

Connections

East Tennessee Foundation

2016 ISSUE 3

Thoughtful giving for stronger communities, better lives

30 and Loving It!

ETF Brings Family Philanthropy Event to East Tennessee

By Mary Beth West, 30th Anniversary Task Force Chair and ETF board member

In celebration of our 30th anniversary, East Tennessee Foundation (ETF) delivered a dynamic series of events across East Tennessee August 23, entitled “Generous Genes: How Family Philanthropy Can Change a Region,” featuring book author and charitable giving expert Susan Price alongside locally based philanthropists who shared their personal experiences and advice. With nearly 300 people in attendance at a breakfast event in Athens, lunch event in Knoxville and dinner event in Johnson City, audiences asked questions and gained perspectives on a host of opportunities as well as challenges that multiple generations within families face when seeking to make purposeful philanthropy decisions.

“Children are born with an instinct to be empathetic, and with the right resources, children can change the world,” Price said. “You give them the skills to be philanthropic and then cheer them on.”

“One of the bigger eye-openers for me was Susan Price’s observation of Millennials and the even younger Generation Z, in terms of how much their mobile devices factor into not only their inspiration for giving but also how they give,” said ETF board chair and Knoxville panelist Dr. Jeffrey Becker. “In addition, the events brought to light that philanthropy can begin at home, and one doesn’t have to be wealthy in order to be a genuine philanthropist.”

Other event panelists included ETF board member and Chairman of Citizens National Bank Paul Willson and son Hugh in Athens; Dr. Becker and Knoxville Jewish Alliance Executive Director Deborah Oleshansky speaking about the B’Nai Tzedek program for Jewish youth, as well as West Chevrolet’s Steve West and son Charles in Knoxville; and retired Eastman Chemical Company Vice President of Human Resources, Health, Safety and Environment Fielding Rolston and retired Eastman Chemical Company Senior Vice President Roger Mowen in Johnson City.

As a community foundation serving 25 counties in the region through provision of grants and scholarships, we have awarded more than \$223 million in scholarships to individuals and in grants to nonprofits throughout our 30-year history. These resources are funded by donors and the more than 400 different philanthropic funds ETF manages.

As the Foundation looks toward its next 30 years, it will continue a focus on family philanthropy.

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Glimpses of our 30th



The Bus



Athens



Knoxville



Johnson City



ETF board
at the Foundry



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East Tennessee Foundation Scholarships

Champions for Dreams

“One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.”

~ Malala Yousafzai, Activist for education for girls in Pakistan and winner of 2014 Nobel Peace Prize



A 2016 Scholarship Selection Committee at work!

The first East Tennessee Foundation(ETF) scholarship fund was established in 1988, and now, thanks to the generosity of our donors dedicated to investing in the future of the students in our region, ETF

currently administers more than 60 scholarships. 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.

Scholarships offer benefits for students beyond money. As one ETF scholarship recipient commented, “Being picked for this scholarship gave me a huge confidence boost.” In addition, the act of applying for a scholarship is a learning experience for the student, and it can help the student clarify his or her goals. Winning a scholarship helps open doors to new educational experiences, the benefits of which can last a lifetime.

ETF scholarships not only touch the lives of the recipients, they also impact communities in our region. Our scholarship graduates have returned to the region to work as teachers, social workers, nurses, doctors, veterinarians, engineers, lawyers, active community volunteers, and more. Donors are moved by the thank you notes written by scholarship recipients; it gives them tremendous satisfaction knowing the scholarships they established are changing lives.

Our scholarship recipients are not just names to us; they are individuals growing and dealing with what life brings them. One of our scholarship graduates was one of six siblings raised by a single mother in Anderson County. She was in a serious car accident during her second year in college, resulting in time spent in intensive care and extended hospitalization. We granted her a leave of absence with the knowledge that her scholarship was secure. She initially returned part-time, and when she was ready, full-time. She sent us an invitation to her graduation in May with a note saying, “I will be graduating with a Bachelor’s in Social Work and another in Psychology, and that is all with your help. The combination of the support you have shown me and my desire to pursue social work continues to drive me to give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help others achieve their goals just as you have helped me. I want to change the world, one person at a time, and I will be able to start that dream with my education backing me.”

As we celebrate our 30th year of making communities stronger and lives better through thoughtful giving, it is rewarding to reflect that over 1,000 scholarship recipients, who have themselves touched countless other lives, have been able to use ETF scholarships to help make their dreams come true.

ETF: SCHOLARSHIP FACTS

- 63 scholarship funds have been established at East Tennessee Foundation (ETF) to help fulfill the dreams of students wishing to obtain a post-secondary education, whether they are graduating high school seniors or returning adult students.
- 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.
- Many recipients are the first in their families to attend college, and many would not be able to afford college without the help of ETF scholarships.
- ETF administers over \$18 million in scholarship funds.
- Scholarships are available to residents in all 25 counties in our service area and 12 outside ETF’s region.
- Scholarship funds are endowed funds, and scholarship awards range from 1 year to 4 years and from \$700 to \$40,000.
- Scholarships administered by ETF allow individuals and groups to honor loved ones while helping change the lives of those pursuing higher education. Many scholarships have been established to memorialize a parent, spouse, or child. Others honor teachers, coaches, or prominent community leaders.



Pat Summitt Foundation

Celebrating Pat



Coach's stool and whistle

AP Photo/Mark Humphrey

Thousands of fans from across the country gathered at Thompson-Boling Arena on July 14th for a Celebration of Life for Pat Summitt, who passed away on June 28th. The celebration, which aired live on all local news outlets as well as ESPN2, featured heartfelt stories and tributes from Tyler Summitt, Robin Roberts, Shelley Sexton-Collier, Tamika Catchings, Mickie DeMoss, Holly Warlick, and Peyton Manning.

In addition, a short video was shown that included touching farewells from several of Coach's former Lady Vols, including Candace Parker and Michelle Marciniak. Pat was celebrated for the unprecedented milestones she achieved as a coach, for the difference she made in the lives of her players and coaches, and for the impact she has made and will continue to make in the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

We all lost a loved one this summer—someone we considered a leader, teacher, and friend. We are privileged to carry the torch for Pat's legacy of supporting Alzheimer's patients, caregivers, and researchers.

Did You Know?

The R.G. and Ruth Crossno Memorial Scholarship and the Steven L. Coffey Memorial Scholarship are our oldest scholarships. Together, these two scholarships have awarded over \$750,000 to approximately 154 students from Anderson County since 1992.

Setting up Scholarships: Why do people create scholarships?

“An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.”
~ Benjamin Franklin

Our scholarships not only impact the lives of the recipients, they also 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.

“We wanted a legacy that would keep on giving,” one fundholder says. “We also wanted to provide an example for members of the community to follow, of someone from the area giving back to the region from which they came.”

Another fundholder who, with her husband, established a scholarship in memory of her son, explains, “The scholarship is a legacy to help students who share his qualities to go out into the world and make it a better place. We won't be here forever, but East Tennessee Foundation will.”

Establishing a scholarship fund also offers an opportunity to honor loved ones while helping change the lives of those pursuing higher education.



2016 Recipients of the Gordon W. & Agnes P. Cobb Scholarship:

L to R: Kristen Cannon, Taylor Martin, Nicholas Spurlock, and Courtney Wombles

2016 Recipients of the Steven L. Coffey Memorial Scholarship and the newly launched Steven L. Coffey Memorial Middle College Scholarship *From left:*

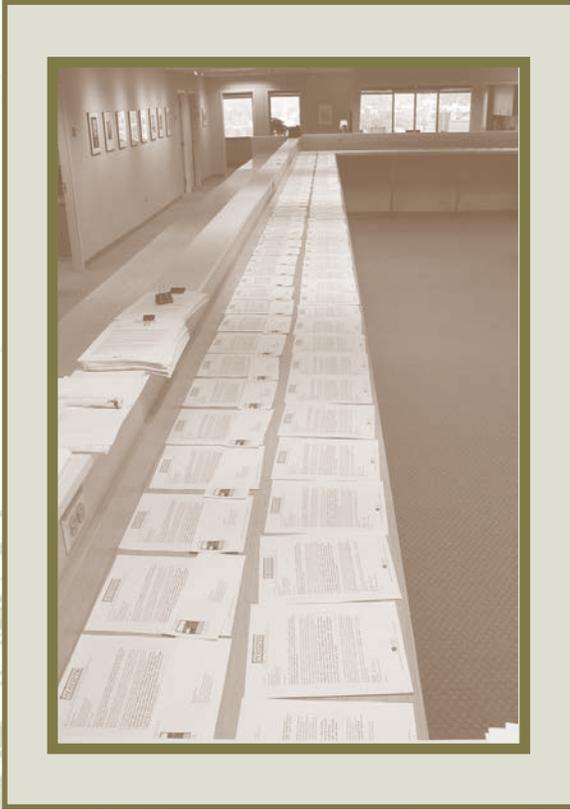
Baleigh Thompson
Jordan Knight, Christa Lane, Hailey Brooks, Ana Sustaita Hernandez, and Michele DeGroot



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East Tennessee Foundation Scholarships

In Their Own Words: Quotes From Scholarship Recipients



As far as the eyes can see!

Over 178 scholarship grant payment letters (totaling over \$550,000) were prepared and mailed to colleges on 7/25/2016. We may be running out of counter space during ETF scholarship time.

“Receiving the Johnson County Scholarship was the happiest moment of my life thus far. My parents would never have been able to help me go to college without help. I am more grateful than words can describe for the gift of an education so I can follow my dream of becoming a nurse. Thank you for this life-changing gift.”

Johnson County Scholarship

“First and foremost, I want to thank you for my scholarship. Community service is one of the greatest aspects of the United States. Giving one’s time and help to those who are less fortunate is a great humanitarian act, no matter how small it may appear to anyone. I hope to carry on this tradition of giving and helping throughout college and for the rest of my life. I hope to make ETF proud.”

Dr. Richard Forrest & Ella Dudney Kelsey Memorial Scholarship

“I want you to know that I am truly grateful and honored for whatever you saw in my application that prompted you to pick me over the other applicants. When I told my mother, she broke down and cried. I am telling you this so that you can understand what a blessing this is for both me and my family. Thank you so very much for extending this scholarship to me and helping me to study what I love. Your assistance will never be forgotten or taken for granted.”

Jack F. and Edith Updyke Harmon Scholarship

“I would like to thank you for choosing me as one of the winners of the Stepping-Stone Scholarship. You have given me much more than money. You have given me direction. For me, picking a college was such a huge choice because financially it was going to be rough any route I went. However, by providing me with this amazing opportunity, I now know what I’m doing is right. I plan on becoming a science teacher. I believe teaching is one of the best ways I can give back to my community. I would like to say thank you to each individual who had a part in helping me become one step closer to my future.”

Stepping-Stone Scholarship

“It is humbling to know that you selected me to carry on the torch of success left by Gregory Weber and other computer scientists who have made this into the field it is today. I will continue my education and finish strong. I will not waste a single day; I want to truly benefit this world and thanks to your gracious decision to support me, I will be able to fulfill that goal.”

Gregory Weber Computer Science Scholarship

“I want to take a moment to say thank you for selecting me as a scholarship recipient. It is truly a blessing for me because the cost of attending college places quite a burden on my mother. I am so thankful for the opportunity to continue my education and to be representing the Michael David Greene Scholarship. I will continue to pursue life with the same characteristics Michael did, so that I can continue his legacy.”

Michael David Greene Scholarship

Generous Genes Opportunity

If you were unable to attend one of the *Generous Genes* “Roadshow” events, but would like to learn more about the book and associated opportunities being offered, please contact Trudy Hughes, ETF Director of Regional Development. email: thughes@etf.org or 1(877) 524-1223.



Scholarships Launched in 2016 and 2017 Broaden ETF's Reach

East Tennessee Foundation's (ETF) scholarship program continues to expand with new scholarships reaching out to varying student populations in an effort to help provide access to post-secondary education for the students in our region! The number of scholarships has more than doubled in the last ten years, thanks to the generosity of our donors.

ETF scholarships making their first awards in 2016 and 2017 include programs available to high school students, current and former foster care residents, veterans, undergraduates, graduate students, and traditional high school seniors from a variety of counties.

ETF Scholarships launched in 2016:

The Steven L. Coffey Memorial Middle College Scholarship has expanded ETF's reach to high school students as it offers financial assistance to high school students accepted into the Roane State Community College (RSCC) Middle College Program. This two-year program enables high school juniors and seniors to enroll full-time at RSCC and receive an Associate's Degree and a high school diploma simultaneously. Since high school students are not eligible for most scholarship assistance, a portion of the **Steven L. Coffey Memorial Scholarship** was used to create the **Steven L. Coffey Memorial Middle College Scholarship** to ensure that lack of finances did not preclude eligible students from participating.

The Cherish the Child Scholarship was established by *Cherish the Child, Inc.* to provide scholarship assistance to eligible students, age 25 or younger, who were served by the *Smoky Mountain Children's Home* as residents or as foster care participants. High school graduates and GED recipients from all over the state of Tennessee are eligible to apply.

The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Jeff Byrd Memorial Scholarship provides scholarship assistance to undergraduate juniors and seniors pursuing a sports-related field of study, including but not limited to: athletic training, sports writing or journalism, sports management, sports information, coaching, and/or physical therapy for athletes.

The Randall Stout Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of world-renowned architect and Knoxville native, Randall Stout, to benefit students pursuing a Bachelor of Architecture at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville College of Architecture and Design.

The Dr. E.E. Perry Memorial Scholarship, which joins the **Gordon W. & Agnes P. Cobb Scholarship** as our two largest scholarships at \$40,000 over four years, provides assistance for students from Carter County

who intend to pursue math, science, engineering, or medical fields of study.

The Gregory Weber Computer Science Scholarship, established by Glen Weber in memory of his son, benefits graduating high school seniors from Knox County public high schools who wish to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science.

ETF Scholarships to be launched in 2017:

The Lori Blankenship Scholarship was established in memory of Lori Blankenship, beloved teacher and coach, to benefit graduating seniors at Greenback High School pursuing post-secondary education.

The Butterfly Fund Memorial Scholarship was established to assist students pursuing a career in a broad variety of fields within pediatric oncology.

The Colonel Kurt Davis Veteran's Scholarship was established to assist veterans from ETF's 25-county service area and Bradley County in pursuing a degree from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The Valkyrie-Thor Scholarship in Theatre Arts was established to benefit graduating high school seniors and college students from ETF's 25-county region studying theatre arts at Pellissippi State Community College, Roane State Community College, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, or Maryville College.

The Vanessa Williams Memorial Scholarship was established to provide scholarship assistance for students from Blount, Knox, and Loudon counties to pursue higher education.

The Harry Galbreath Scholarship was established to assist graduates of Clarksville High School in pursuing an undergraduate education.



L to R: Janet Greene, 2016 recipients of the **Michael David Greene Scholarship** Noah Schoenike and Briana Rowe-Lackey, and David Greene at the Farragut High School Band Banquet

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Recent Graduates: *Where are they now?*

Bachelor's degree in social work and a minor in veteran's affairs. Working as a mental health associate at the Central Kentucky Recovery Center with plans to pursue a master's in social work.

Stepping-Stone Scholarship

Bachelor of Science in aerospace engineering. Attending graduate school with hopes of working at NASA someday. **Knox Central High Class of '50 Alumni Association Scholarship**

Bachelor of Science in community and mental health with a minor in psychology and business administration. Plans to open his own business. **R.G. and Ruth Crossno Scholarship**

Associate's degree in nursing. **Steven L. Coffey Memorial Scholarship**

Bachelor of Science in electronic media production from MTSU. Currently employed as a camera tech at one of Nashville's premier rental houses and camera operator on a nationally touring show.

Lawrence Strader Boy Scouts of America Scholarship

Resident in emergency medicine at Stony Brook University Hospital. **Gordon W. & Agnes P. Cobb Scholarship**

Resident in general surgery at Oregon Health & Science University. **Gordon W. & Agnes P. Cobb Scholarship**

Bachelor of Science in biochemistry and cellular and molecular biology. Plans to become a physician's assistant specializing in orthopedic surgery. **Gordon W. & Agnes P. Cobb Scholarship**

Master's degree in healthcare administration. Currently enrolled in osteopathic medicine program. **Gordon W. & Agnes P. Cobb Scholarship**

NEW ETF STAFF



Julie Brasfield

Julie Brasfield joins East Tennessee Foundation (ETF) as our Fundholder Relationship Associate. She provides support to the Vice President for Advancement and manages the daily operations of the Foundation's numerous donor advised funds. Julie completes the due diligence required for donor advised grants, processes grant recommendations, and serves as a resource for donor and grantee inquiries.

Julie comes to ETF with a background in nonprofits, having served as the Member Service Specialist for the YMCA of East Tennessee over the past seven years. She has also served in various capacities with law firms in north Louisiana and west Tennessee. A native of Monroe, LA, Julie attended Northeast Louisiana University. Away from work, Julie enjoys spending time with family and friends, delicious Louisiana cuisine, time on the beach, and football season.

Fall 2016 Scholarships at a Glance

- 97 new scholarship awards were given.
- 81 previously-awarded students continue to receive multi-year-scholarships.
- A total of 178 individuals, attending 42 different colleges/universities, are participating in ETF scholarship programs in fall 2016.
- Over \$550,000 was disbursed in scholarship awards for 2016-2017 academic year, with approximately \$1.3 million committed to renewed and new scholarship recipients.



First winners of the newly-launched Dr. E. E. Perry Memorial Scholarship: L to R: Noah Lyons and Ellie Decker

ADVANCEMENT

Good Intentions: Why Clients Should Inform Charities About Planned Testamentary Gifts

When I was in private practice preparing wills and trusts, clients often asked me if they should inform the charitable beneficiaries about their intended gifts. Wanting to staunchly protect the client's privacy, I would respond by reiterating that the choice was theirs, they could always change their mind, and they certainly were not obligated to advise the charity of their plan to make a gift upon their passing. While all of that is true, I now regret that answer as having been too simplistic and short-sighted.

Today, having the benefit of additional experience, I believe the intended charitable beneficiary should ALWAYS be informed of a planned deferred gift. To be sure, I take this position because I work for a charity, but not out of some salacious desire or to count future gifts that may later change. Rather, I make this assertion because, in trying to guide East Tennessee Foundation (ETF) through the process of accepting testamentary gifts and carrying out the donor's intent, there is simply no substitute for understanding and clarifying the donor's motivations and restrictions while the donor is living.

...the intended charitable beneficiary should ALWAYS be informed of a planned deferred gift.

Even though the drafting attorney and the client may have carefully and specifically spelled out the client's intent for the use of the gift, only someone familiar with the process of collecting and stewarding gifts and administering the charity will be able to troubleshoot any issues with accepting and managing the gift. Here are the real reasons that development officers and planned giving professionals want to know about the client's planned future gifts:

1. We want to be sure the charity can meet the conditions and execute the client's charitable intent for the gift. To protect the client's intent for the charitable gift, we must fully understand that intent. Some of ETF's funds, such as scholarships and donor advised funds, are subject to federal laws pertaining to the fund's administration that may raise some issues more easily addressed while the donor is alive. Many clients want their funds endowed to produce income forever, while others may want principal distributed in particular situations. We like to know about intended future gifts, so we can be sure to fully comprehend and follow the client's intent and address foreseeable questions or impediments.
2. We want to be sure the charity is correctly identified. Development staff can help the advisor by providing the charity's correct legal name, tax identification number, and any necessary geographic designation or chapter information. ETF has, on occasion, had difficulty collecting assets because a beneficiary designation contained either extraneous or insufficient information. Contacting the charity can resolve these issues during the drafting process.
3. We want to thank the client! Thanking an executor or trustee for delivering a gift is rarely as meaningful as acknowledging the people who decided to generously share their fortune to benefit East Tennessee.
4. We want to keep the client informed about relevant portions of our work. Our region's needs are varied and dynamic. As a result, ETF's funds, projects and grantmaking change over time. We want to be the client's resource for information related to philanthropy while staying abreast of any changes in the client's charitable intent. Finally, we share news of our work with clients so they may become comfortable with the way we handle current donors' gifts and feel confident that their gifts will be carefully and properly stewarded according to their intent.

If a client's resistance to informing the charity centers on privacy concerns, the lawyer or professional advisor might share the gift language with the charity, omitting any names or other identifying information about the client. This technique would allow review of the feasibility of the gift and its restrictions or conditions, yet maintain the client's anonymity. Whether or not the client's identity is disclosed, informing the charity of an intended future gift in no way hampers the client's ability to change or eliminate the gift from his or her plan.

If you or your client is contemplating a testamentary or deferred gift, please contact me at 877-524-1223 or sdalley@etf.org to see if ETF can help achieve the desired charitable goals!



Sherri Alley, J.D.
V.P. for Advancement

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30 and Loving It! - Continued from page 1

“At East Tennessee Foundation, our entire focus is on improving the quality of life in East Tennessee, and that is made possible through the generosity of donors, many of whom set up endowed funds housed within ETF that benefit communities and worthy causes in perpetuity – in keeping with donors’ own passions and desires for charitable impact,” said East Tennessee Foundation President & CEO Mike McClamroch.

McClamroch looks forward to the next 30 years for ETF, saying, “The event encouraged families and children to do just what our organization stands for: making communities stronger and lives better. Change can start small by simply facilitating a caring and giving heart. Children have the power to improve the way of life in our community.”

By Mary Beth West, 30th Anniversary Task Force Chair
and ETF board member

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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If so, please let us know so we can keep in touch.**



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- Gary Wade
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LIFETIME
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- David Martin
- David White
- Stuart Worden

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