A Message From 2017 East Tennessee Foundation Board Chair
Paul Willson

I am extremely honored to serve as ETF’s chair this year. I enjoyed my previous term as a board member, so I jumped at the opportunity to serve again. As we celebrated our 30th Anniversary in 2016, I often thought about those exemplary leaders that founded ETF and gave it the strong foundation we now stand on. We are grateful for their efforts.

My perspective of the wonderful job ETF does to expand and enhance philanthropy in our 25 associated counties has been dramatically reinforced by two recent personal experiences. The first relates to my connection to the McMinn Community Fund, which is designed to benefit the citizens of McMinn County, especially relating to the improvement of all aspects of health. Our fund was fortunate to have received the expert advice and guidance from the ETF staff; they accelerated our formal process of organization, developed a grant application system, encouraged the submission of many worthy grant requests, and then helped us celebrate those grants with the organizations that earned them. It was a very worthwhile and rewarding cooperation of which I encourage any reader to consider being a part.

The second very positive experience occurred when my mother, son, and I decided to form an ETF Donor Advised Fund we call the Willson Family Fund. We were able to very easily set up this fund at the end of last year, with a minimum of paperwork or expense, and have been able to support our philanthropic interests with ease. Again, we extend the invitation to any of you who would like to learn more about this great ETF service.

Now, I want to thank you for your interest in this Foundation. No matter what your connection with ETF, please help us spread the word about the necessary and very important work we do.

My very best,
Paul

Paul Willson, 2017 ETF Board Chair, discusses the 2016 wildfires with Mike Oakley, Gatlinburg City Fire Inspector, during East Tennessee Foundation’s annual meeting.

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In April, East Tennessee Foundation and the Blount Community Fund advisory board hosted a community forum to update and discuss their progress since the fund was established one year ago. Jennifer Wackerhagen, Executive Director, United Way of Blount County, further explained this fund is to provide philanthropic dollars to be invested for future unmet needs in Blount County where there may currently be “gaps” in services provided.

For example, through the advisory board’s research, children ages 3 to 4 years of age need additional services available in the areas of literacy and parental education. They are currently exploring ways to address this need. Additionally, the board encourages Blount County citizens to get involved in the opportunity to improve the quality of life there.

Grantee Receptions in the Region

Pictured (L to R) are Dr. Jimmy Carter, Trudy Hughes, Kim Smith, Loretta Williams, Jason Bailey, Shannon Brooks, Ronnie Mincey, and David Myers.

On Thursday, May 18, 2017, members of the Union County Community Foundation Advisory Board, East Tennessee Foundation staff, and Union County Schools representatives gathered for a reception at Paulette Elementary School. Three grants were provided to support select elementary and middle school age programs.

The Elizabethton/Carter County Community Foundation Board awarded grants totaling more than $6,000 to six local nonprofits in February. Pictured are representatives from the grantees and advisory board along with Jim and Helen Wilson, founding board members, who were also recognized.
YOU LIVE

Johnson County Community Foundation Talent Show Event

Members of the Johnson County Community Foundation Advisory Board produce the talent show. Proceeds raised from the sold out event go directly to scholarships and grants for Johnson County.

Lexy Mullins and Addy Snyder
1st place winners, Kindergarten through 3rd Grade

In April at the 12th annual Johnson County Talent Show, a panel of judges from outside Johnson County were given the difficult task of selecting winners. Judges pictured are Trudy Hughes, John Garrison, Sherri DeCosta Alley, Rick Fox (front row), Tom Purpur, Robert Cherry, and Ralph Cianelli (back row).

Campbell Enhancement Fund Launches Spring Fundraising Campaign

With a goal to raise $15,000 this spring, the fund’s hope is to award $10,000 in grants this year while adding $5,000 to their endowment fund to build for the future. Campbell Enhancement Fund Advisory Board has initiated the campaign to grow the fund while accomplishing impactful grantmaking throughout Campbell County.

Tim Howell, CEO, Senior Citizens Home Assistance Service, Inc. (SCHAS), one of the eight 2016 grant recipients, describes best the impact of these much needed funds in Campbell County, "As adults age, the challenge to remain in their homes increases especially if personal finances are scarce and the community they live in has limited resources to provide help. This is why receiving a donation from the Campbell Enhancement Fund was vital. In 2016, SCHAS was able to provide homemaker and personal care support to 71 older adults in Campbell County, 62 of them below the federal poverty level. The funds received have allowed adults to stay in the place they most want to be – their home. Thank you to everyone who has donated! You may not personally go out and give people a bath or clean their homes, but you certainly are the reason they received care."

Loudon Community Fund Established

East Tennessee Foundation joined advisory board members and government officials for the signing of the Loudon County Affiliate Fund agreement on May 18, 2017. Pictured (L to R) are Tony Aikens, Mayor of Lenoir City, Dr. Cynthia Fleming, Amber Scott, Jeff Harris, Trudy Hughes, Nicole Curtis, Billy Joe Pickel, Jim Greenway, Mayor of Loudon, and Gary Whitfield.
THE PAT SUMMITT FOUNDATION

SEC Win Challenge

Pictured (L to R) are Adam Waller, Sunny Biden, and Patrick Wade with The Pat Summitt Foundation joined by Associate Head Coach Kyra Elzy, her son, and Head Coach Matthew Mitchell with wife Jenna and their two daughters. They coach the Lady Wildcats at the University of Kentucky.

Kentucky Women’s Basketball Associate Head Coach and Former Lady Vol Kyra Elzy and her husband, Dexter, led the SEC Win Challenge for the 5th consecutive year. Fans have joined Kyra and Dexter each of the last 5 seasons by making their own personal pledges for every SEC victory. This year, the SEC Win Challenge raised over $36,000 for The Pat Summitt Foundation.

Salute for a Cure

On Thursday, April 20th at Hunter Valley Farm Pavilion, The Pat Summitt Foundation celebrated the second annual Salute for a Cure event. Over 275 guests were in attendance and enjoyed dinner, a live auction, and program. The program, led by Mickey Dearstone (Voice of the Lady Vols), included stories about the legendary Coach Pat Summitt. Featured guest speakers, Nikki Caldwell Fargas, Mickie DeMoss, Holly Warlick, and Kara Lawson, shared their stories of how Pat Summitt had impacted their lives. This successful event raised over $65,000.

To view photos and the program video, please visit patsummitt.org/salute.
Jeanne Campbell recently joined ETF’s staff as our full-time Financial and Administrative Officer. She was born and raised in Michigan, and it instilled in her the love of land and water, a love she has now enjoyed over 30 years in East Tennessee. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. After several years in banking, she joined the Clayton family of businesses, where she established the Clayton family office and served for 25 years as Managing Director of the Clayton Foundation. She and her husband, Dennis, have a daughter, now a graduate student at UTK. They are longtime residents of Sevier County and call Seymour home.

Jessica Renfro joins East Tennessee Foundation as our new Financial and Administrative Associate. She is primarily responsible for acknowledging the many generous gifts ETF receives and also supports the financial team in report preparation. Born and raised in Knoxville, Jessica attended the University of Tennessee where she earned a degree in Spanish and International Business. She returns to us from El Paso, Texas where she participated in the Border Fellows program, a work and service leadership development program on the U.S.-Mexico border. She is passionate about social justice and community development, and she is excited to join our team and learn more about the many nonprofits that ETF supports. When she’s not working, Jessica enjoys traveling, spending time with her nephew, visiting Dollywood, and hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains.
“From the comradery and teamwork of working with fellow Y-12’s and East Tennessee Foundation to making profound differences to our fellow East Tennessee citizens, being a part of the CNS Investment Fund Committee has been a wonderful experience for me on so many levels. Because CNS has entrusted us (Y-12 workers and ETF) to grow this program from the ground up, we take great pride and ownership in ensuring the money is going to the right causes, the right people, and for the right reasons. There hasn’t been an application review meeting or awards banquet where I haven’t shed a tear – the gravity of the staggering need in our community, the extraordinary efforts made by each and every applicant, and the significant change we are able to make with this committee are overwhelming and awe-inspiring.”

- Alison Sides, CNS Y-12 Investment Advisory Committee Secretary

East Tennessee Foundation announced grant recipients from the CNS Y-12 Community Investment Fund, a corporate donor advised fund of East Tennessee Foundation. Twenty-nine grants totaling $125,000 were awarded to nonprofit organizations in 12 East Tennessee counties. Grant checks were awarded during a grantee reception.

Consolidated Nuclear Security (CNS) is the contractor at Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, TN, and the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, TX. In addition to managing its two sites, CNS has established funds at East Tennessee Foundation and Amarillo Area Foundation (AAF) as part of their commitment to the host communities of Amarillo and Oak Ridge, as well as their local counties and regions. By establishing these funds, CNS has created opportunities for ETF and AAF to work together as they create programs for CNS employees to work with their local community foundations to award grants benefitting nonprofit organizations in their respective regions. The CNS Y-12 Investment Advisory Committee, comprised of CNS Y-12 employees, reviewed applications and recommended grants to support nonprofit organizations whose projects addressed one or more of the committee’s four focus areas: Education, Senior Citizens, Veterans, and Youth.
Taking Care of Business: Corporate Philanthropy Through ETF

Are you a leader in your company who is responsible for community relations, but could use a little help with your company’s approach to social impact? Did you just read about the good work of CNS Y-12 Community Investment Fund giving $125,000 to 29 local organizations and wonder how you could accomplish something similar for your company? Do you feel overwhelmed by more and more letters and emails asking your company to support worthy causes? Do you wish your company’s giving was more focused and clearly communicated its impact to attract good publicity? Is the administrative burden associated with your company’s foundation straining your finance and accounting staff?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, consider organizing your company’s charitable giving through a corporate donor advised fund with ETF. We can help design a fund to meet your company’s needs: from engaging employees, to efficiently deploying charitable resources, to maximizing community impact, to effectively managing the flood of charitable solicitations, etc. Here are some of the most important benefits of a corporate donor advised fund:

1. You decide who should analyze the grant applications to recommend grant awards. Should that role go to a particular key manager, the executive management team, or a diverse committee consisting of employees from all levels of your company?

2. We can guide you through a grant cycle from start to finish. Our staff can train your grant committee how to make thoughtful grants, from selecting a geographic and/or cause-related focus, to conducting site visits, to analyzing grant applications and submitting grant recommendations.

3. ETF can manage the entire application process, including application design, opening and publicizing the online application process, providing assistance to applicant organizations, and providing the grant committee online access to submitted applications.

4. Your staff will be able to better respond to inquiries from charities by explaining that the company’s charitable giving is handled through a corporate fund, making it easier to streamline the processing of these requests.

5. The timing dictated by tax deduction or budget considerations does not have to control the timing of the payments to the causes the company supports. The structure of a donor advised fund allows your company to plan the timing of support to charities without worrying about balancing your giving goals with the company’s budget or tax concerns. For example, a company can transfer $50,000 to a corporate donor advised fund prior to December 31, making the transaction a completed charitable gift for purposes of the company’s budget, taxes, and financial statements. Then, during the following year or over multiple years, the company can take time to analyze charitable programs and decide which charitable organizations to support with grants from the donor advised fund.

If you are interested in exploring whether an ETF corporate donor advised fund could assist with your company’s philanthropy, please contact me at (865) 524-1223.

Sherri DeCosta Alley, J.D.
East Tennessee Foundation
Vice President for Advancement

Personal Service
Accessible and committed to tailoring charitable giving to the donor’s wishes

Local Expertise
With in-depth understanding of issues, opportunities, and resources that shape our community

Community Leadership
Convening diverse voices to build 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.

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

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*deceased