

Connections

East Tennessee Foundation

2015 ISSUE 3

Thoughtful giving for stronger communities, better lives

IMPACT IN EDUCATION

*“A Child without Education is like a bird without wings.”
– Tibetan proverb*

With this season’s start of school, it is a great time to highlight East Tennessee Foundation’s impact in education. While we celebrate the 163 students we have on scholarship this fall attending 37 institutions, we also highlight the depth and breadth of our investments, through education, in the future of East Tennessee. From the time, counsel, and advice that we give to our students, to the notable investments we make improving field trip opportunities for our region’s school children (see below), to our support of adult literacy programs (see p.6) to providing much needed support to a specific high school in our region (see p. 6), to recognizing outstanding academic achievement in underserved communities (see p. 7), our commitment to improving East Tennessee through



As far as the eyes can see!
Over 160 ETF scholarship grant payment letters (totaling \$525,000) were prepared and mailed to colleges on 7/24/2015.

better education runs wide and deep. The numbers are impressive and the stories are moving. We hope that they might encourage you to examine how you can partner with us to strengthen educational opportunities in our region. We hope you enjoy.

Michael McClamroch, ETF President & CEO

Museum of Appalachia
2015 Norris Area Community Foundation
“Our Pioneer Partnership Program”
provides an additional enriching educational experience to learn the rich history of Appalachian pioneer life.



What’s Happening!



In 2016, ETF will be 30 years old! Recently, staff and close friends brainstormed celebration plans.



A clean audit and “unqualified opinion” report was cause for a thumbs up from our financial staff and the committee.



The Advisory Board of the John D. Grubb & Louise G. Sumner Fund for Monroe County held its recent meeting in our ETF Conference Room.

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ETF SCHOLARSHIPS

What Makes ETF Scholarships Unique?

- **LEGACY:** All ETF scholarships are endowed, so they are permanent and provide a legacy which serves future generations of students in our region.
- **CRITERIA:** ETF scholarship eligibility requirements include a wide variety of criteria, enabling students from many counties and differing backgrounds, strengths, and interests to apply. Criteria range from financial need to scholastic achievement. Several scholarships are targeted toward specific schools or counties, particular fields of study, students involved in certain extra-curricular activities, or those who may not display the highest scholastic rankings, yet still possess great potential and motivation.
- **SELECTION:** There are many factors that contribute to applicants' unique circumstances and qualifications. Many of these are difficult to measure: for example, whether the applicant is the first in his/her family to pursue higher education; the degree of parental support and commitment to the higher education goal; and the amount of community resources which may affect educational opportunities available and access to such services. Committees composed of educators, experts related to field criteria, and community volunteers committed to the education of students in our region consider all these factors in the selection process.
- **STUDENT SUPPORT:** We truly believe in "our" scholarship recipients and try to support them by giving them every opportunity to succeed. Because we feel it is important to not just award the scholarships, but to show the recipients we believe in their potential, we give ETF scholarship recipients who do not meet renewal requirements the opportunity to explain extenuating circumstances and to describe their plan to address their challenges. This supportive approach has often helped motivate students to keep trying and, ultimately, successfully reach their goals. We also assist struggling students to look for academic support and other services on their campuses.
- **APPLICATION ASSISTANCE:** We help students with the on-line application process, provide application tutorials for guidance counselors to help students with the on-line process, and work closely with guidance counselors to publicize scholarships in a meaningful way.
- **ASSESSING NEEDS:** As a result of our survey of guidance counselors and college personnel and our continual efforts to seek input regarding scholarship needs of traditional and non-traditional students, we are able to share insights gained with prospective donors so that the scholarships they establish may address the needs of the students in our region.
- **REACHING VARIED STUDENT POPULATIONS:** To reach as many potential students in our region as possible, we have expanded our publicity efforts to include not only traditional high school guidance counselors, university/college personnel, press releases, and social media, but also college adult services professionals, college disability offices, college offices of Veterans Services, Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology, non-traditional higher education programs and trade schools, and the Department of Children's Services Foster Parent Training Program.



Past and Present Gordon W. and Agnes P. Cobb Scholars:
L to R: Trevor Freeman (2014), Emeri Allan (2015), Cara Coleman (2015), Morgan Hartgrove (2014), and Emily Cornelius (2013)

ETF Scholarships Unique

Continued from Page 2

- **VETERANS:** ETF is sensitive to students in the military—we have allowed members of the military to take leaves of absence for military service or training while holding their scholarships to resume when they return.
- **DONOR SUPPORT:** We meet with potential donors individually to discuss the process of establishing a scholarship fund and their preferred degree of involvement and to help them identify their scholarship goals and desired criteria to ensure that the scholarship meets their intentions. We provide updates for the fundholders regarding their established scholarships, as well as news affecting scholarships in general. Scholarship recipients are required to write thank you notes, which we forward to the fundholders.
- **BEST PRACTICES:** ETF keeps current with best practices and works closely with colleges and universities to help make sure schools maximize scholarship benefits for recipients.
- **MEASURING IMPACT:** ETF conducts exit interviews with recipients of multi-year ETF scholarships upon completion of their scholarship program. These forms provide valuable information regarding the impact of ETF scholarships as well as the scholarship application and implementation process. We also invite the recipients to serve on future selection committees.

PAT SUMMITT FOUNDATION



Photo (from left): Chamique Holdsclaw, Shelley Collier, Michelle Brooke-Marciniak, Pat Summitt, Robin Roberts, Lynne Collins Canan, Susan Clower Allen

AN EVENING FOR CHAMPIONS

On July 11th The Pat Summitt Foundation Fund co-hosted a very special event with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at The Historic Tennessee Theatre. The event featured a variety of friends and former players of Pat Summitt's who shared stories about Pat and talked about the impact she has had on their lives. Robin Roberts of ABC's *Good Morning America*, who is a friend of Pat's and also serves on the PSFF Advisory Board, served as the special guest emcee. The speakers included Susan Clower Allen, Lynne Collins Canan, Shelley Collier, Joan Cronan, Mickey Dearstone, Phillip Fulmer, Chamique Holdsclaw, Bob Kesling and Michelle Brooke-Marciniak. Hundreds of fans and supporters attended the event, which raised funds for both organizations.

FALL 2015 SCHOLARSHIPS AT A GLANCE

- 84 new scholarship awards were given.
- 79 previously awarded students continue to receive multi-year scholarships.
- A total of 163 individuals, attending 37 different colleges/universities, are participating in ETF scholarship programs in fall 2015.
- Over \$500,000 will be disbursed in scholarship awards for the 2015-2016 academic year.
- In addition, approximately \$1,300,000 remains committed for the students currently receiving multi-year ETF scholarships.

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ETF SCHOLARSHIPS

ETF Scholarship Facts

- **53 scholarship funds have been established** at ETF to help fulfill the dreams of students wishing to obtain a 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 family to attend college**, and many would not be able to afford college without the help of ETF scholarships.
- ETF administers approximately **\$15 million in scholarship funds.**
- Scholarships are **available to residents in 25 counties** in our region and 12 outside ETF's service area.
- **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 of the scholarships have been established to memorialize a parent, spouse, or child. Others **honor teachers, coaches, or prominent community leaders.**



L to R: Janet Greene, Kate Segraves, Meredith Hudson, and Beth Heller

Setting up Scholarships:

Why do people create scholarships?

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we currently administer 53 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. ETF scholarships truly put a face on

what we do at East Tennessee Foundation and really do help make dreams come true!

ETF scholarships 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. One donor describes the experience, “It is wonderful to help another person go to school. You can see how the experience helps them to grow... We get far more out of what we give than from what we receive.”

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 parent, spouse, or child.

In Their Own Words: Quotes From Scholarship Recipients

“Thank you so much for this amazing award! Words will never truly explain how honored I am to receive your scholarship and I look forward to representing ETF. This scholarship opens multiple doors for me... I know the sky is the limit and with this award, I feel as if the sky is already in reaching distance.” Johnson County Scholarship Recipient

“Thank you so much for believing in me and my ability to attain my future goals, encouraging me to work toward my dreams, and investing in me in order to make a difference. Through obtaining a degree in Plant Biotechnology, not only will I be able to pursue a career in something that I have always loved to do, but I will be able to help the farmers in my community.” Fund for Greene County Scholarship Recipient

“I give you my thanks for giving me a chance to follow my dreams. It is reassuring to know that students who aspire to achieve academically but lack the finances can still have a chance to succeed thanks to generous supporters like you. It takes citizens like you investing in young people to ensure that America has a bright future both economically and academically. It is not those that say they want others to succeed, but those that take steps to make it happen that are remembered.” Miller/Vicars Scholarship Recipient

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ETF SCHOLARSHIPS

Recent Graduates: Where are they now?

Received B.S. in Social Work from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK), and is currently working as a social worker at Norris Health and Rehabilitation Center. R.G. and Ruth Crossno Scholarship

Graduated from the College of Nursing at UTK, and is working as a critical care nurse at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center. R.G. and Ruth Crossno Scholarship

Completed B.S. degree from UTK, and is pursuing a master's degree in Public Health at the University of York in England. Gordon W. and Agnes P. Cobb Scholarship

Graduated from UTK, and is in her first year of medical school at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine. Gordon W. and Agnes P. Cobb Scholarship

Will complete B.S. degree in Nursing from East Tennessee State University in December 2016 and plans to work as an RN in emergency medicine. Jack F. and Edith Updyke Harmon Scholarship

Completed B.S. in Education/Kinesiology from UTK, and is planning to work as a physical therapy technician, before attending the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, for a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. John D. Grubb & Louise G. Sumner Fund for Monroe County Scholarship

Completed B.S. in Cellular and Molecular Biology from King College and is currently attending medical school. Jack F. and Edith Updyke Harmon Scholarship

Received a B.A. from Tusculum College in Creative Writing and is pursuing a master's degree at UTK, with plans to teach English and creative writing at the high school or college level. Johnson County Scholarship

TENNESSEE PROMISE & ETF SCHOLARSHIPS

Tennessee Promise (TNP) is a scholarship/mentoring program providing assistance for tuition and mandatory fees (only) for up to four semesters. It covers the balance of tuition and mandatory fees after federal and state grants have been applied at any of Tennessee's Colleges of Applied Technology, community colleges or any in-state independent or four year public university offering an associate's degree. Tennessee Promise funds cannot be used for non-mandatory fees. Tennessee Promise is for graduating high school seniors who meet program requirements; adult non-traditional students are not eligible.

Because ETF scholarships are applied before TNP and are permitted to be used for non-mandatory fees, books, supplies, room & board, gas/transportation, technology, childcare, or other cost of attendance expenses, they have been successfully disbursed to students participating in Tennessee Promise.

2015 Steven L. Coffey Memorial Scholars



Taylor Bell



Jessica Knight



Jasmine Rogers



Zane Smith



Reagan Wolfe

East Tennessee Foundation Scholarship Opportunities Continue to Grow

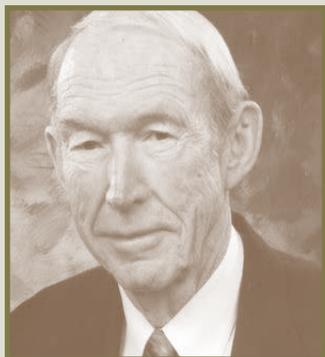
East Tennessee Foundation's scholarship program continues to expand with donors establishing new scholarships reaching out to varying student populations in an effort to help provide access to post-secondary education for the students in our region!

Two East Tennessee Foundation Scholarships are expected to begin awarding in 2016:

- The **Cherish the Child Scholarship** has been established to benefit students who were served by the Smoky Mountain Children's Home as residents or as foster care participants.
- Dr. E.E. Perry arranged for the establishment of the **E.E. Perry Memorial Scholarship** to provide assistance for students from Carter County to study math, science, or medicine.

Connections

EDUCATION



G. Wayne Solomon

The Ultimate Statement of Values

Support for education isn't always about scholarships. East Tennessee Foundation (ETF) supports educational endeavors with grants from its donor advised funds, affiliate funds, field-of-interest funds, opportunity funds, designated funds, and organization funds.

Donors doing estate planning may make lasting improvements to education by adding to an existing fund or establishing a new fund. The fund can make grants in a wide area of need that interests the donor, or it can benefit designated charities and schools, which will receive a grant each year in perpetuity. Not only does a

gift to charity remove the asset from the donor's taxable estate, but it is also the ultimate statement of values. It reminds loved ones, heirs, and the community of where the donor found passion and merit. Charitable bequests add meaning to our lives both now and forever.

A fine example is Gordon Wayne Solomon, who grew up in Wartburg, Tennessee and attended Central High School there. Mr. Solomon owned two Schubert Funeral Homes, one in Wartburg, TN, and one in Sunbright, TN. As he contemplated his legacy, he decided he wanted to give back to the place that had brought him success and do all he could to improve public education in Morgan County. Having been introduced to East Tennessee Foundation by his Knoxville attorney, Chip Finn, Mr. Solomon included a testamentary gift in his will to create an endowed fund at ETF to benefit his alma mater, Central High School.

According to Mr. Solomon's wishes, the G. Wayne and Margaret S. Solomon Fund will provide funding for incentive pay for teachers, or enable teachers to increase their capacity to teach by attending continuing education. It can include:

- reimbursements for tuition, travel, food, or lodging
- purchase of equipment
- capital improvements or a new facility

A grants panel comprised of five individuals, some appointed by ETF and some by Mr. Solomon will be selected (including the Central High School principal and superintendent of schools).

Since Wayne Solomon passed away, the G. Wayne and Margaret S. Solomon Fund, has been funded by cash, stocks, real estate, and personal property from his estate, totaling several million dollars.

Friends of Literacy - 2015 Endowment Fund

Friends of Literacy's Adult Reading Program provides free instruction to the one in 12 adults in Knox County who cannot read or write above a 6th grade level.

*Education is the most powerful weapon
which you can use to change the world.*
- Nelson Mandela



NEW ETF STAFF



John Johnson & Samantha Amick

SAMANTHA AMICK joins ETF as the Advancement Assistant and is excited to lend her writing and communication skills to the team. Born and raised in Knoxville, she graduated from Boston University with a Bachelor of Science in Film and Television and a minor in English. Samantha has worked in a variety of media industries – in a photography studio, at TV news station WBIR Channel 10, and for community radio station WDVX. It was while working at WDVX that she fell in love with the nonprofit world. Samantha enjoys cooking for her book club, seeing great live music here in Knoxville, and gushing about her greyhound, Lindy.

JOHN JOHNSON, a Memphis native, but long-time Knoxville resident, joins ETF as Financial and Administrative Associate. He graduated from Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. Prior to joining ETF, John was the accounting manager for a privately held Knoxville business specializing in food service equipment for convenience stores and restaurants. Outside the office John enjoys being with family and friends, serving as the treasurer for his church, and in the church choir. In addition to knowing staff members Jackie Lane and Deborah Phillips through church, John was amazed to discover other connections with current ETF staff members.



ADVANCEMENT

LIFE LESSON: LIVE YOUR LEGACY

I recently attended the funeral of a relative of a beloved colleague. I went to the service in support of my friend, though I had never met his deceased relative. At the service, a long-time friend of the dearly departed gave his eulogy, which evidenced a superb legacy. His tribute recounted stories of a man who got things done; who worked tirelessly to better his community; who pulled himself up from experiencing the poverty of the Great Depression as a child to vast wealth as a successful businessman; who devoted much of his wealth to improving lives in his community by championing affordable housing for everyone. Indeed, this man was shown to be generous, compassionate, community-minded, kind and charitable.

From attending this service, I not only learned about this particular larger-than-life man, I also saw that our eulogies are mostly written in the everyday parts of our lives, not in our extraordinary moments.

This second lesson may be surprising, but it's true. When loved ones share their memories of us, they do not think in terms of sweeping characterizations and grand adjectives. They remember in scenes, much as a playwright writes. They see the characters, they hear the voices, sometimes they might even taste the tastes or smell the smells, but it is a sensory experience – not an abstract literary one.

What that means for everyone living is that the actions we take today and the words we say today will become the scenes and dialogues preserved in the minds of our dear ones. These are the memories that they will draw upon should they ever be called upon to eulogize us someday. We must remember this idea, not just when making life-changing decisions but when making mundane, everyday decisions. It is how we live each and every day that determines our eulogy, our epitaph, and ultimately, our legacy.

Our legacy is shaped in ordinary moments, through the impact we have on others. If you want the children in your life to be generous and charitable adults, you cannot merely tell them so. Instead, you have to model generosity and charity for them, day after day and year after year. After all, children learn what they live and observe. The same consistency is needed to build a financial or spiritual legacy: you must live today the values for

which you hope to be remembered.

If you want part of your legacy to be helping your community, championing a cause, or simply teaching your children the value of philanthropy, we can help you! To learn how, contact Sherri DeCosta Alley at 877-524-1223 or sdalley@etf.org.



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

Our legacy is shaped in ordinary moments, through the impact we have on others.



Knoxville Area Urban League- 2014 Youth Endowment

The National Achievers Society (NAS) is an academic honor society for students in grades 10-12 with a GPA of 3.0 or above. NAS's goal is to increase the probability of college enrollment for students of color by providing a network of academic enhancement, college preparation, career development, and cultural/leadership activities.

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In Their Own Words - Continued from Page 4

“I want to give my sincerest thanks to any and all involved in this incredible foundation, and to assure each and every one of you that you are changing lives and changing the world. You made college not only possible, but a reality. I also want to assure you that I will live up to your expectations and make you proud that I was a scholarship recipient. I will go above and beyond to give back to my community.” *Stepping-Stone Scholarship Recipient*

“Without the help of this scholarship, I would not be able to attend college this fall. I not only thank you for myself, but for all who will be affected by my teaching career. To say that this scholarship means the world to me is an understatement. Due to this scholarship I have the opportunity to make a difference in this world and to become a leader for future generations.” *Johnson County Education Growth Scholarship Recipient*

**Has your contact information changed?
 If so, please let us know so we can keep in touch.**



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

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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