At East Tennessee Foundation (ETF), we celebrate the power of “giving” all year long. During this giving season, if I had to condense that idea into one phrase, I would say… Give…because it changes lives. You might, though, be surprised that in my opinion, changing the lives of the “receivers” is actually the smaller part of the equation. Allowing giving to change your life is much more powerful.

Recent studies have shown that those who give, maybe even those who don’t generally consider themselves generous or even “givers,” tend to lead happier, healthier, and longer lives. Can it be that even giving as an act of selfish self-preservation can improve your life? Scientists (and I agree) think probably not. Health benefits occur when good feelings cause the release of good chemicals and hormones in our bodies, and THAT happens when we allow giving (no matter our original motivation) to change our hearts and souls. It seeps in, and just like the Grinch - “Our hearts can grow two sizes too big in one day.” If we can allow that to happen, even promote it, the effect on us and our region can be profound.

Next year, when ETF marks its 30th birthday, we will celebrate the profound effect that our 30 years of grantmaking ($250 million) and building philanthropy ($300 million in assets) has had across East Tennessee. Our greatest success though is growing hearts “two sizes too big” – Yours…and as a direct result, making your life better as well as those of thousands of others in our region.

Giving is good…do it often. Give…because it changes lives.

Happy holidays.

Michael McClamroch, ETF President & CEO

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**The Season for Giving**

We all have so much...

...Instead of giving one more trinket, why not give a gift that honors someone and changes lives of those in need at the same time?

Go to ETF Website: www.easttennesseefoundation.org,
- Click on GIVE (in blue box)
- Click “Explore Our Funds”
- Identify fund to support

Go to “GIVE NOW” Enter selected fund name to let us honor your friend or family member, and change a life forever!

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A gift has been made in your name to

Jane and Ned

Thoughtful giving for stronger communities, better lives
Brother and sister, John D. Grubb and Louise G. Sumner established an endowed fund at East Tennessee Foundation in 1998 to ensure future support for local organizations and projects in Monroe County and to provide college scholarships for Monroe County residents. An advisory board of Monroe County volunteer citizens has served with East Tennessee Foundation to ensure the stewardship of these funds and to recommend meaningful grants and promising scholarship recipients.

With more applications submitted than usual this year and not enough funds available to support every nonprofit organization and project, advisory board members studied 32 applications, conducted site visits and telephone calls, and met in May to make their grant recommendations. In keeping with their funding priority to support “organizations that collaborate as they engage in projects that benefit Monroe County and its communities,” they identified several areas of need for which multiple organizations had applied. To avoid duplication of services and maximize resources, advisory board members worked with ETF staff to embark upon collaboration initiatives in two areas: senior nutrition and domestic violence. In mid-October, the advisory board convened two groups of organizations in Madisonville at Donna’s Café. The warm and friendly environment and delicious food shared throughout the day made for productive and enjoyable gatherings.

In the morning, individuals and organizations addressing Senior Citizen Nutrition and Socialization Needs met with advisory board members and ETF staff to discuss and develop potential collaborative strategies. This broad-based, community-minded, and impact-focused group of individuals and organizations are to be commended for undertaking this process. ETF applauds all involved and is especially appreciative of the work and service of the advisory board.

Each of the following three organizations was represented by its executive director and several board members: Monroe County Senior Citizens & Friends, Madisonville Presbyterian Church, and Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority.

During lunch, the advisory board learned more about domestic violence services available in Monroe County. Representatives of Monroe County’s Health Council’s STOPe program (Standing Together Offering Protection and Encouragement) helped them prepare for their afternoon discussions and convening with organizations whose programs address domestic violence issues. Executive directors of the following three organizations and several members of their board were represented: Branches of Monroe County, Family Court Services of East Tennessee, and Lifesigns.us.

Both convenings were very productive and laid the foundation for each of the two groups to work together to submit collaborative proposals to the Grubb & Sumner Fund for Monroe County Advisory Board in late November. The advisory board will review applications for collaborative projects and make funding recommendations in early December, meeting its goal to provide funding support before the end of the year.
The Fund for Campbell County was established in 1999 thanks to the generous gifts of time, vision, and resources by a group of Campbell County residents committed to their home communities. While the individual board members have rotated and changed since then, the commitment and efforts to grow this endowed fund for perpetuity while ensuring ongoing grantmaking is still its mainstay and focus.

For the Fund’s first fifteen years, more than 240 gifts totaling over $75,000 have been received, and fifty grants totaling in excess of $45,000 have been awarded to local organizations. With an endowed balance of over $73,000 and growing, the Fund for Campbell County Advisory Board continues their work to ensure funding for the long-term combined with grantmaking to address present-day needs and opportunities.

This current advisory board understands and acts upon their commitments to Give Where You Live by:

• Educating community leaders regarding this Fund, particularly professional advisors who have relationships with many Campbell Countians who have embarked upon their own financial planning, estate planning, etc. and who want to give locally, knowing it will benefit “where they live” for generations to come.

• Meeting with individuals and organizations to inform them about the existence of the fund and its important role in keeping gifts invested and working in their home communities.

• Asking these individuals and organizations to make their own contributions to the Fund as well as to share this information with others who want to support their own communities both now and in the future.

The Advisory Board is in the process of making grant award recommendations...look for a future newsletter and other media updates regarding the Campbell County projects and programs selected for this round of grantmaking.

2015 Fund for Campbell County Advisory Board
Chair, Jay Willoughby, Vice Chair, Zach Sheets,
Secretary/Treasurer, Karen Cumorich,
Katherine Ayers, Dr. Richard Burdeaux, Teresa Dabney,
Jim Freeman, Rhonda Longmire, Tracy Powers,
June Pyle, Tom Stiner

Eight local artists recently collaborated to create a beautiful and symbolic sculpture as part of the A1LabArts Chakra Window Project. They decided to represent the Violet Crown Chakra as its theme. “Violet connects with the sadness of letting go and with the joy of transformation,” said the artists. Since this color is also associated with Alzheimer’s disease, the artists hope to illustrate through this piece “how precious memories are and how trying to look through that window into the past isn’t always as clear as we would like it to be.” The artists donated the piece to The Pat Summitt Foundation Fund and also made a generous donation. The sculpture, Unlocked Memories, is on display in East Tennessee Foundation’s front lobby. It was created by Darlene Finch, Alan Finch, Ryan Blair, Neranza Noel Blount, Preston Farabow, Stephen R. Hicks, Sher Hutchins, and Shelley Mangold.
SCHOLARSHIP DONOR SPOTLIGHT

MAN ON A MISSION

For the last 21 years, Colonel Kurt Davis’ mission has been serving as a surgeon in the United States Army. In that capacity, he has spent most of his career at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas; but, from there, he has been deployed numerous times to the Middle East and elsewhere. As he prepares to enter a new phase of his career, post-retirement, he continues to be mission-driven. One of his passions is to give back to his home community – Bradley County and East Tennessee - in the form of a scholarship for military veterans attending the University of Tennessee Knoxville.

Born in Cleveland, TN, Col. Davis graduated from high school in Chattanooga. After a year of college, he enlisted in the Army. Following his service, he attended the University of Tennessee Knoxville using the GI Bill’s provisions. Despite that financial assistance and serving in the National Guard, he still needed to work several jobs to be able to make ends meet. That reality is what drives him to assist military veterans attending UT. Now, more than ever, transitioning from military to civilian life is fraught with stress. Enabling veterans to obtain a degree while focusing on being a student and not on working other jobs, will greatly ease that transition. The Colonel Kurt Davis Veteran’s Scholarship will do just that.

It was through technology and East Tennessee Foundation’s (ETF) website that Col. Davis decided to place his scholarship at ETF. While deployed in Afghanistan, he was able to research a variety of options for establishing the scholarship, and, based on the ease of using the website as well as email communications with our Foundation, decided to place his trust with us. We are proud to be affiliated with this new opportunity for those who have served our country.

The Colonel Kurt Davis Veteran’s Scholarship
Criteria to qualify:
• Veterans must be honorably discharged from the US Military
• Must be resident in the ETF service area or Bradley County, TN
• Open to current college students, GED recipients, & adult students
• Must attend UTK full-time and seek a degree
• Some financial need preferred

May begin awarding in 2017
The Harry W. and Carolyn W. Galbraith Memorial Fund, a field-of-interest fund of East Tennessee Foundation, has a long and interesting history. In 1998, Dr. and Mrs. Galbraith established the fund as a donor advised fund for the purpose of “spaying and neutering of pets.” During his lifetime and after his death (through his successor advisor), Dr. Galbraith supported many animal care organizations both nationally and regionally. However, following the successor advisor’s death in 2014, the fund was converted to a field-of-interest fund, making grants to carry out the charitable purposes for which the fund was originally created by Dr. and Mrs. Galbraith.

The fund awarded grants in October to 10 nonprofit organizations that applied through its first competitive grants process. In keeping with the Galbraiths’ wishes, grants were awarded primarily to support low-income pet owners’ spay and neuter expenses for their cats and dogs, and for free-roaming/stray cats in the Foundation’s 25-county service area.

**Summaries of their funded projects follow:**

**Appalachian Feral Cat Allies**
Project CLAWS (Cats Lives are Worth Saving) will trap, spay/neuter, and return free-roaming cats in Unicoi County’s Railroad Trailer Park.

**Beat The Heat Alliance, Inc.**
Funds will subsidize spay/neuter costs of pet cats and dogs or rescued stray cats for low-income residents in Hawkins County.

**East Tennessee Spay & Neuter**
“Cans for Critters!” targets low-income Carter and Unicoi county residents who cannot afford spay/neuter and rabies shot costs for their pets. Bags of crushed aluminum cans are exchanged for surgery/rabies shot vouchers.

**Grainger County Humane Society**
Spay/neuter and rabies vaccines will be provided for colonies of free-roaming cats.

**Johnson County Humane Society, Inc.**
Spay Neuter Incentive Program (SNIP) will help low-income households pay for surgery to spay and neuter their household dogs and cats.

**Sevier County Humane Society**
SPOT (Stop Pet Overpopulation Today) is a low-cost spay/neuter program which will subsidize spay/neuter costs for low-income households and families with multiple pets.

**Spay/Neuter Assistance for Pets, Inc. (SNAP)**
SNAP is a multi-year program that provides free spay/neuter vouchers to low-income residents of Monroe County to sterilize their pet dogs and cats.

**Sullivan County Humane Society**
SNIP (Spay Neuter Impact Program) subsidizes the spay or neuter costs of pets owned by residents of Sullivan County.

**Union County Humane Society**
“Low Income Spay/Neuter” will provide spay/neuter services to qualified low-income resident pet owners.

**Washington County - Johnson City Animal Control Center**
“Fix Your Critter” is a start-up program which will provide free spay/neuter surgeries for pets owned by low-income residents.
With the City of Knoxville’s recent $15 million grant award from TVA to weatherize 1,300 low-income homes in Knoxville over the next two years, SEEED (Socially Equal Energy Efficient Development), a grassroots nonprofit organization, seems to have the good fortune to be an organization “in the right place at the right time” to help the city accomplish this goal. Of course, it has taken much more than luck to attain what SEEED and Stan Johnson, the organization’s founder and director, have done for a greener economy and Knoxville’s inner-city youth. And he’s just getting started!

This journey began in 2009, when Stan Johnson had the foresight to recognize the growing demand for people trained for jobs in the “green” job market, and the conviction that Knoxville’s inner-city young adults needed to learn life and job skills in order to escape the cycle of poverty. Stan founded SEEED to accomplish both goals, by training 16 to 28 year-olds for careers in energy efficient technology while teaching them life, career-readiness, job and placement skills.

East Tennessee Foundation (ETF) first met Stan Johnson in 2009 when he applied for a Youth Endowment grant to support the organization’s pre-apprenticeship program for 16 to 18 year-old inner-city Knoxville youth. With the $15,000 Youth Endowment grant award, Stan began to train and mentor inner-city youth in “green” jobs and technologies.

Stan is a perfect role model and mentor for the inner-city young adults, having been through a similar experience. He moved to Florida from Jamaica and worked as a migrant laborer picking fruit as a young adult. He went on to earn his BA from Knoxville College, owned/operated Stan Johnson Super Auto Center from 2001-2006, served as a Metropolitan Planning Commissioner in Knox County from 2004-2012, and the list continues!

ETF has supported SEEED with four additional grants from its various funds, the most recent being awarded in October 2015, after Stan approached the Foundation to support its Career Readiness Program (CRP). CRP trains young adults for jobs in energy efficiency, by focusing on weatherization, solar panel installation, community gardening, and recycling. With this grant, ETF was able to match one awarded by Cornerstone Foundation which had help SEEED meet its budget.

“The recent grant from East Tennessee Foundation has allowed SEEED to help more young adults than ever before to get life and job skill training and put them on the pathway out of poverty. Without our longtime ETF relationship, we would not be able to invest in Knoxville’s young adults at the level our community needs. Thank you for your support,” said Stan Johnson. Currently, SEEED is helping the City of Knoxville achieve its goal of weatherizing 1,300 homes. In partnership with the City and CAC, young adults in the CRP program are helping educate low-income homeowners and renters about how to cut their utility bills. The City contracted with SEEED for the community outreach and education component of this program, called “Savings in the House.” In order to educate low-income homeowners and renters about weatherization, teams of CRP students are going door-to-door, visiting homes in their Mechanicsville and Morningside neighborhoods to share energy efficient tips with residents, offer them a new LED light bulb, and invite them to attend a free “Savings in the House” workshop in their neighborhood.

To learn more about SEEED, visit their website at www.seeed-knox.org, contact Stan Johnson at seeedknox@gmail.com, or phone at (865) 766-5185.
In this age when headlines of charity scams seem to occur with increasing frequency, perhaps the best way to ensure that your donations are put to good use is to focus more locally and really understand the charity you support and the work that it does in your community. East Tennessee Foundation’s Give Where You Live program seeks to ensure our community-based affiliate funds are truly making an impact in their respective communities. The most crucial step in the program is recruiting and equipping a group of local individuals who desire to grow an affiliate fund for their particular community and impact their community with thoughtful grants. That group becomes the advisory board for their community’s affiliate fund at ETF. The advisory board is critical to both raising funds and ensuring that grants are well-placed, precisely because they use their knowledge of their community for each of those tasks.

Next, Give Where You Live involves the advisory board working with ETF staff to reach out to attorneys, accountants, and financial advisors in their community to make them aware of the affiliate fund and its purpose of serving their community. From there, the advisory board develops a fundraising plan to both grow an endowed fund and raise some funds for current grantmaking.

ETF’s advisory boards take their roles very seriously. They work to foster collaboration between charities in order to prevent making grants for duplicative services and have truly made some wonderful grants. For example, our Norris Area Community Foundation awarded $2,000 to Norris Middle School for its new Theater Arts Program to enrich students’ lives through theater, while providing learning experiences in public speaking, reading comprehension, set building/design, time management, entrepreneurship, improvisation and collaboration. In Carter County, our Elizabethton/Carter County Community Foundation has helped the County reduce its food costs at the county jail by 33% through its grant of $1,000 for the Inmate Garden Project. This project provides inmates with horticulture therapy, nutritious foods, gardening skills and, thanks to the program’s growth, may soon be producing enough produce to work with the local community college that is considering developing a culinary arts program.

Indeed, having an advisory board of local people helps ETF identify when even a small grant can go a long way in a particular community. Our Unicoi County Fund recently awarded $500 to the Manna Storehouse Pantry of Unicoi Church of God. That grant will be used, in conjunction with some other resources available to the program, to provide dinner kits for over 110 local low-income families.

The heart of Give Where You Live is each of our local communities. It requires volunteers from the particular community raising funds and then making grants for that particular community.

To learn how you can assist with initiating or growing a local affiliate fund for your community, please contact Trudy Hughes at thughes@etf.org or 877-524-1223.
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.