

PHILANTHROPY IS MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER

Recently, I was meeting with a couple interested in setting up an East Tennessee Foundation (ETF) donor advised fund, and together we were lamenting the current state of affairs in our nation, in particular, the striking mistrust that many have for our government at all levels and the deepening divide both politically and socially in our nation, our state, and our region. Rhetorically they asked a great question, especially for a family about to commit their resources to ETF-guided grantmaking: “Is philanthropy even relevant right now?”

Without hesitation or even much thought, I remembered all the people we hear from whose lives have been changed by philanthropy and I answered, “Yes.” Clearly “yes” is the right answer, but I have been thinking about that question and my answer ever since. As I listen to the news on my way to and from our office, I think about our current crisis of confidence in the institutions in which we have relied since our founding. Philanthropy - private answers to public questions - is more relevant than ever because philanthropy must increasingly fill the gap and be there for the neediest among us.

Our newly formed supporting foundation, the 4th Purpose Foundation, will focus on creating in-prison hope and successful reentry of former prisoners into society, a much-needed resource in this time of mass incarceration and lack of prison reform. This year our Youth Endowment Fund awarded 23 grants totaling \$274,225 to nonprofit partners to support their work in understanding and combating the negative outcomes of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). ACEs affect brain development and can compromise the brain’s structural integrity. Left unaddressed, ACEs and their effects make it more difficult for a child to succeed in school and live a healthy life. Studies indicate this is a major factor in obesity, substance abuse, and suicide. Our 20 affiliate funds are working diligently with local partners to address concerns in their communities such as homelessness.

As you read our reports, our news, our stories of lives changed in this issue of CONNECT, I hope you will see the importance of philanthropy, measured by each changed life, and I hope you will agree that PHILANTHROPY IS RELEVANT. Indeed, philanthropy has been, is, and will be the best tool we have to make the changes and restore the confidence we so desperately need.

Mike McClamroch
East Tennessee Foundation
President + CEO

To hear more from Mike regarding ETF’s philanthropic leadership on a recent podcast hosted by former board member Mary Beth West and her colleague Kelly Fletcher, visit bit.ly/powerofphilanthropy or look for the ‘Ms. InterPreted’ podcast on Apple podcasts / iTunes, Google Play, Spotify, or wherever you listen to podcasts.



Pictured left to right are ETF’s executives past and present: Mike McClamroch, Katharine Pearson Criss, and Jerry Askew. All were present for ETF’s Celebration of Philanthropy. Read more on page 7.

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HAVING AN IMPACT

WARMING SHELTERS ARE A GROWING SOLUTION FOR THE HOMELESS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES DURING WINTER MONTHS

Most of our rural East Tennessee communities do not have formalized shelters or housing for homeless individuals and families in their county. The need far outweighs the resources available from any one government agency or nonprofit organization. This issue is magnified during the cold winter months and becomes deadly when temperatures drop below freezing. Last year one such county came together and found a solution. This year another community follows.

In December 2018, Blount County announced its first-ever warming shelter solution for the homeless. This was a collaborative effort between the public and private sectors. It was brought about when a large contingent of residents from throughout the community identified a need for shelter when temperatures dropped below 20 degrees. As described by Mayor Ed Mitchell, “A great example of collaboration and cooperation for the betterment of our citizens was when my staff, along with representatives from United Way, Family Promise, First Baptist Church of Maryville, and the Chilhowee Baptist Association worked together with funding received from ETF and the United Way to help provide shelter and meals to the homeless in Blount County when temperatures drop.”

The first day to meet the weather criteria was in January 2019. Volunteers arrived to set up the nearly 30 cots and organize the many donations of food, beverages, and warm clothing at First Baptist Church of Maryville. The most vulnerable in the community were served from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. the next morning. The next such occasion may be a different church location with different volunteers, but the support and comfort of a warm bed will be the same.

Blount County estimates it will need to open a warming center six to seven days per year. So far in 2019, the center has opened four times. Locations are marked with a white flag when open.

This year McMinn and Meigs counties are working with their United Way and other agencies to provide a similar warming shelter solution in their community. The Athens Cold Weather Shelter will also be a partnership between local churches, Coordinated Charities of Athens, Grace & Mercy Ministries, and United Way of McMinn and Meigs Counties to ensure everyone who needs a warm place to sleep in their community can find one. Secondarily, they plan to provide connections to resources to help provide solutions to more stable living circumstances.

“Coordinated Charities was created to help people on a temporary emergency basis. The needs of the homeless and chronic homeless far outstrip our current capabilities. Yet, Coordinated Charities is one of the frontline locations in our county that people get sent to. Our current solutions do not reach far enough to properly offer care to people. The only option we have is to send people to a motel, which is often costly and leaves vulnerable people unsupervised and without support. We desperately need additional resources to help. A viable, well structured, and equipped cold weather shelter is one step on this journey,” said Kevin Lane, Director of Coordinated Charities of Athens.

Last year, 14 individuals contacted Coordinated Charities requesting service. Therefore, this shelter's capacity provides a basic safety net for 14 people during January and February 2020. This number does not represent the entire homeless population in these counties, but only represents the number that reached out for assistance.



United Way has taken on a leadership role in each of these communities. “United Way has always been a champion of the most vulnerable in our community. When we see a need, we do our best to find a way to fill that need. Because McMinn County does not have a homeless shelter, United Way is facilitating an effort to bring local groups together to open a cold weather shelter. It truly is a team effort between local churches and other nonprofits. Funds from ETF will help us get it off the ground and make it a reality this winter,” explained Stephanie Linkous, Executive Director of United Way of McMinn and Meigs Counties.

ETF has provided a grant award to both of these programs. ETF also plans to provide the leadership necessary to identify best practices that can be shared with other counties across our region. If you'd like more information or would be interested in attending a future convening on this topic, please contact Trudy Hughes, Vice President for Regional Advancement at thughes@etf.org or 877-524-1223.

LAURA J. KRESS ANGEL TREE FUND CONTINUES THE LEGACY OF EAST TENNESSEE'S ANGEL TREE

The Laura J. Kress Angel Tree Fund was established at ETF in June 2019 in honor and in memory of Laura J. Kress, founder of the Angel Tree, who passed away earlier this year. The newly-established fund has already begun to fulfill holiday wishes for children-in-need in East Tennessee, just as the Angel Tree had for more than four decades under Laura's leadership.

Nonprofit organizations from Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Morgan, Scott, and Union counties were invited to submit applications. These counties are some of the most economically challenged in East Tennessee. In November, grants totaling \$83,000 were awarded to 11 organizations whose projects will fill Christmas wishes for more than 1,300 children this year.



ASSOCIATION OF FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONALS GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY LUNCHEON

Mike McClamroch was presented with the Legacy Award that is considered the highest award bestowed by the Great Smoky Mountain Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals at the anniversary of their 30th National Philanthropy Day celebration. Only two other individuals have been selected for this honor to date: Dr. Joe Johnson and Sharon J. Pryse. Mike was humbled to be recognized in this manner and credited his recognition to the outstanding work of his team at ETF.



Surrounding Mike after accepting his award are ETF staff, board members, and family who were able to join him to celebrate.



Mike McClamroch, ETF President + CEO, was grateful to have Natalie Haslam, former board chair and honorary lifetime board member, and Carolyn Schwenn, Executive Vice President + Secretary, seated with him during the lunch and award ceremony.

GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF TENNESSEE FOUNDATION PARTNERS WITH EAST TENNESSEE FOUNDATION ON KINGSFORT MIRACLE FIELD

Scott Wilson, Director of Community Relations, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee Foundation (BCBS of TN Foundation), asked ETF to partner on a community project in Sullivan County. BCBS of TN Foundation focuses on its BlueCross Healthy Place program, which develops spaces that help neighbors connect, form new relationships, and enjoy healthy activity.



Pictured are Jud Teague, Visit Kingsport Executive Director and Kingsport Community Foundation advisory board member, and his son Nic at the recent ground breaking ceremony.

The project, Kingsport Miracle Field, will be located at 2017 Brickyard Park Drive and will be specially designed for young people with disabilities. Slated to open Spring 2020, the complex will include an all-accessible playground, funded by BCBS of TN Foundation, a pavilion, and baseball field. A public fundraising campaign to complete the project is currently underway. For more information, visit <https://visitkingsport.com/kingsport-miracle-field/>.

Additionally, BCBS of TN Foundation established a fund with ETF to support the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the playground. ETF has an ongoing relationship with the Kingsport community, municipal government, and its affiliate fund, Kingsport Community Foundation.



Above is a rendering of the space now under construction.

NORRIS AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (NACF)

In the photo on the right are members of the NACF Advisory Board and the representatives from the four organizations receiving grant awards.

Cumberland Communities Communications Corporation, better known as “WDVX,” received a grant award of \$2,500 for the Museum of Appalachia concert series. “Clinch River Breakdown” kicks off on December 6th and will highlight the traditions and fresh interpretations of Appalachian music as well as local storytelling.

The Museum of Appalachia utilized a grant award of \$2,000 to support Fall Heritage Fridays. Fridays in October were enjoyed by local students, educators, and families who experienced a variety of traditional arts, including music, dance, folk art, and crafts.



Norris Middle School will have risers for its choral program thanks to a grant award of \$2,000. In August of 2017, Norris Middle School began their first choir music program in over thirty years. Previously, Norris Middle did not own any risers and borrowed these for each concert.

Norris Middle School also received a grant award for \$2,000 to purchase outdoor group physical education equipment to increase physical activity during recess.



JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (JCCF)

Members of the Johnson County Community Foundation Advisory Board were treated to a delicious dinner at the Johnson County Senior Center (JCSC) in celebration of the arrival of their baby grand piano. JCCF provided a matching grant to JCSC in support of the purchase. While enjoying dinner, all were entertained with lovely piano music.

ETF SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHT:

R.G. AND RUTH CROSSNO SCHOLARSHIP

The R.G. and Ruth Crossno Scholarship is one of ETF's oldest scholarships and has awarded over \$122,000 to almost 30 students from Anderson County since 1992. This four-year scholarship benefits graduating high school seniors from Anderson County High School, with preference given to those with a history of volunteer work or paid employment. Financial need is also considered in the selection process.

The following words of one R.G. and Ruth Crossno Scholarship recipient illustrates the impact of ETF scholarships and the ongoing importance of this type of philanthropy in our region:

“A thank you letter does not allow me to fully express my gratitude for choosing me as the recipient of this scholarship. Thank you for financially helping me with my next chapter in life. Receiving this scholarship not only stands as money given to me, but as encouragement and support. With the help of this generous scholarship, I can rise above what is expected of me. Thank you for choosing someone you don't know personally for this award. Once again, thank you for the money, the support, and most important, the encouragement.”

For more information about ETF scholarships or to donate to the R.G. and Ruth Crossno Scholarship or other ETF scholarships, please visit etf.org/scholarships or contact Beth Heller, Vice President for Scholarship Programs or Tamara Boyer, General Counsel + Vice President for Advancement.

ADVANCEMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 21, 2020

Knoxville, TN

THE PAT SUMMITT FOUNDATION FORGET ME NOT 5K

APRIL 18, 2020

Farragut, TN

THE PAT SUMMITT FOUNDATION SALUTE FOR A CURE

APRIL 23, 2020

Knoxville, TN

THE PAT SUMMITT INVITATIONAL AT SPRING CREEK RANCH

MAY 4, 2020

Collierville, TN

NASHVILLE ALZHEIMER'S CLASSIC BENEFITING THE PAT SUMMITT FOUNDATION

MAY 31 - JUNE 1, 2020

Brentwood, TN

ETF LEGACY SOCIETY is the Foundation's recognition of donors who have made a long-term commitment to furthering philanthropy through a "legacy gift." For more information, visit www.easttennesseefoundation.org.

MOUNTAINS: Time-tested mountains are the backbone of East Tennessee, and thus, this membership level is for individuals, past and present, from whom an ETF fund has already received a completed legacy gift.

Ambassador Victor Ashe

Mary Anne Beall*

Fred D. Benton*

Bonnie P. Blackburn*

Nita H. Bowling*

Wallace A.* & Mary* Casnelli

Robert G. Chapman*

Anne P. Church*

Gail B. Clay*

Gordon W.* & Agnes P.* Cobb

Jason* & Eleanor* Cox

Joseph Delaney*

Marilyn Dick*

Betty L. Donahue*

Paul O. Dore, Jr.* & Betty B. Dore*

Emily M. Faust*

Russell O. Ford*

John Compton French, Sr.*

Harry W. Galbraith* &

Carolyn W. Galbraith*

John D. Grubb*

Mary Louise Waters Hailey*

J.G.* & Dorothy S.* Hawkins

Betty C. Hinton*

Clifton M. Jones*

John M. Jones III*

Newton B. Jones*

Carl K. Kirkpatrick, Jr.* &

Barbara G. Kirkpatrick*

Barbara M. Landauer*

Kenneth J.* & Barbara H.* Monty

Mary Elizabeth Moody*

Katherine D. Moore*

Lynda Newton

Marian E. Oates*

Jean C. Ogle*

Dr. E. E. Perry*

Sheryl Clark Rollins*

Love Gray Shults*

Floyd P. Sloan, Jr.*

G. Wayne* &

Margaret S.* Solomon

Lawrence D. Strader*

Louise G. Sumner*

David L. Sylwester*

Dr. Fred M. Valentine*

Blanche P.* & Emmet P.* Vaughn

Gary R. Wade

Charlotte S. Watson*

Mary Gregg Wesche*

Ned S. Williams*

Mr. & Mrs. Kent C. Withers*

RIVERS: As the perpetual flow of many rivers sustains a rich abundance of life and activities in East Tennessee, River members ensure their philanthropic legacy keeps flowing by designating a planned legacy gift to be received in the future to benefit one of ETF's funds.

Rev. Lee Johnson Atchley

Margaret S. Bartuch

Mary H. Bogart*

Patsy Q. Carson

Dr. Art & Charlotte Ellis

Christine Hamilton

Jim & Donna Harlan

Jacki & Richard Imbrey

Alicia Lewis Manning

Candace Mast

Kara H. May

Emily & Morton Rose

Carolyn Schwenn

Lonette Donahue Seaton*

*deceased

WE INVITE ALL PROSPECTIVE DONORS WHO HAVE MADE OR ARE INTENDING TO MAKE A PLANNED GIFT TO ETF OR ONE OF OUR SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS TO JOIN OUR ETF LEGACY SOCIETY. ELIGIBLE DONORS WHO ARE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH RECOGNITION MAY BE INCLUDED ANONYMOUSLY. PLEASE CONTACT TAMARA BOYER, GENERAL COUNSEL + VP FOR ADVANCEMENT TO BE INCLUDED.

AN “OPPORTUNITY” FOR POSSIBILITIES

Albert Einstein is credited to have said, “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.” Well, Mr. Einstein would have been in good company at ETF. Looking at the glass as half-full, seeing the hope around the corner of a sad moment to a brighter day and life, or meeting the need of a charity with an unexpected gift, are daily occurrences here. We aspire to grow these opportunities through unrestricted funds.

Unrestricted or “opportunity” funds allow the Foundation board and staff to make strategic grants when needs arise. Every request is vetted by our senior staff with guidelines approved by the board. While most ETF funds are restricted to a specific county, cause, or nonprofit, these unrestricted funds allow strategic delivery of charitable dollars which will have the greatest benefit for East Tennessee. By standing in the gap, the Foundation can provide some relief for often unanticipated needs.

Additionally, unrestricted funds provide a solution for a donor who:

- Wants a gift to have the broadest impact over time and is excited about meeting unexpected challenges and seizing opportunities in the future;
- Wants to give back to the community in general rather than support a specific cause or organization;

- Has multiple interests or is considering a family foundation for broad charitable purposes;
- Wants to ensure donations will not become irrelevant over time as the community and its priorities change.

ETF is the catalyst for opportunity in our region, and 2019 marks 33 years of delivering thoughtful giving for stronger communities and better lives. Our donors have provided the resources for our 25 beautiful counties and beyond. Will you partner with ETF to make lives better and communities stronger in enduring ways across generations?



Tamara Boyer, J.D.

**East Tennessee Foundation
General Counsel + Vice President for Advancement**

CELEBRATION OF PHILANTHROPY

ETF hosted over 200 professional advisors and fundholders for a Celebration of Philanthropy on Thursday, September 26, 2019 at Knoxville Museum of Art. During this celebration, the Foundation recognized the important role professional advisors play to open the door for others to realize their philanthropic goals.



Recognized during the evening were (left to right) Nathaniel Shelso, David Martin, and Frank Newman, as 2019 Outstanding Keys to Philanthropy honorees.



Dr. Jeff Chapman is pictured with his daughter, Cate Biggs, ETF board of directors vice chair and advancement committee chair.

EAST TENNESSEE FOUNDATION

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EAST TENNESSEE FOUNDATION IS A PUBLIC CHARITY AND 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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East Tennessee Foundation has been confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations

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