith Health Clinic
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Knox County
- Knox County Public Defender's Community Law Office
- Knoxville Habitat for Humanity
- Knoxville Symphony Orchestra
- Knoxville-Knox County CAC
- Metropolitan Drug Commission
- Nourish Knoxville
- Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee
- Sertoma Center
- Florence Crittenton Agency
- Great Schools Partnership
- Volunteer Ministry Center
- WC Two – The First Tee of Greater Knoxville

**In addition, a total of $13,500 in Mount Rest Fund discretionary grants were awarded since that time to:**

- Knoxville Area Urban League as fiscal sponsor - Children's Defense Fund's Freedom Schools
- Knoxville-Knox County CAC
- Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley
- Bridge Refugee Services
In today’s social impact culture, “doing good together” is a powerful way to create a sense of belonging and leave a lasting legacy in your family, the community, and our world. In the current climate of “fake news” and “alternative facts”, determining who you can trust to steward your legacy is in high demand across all generations. Students are interested in techniques that result in lives actually being changed for the better long-term. Parents want to know how to teach their young children about doing good versus just being good. Grandparents want to know how to leverage philanthropy to create a multi-generational platform for preserving family values.

How many times lately have you heard, “I want to help, but I just don’t know how I can help.” ETF can offer ideas for specific actions you can take to support your community and the causes you love. Your act of doing good, no matter how big or how small, makes a difference. For example, a donor advised fund established in your family’s name can be useful to teach children or grandchildren the purpose and effects of philanthropy, plus how to thoughtfully evaluate community needs and select organizations or programs to support.

Our caring, professional, and well-informed staff is available to assist you in vetting organizations that support the causes you care about most. We can even help you to identify charitable organizations, if needed. You simply submit the online recommendation and we handle all the administrative details, including due diligence and compliance with relevant laws, board approval, and sending grant letters and checks.

Personally, I’ve had the great privilege of working with many individuals, families, and organizations to identify how they define their own charitable legacies. If it sounds as if I’m waxing sentimental, I am. I have thought about the concept of legacy a great deal in the last couple months. In particular, I have contemplated my legacy with ETF, as I wind down my time here. Yes, July 31, 2018, six years to the day from when I began my employment at ETF, will be my last day here. I have been recruited to pursue the next chapter in my life’s story as a trust officer for a regional bank. This was not a decision I made easily but is one that I deemed most wise for my own family’s future.

Several aspects of our work come to mind as I contemplate my time at ETF. I hope I have aided in positioning us as a helpful resource to assist professional advisors and their clients with all things related to charitable planning. I hope I have clearly explained the legal constraints on our operations and have worked with fundholders and prospects to tailor their funds and grantmaking within those constraints while maintaining focus on the donor’s intended results. I hope I have helped teach people that we can all be philanthropists and make a difference in East Tennessee and our world, especially when we work together. Considering all the division, anger, hatred, and danger in the world, I hope I have helped connect people and organizations around causes and communities they care about.

May each person who reads this continue to collaborate with and support ETF in advancing its mission to change lives and strengthen our communities in the decades to come. I know I will.

Sherri DeCosta Alley, J.D.
East Tennessee Foundation
Vice President for Advancement and General Counsel
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- **Amy Cathey** Vice Chair
- **Jan McNally** Treasurer
- **Jeff Becker** Immediate Past Chair
- **Michael McClamroch** President + CEO
- **Carolyn Schwenn** Executive V.P. + Secretary

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- **Sam Fowler, Jr., ESQ.***
- **Natalie Haslam**
- **David Martin**
- **Col. William M. Slayden**
- **David White**
- **Stuart Worden**
- **Lindsay Young, ESQ.***

*deceased

**Has Your Contact Information Changed? If so, please let us know so we can keep in touch.**

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