



# Connections

## East Tennessee Foundation

2012 Issue 1

*Thoughtful giving for stronger communities, better lives*

### A SPECIAL LOOK

Traditionally, in Issue 1 of Connections, I take the opportunity to reflect on the previous year and share a little of the “State of the Foundation.” And 2011 warrants a special look because it was our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year (1986 – 2011)!

Since we are a grantmaking institution that changes lives...making life better in East Tennessee, to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> year in 2011 we hand-delivered a \$2500 grant to one outstanding nonprofit partner in each of the counties we serve. On a memorable October evening at Historic Middlebrook, we continued celebrating with a fundraising event for the ETF Opportunity Fund, the only unrestricted fund we have for the purpose of responding to opportunities as they arise in our region. And, in recognition of the exceptional work they have done, a special \$25,000 endowment was awarded to Tennessee Overhill Heritage Tourism Association from McMinn County.

New Foundation initiatives in 2011 included: The official launch of our new Women’s Fund for East Tennessee (See page 5), the addition of Trinity Health Foundation as an ETF supporting organization (See page 4), Union County Community Foundation becoming our 13<sup>th</sup> affiliate fund, Kingsport Community Foundation completing its Spirit Campaign and raising \$3.5 million to renovate and build recreational facilities in Kingsport, starting our Neighbor to Neighbor Disaster Relief Fund (in response to enormous economic and emotional damage resulting from floods, tornadoes, and hailstorms), and launching TNAchieves.

Grants, totaling over \$8.8 million in 2011, continued to change lives across our region. Since 1986, \$187 million has been awarded to nonprofits primarily in East Tennessee. A sampling of 2011 grantmaking included: the Harris Fund for Washington County outdoor classroom and nature preserve; in Knox County the Neighborhoods Small Grants support of a program for young Walter P. Taylor residents who researched the graves and lives of prominent African-American citizens buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery; Kingsport Community Foundation’s “Art Cart” for a pediatric unit; Monroe County Neighborhood Center providing 80 families with gardening and canning supplies; and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund providing Knoxville/Knox County CAC with a \$50,000 grant to assist families with urgently needed repairs to storm-damaged homes. On January 24, 2012, the Foundation’s Annual Meeting celebrated 2011, our 25<sup>th</sup> year! It was our largest attendance ever and our constituents (board members, ETF staff,

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*Celebrating 25 Years  
at Annual Meeting!*



Top to Bottom: Jenny Hines, Bill Williams, Annette Anderson, Kim McClamroch, Carolyn Schwenn, Johnson City Orchestra, Dick Jacobstein, Mike McClamroch & Alice Mercer, Mayors Burchett, Rogero, & Ashe, & Mike



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# Connections

## NEW ETF BOARD MEMBERS

### The Foundation Introduces New Board Members

*East Tennessee Foundation is pleased to welcome new members to its board of directors in 2012.*



**Cynthia Burnley** grew up in Gallatin, TN, and received both the Masters Degree and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Tennessee. She was employed at ETSU from 1969-2008 teaching sociology and serving in the classroom and academic administration. Cynthia retired in 2008 as Assistant V.P. for Assessment and Performance Funding. In retirement, she has completed several part-time,

temporary education assessments of elementary and secondary students. Significant volunteer activities include: Boards of Directors for Wesley Foundation at ETSU and the Girls Inc. of Johnson City and Washington Co. TN, and Church Council of Jonesborough United Methodist Church. Cynthia's philanthropy has focused on women and girls with financial needs. She enjoys "playing" golf, reading, movies, and traveling. Keeping her maiden name when she married Bob Riser in 1979 caused Cynthia some difficulties. Her mother was horrified that other people might think she and her husband were not married! Cynthia and Bob have three adult children.



**Patsy Carson** grew up in the middle of a cotton field in Marlboro County, South Carolina. Patsy graduated from the University of Tennessee with a major in Home Economics. Following her graduation, she worked for the University as an Extension Agent and 4-H leader. She met Johnny Carson the first week on the job, and they married in February of 1960.

Beginning in 1963, Patsy built/started The Little Red Schoolhouse to teach 5-year olds, taught Head Start Classes, trained Head Start teachers, managed (with her husband) Scona Lodge in Monroe County, played piano for church, led 4-H groups, brought arts to the schools, and worked with church

groups. In 1994, she helped create the Monroe Area Council for the Arts. She has served on the boards of Chamber of Commerce, United Way, ETHRA, and is a charter member of The Arts Council. She is a strong supporter of the United Way. An avid bridge player, reader, and daily soap opera watcher, Patsy also enjoys listening to music and entertaining. Patsy confesses that she was not good in economics and was asked by her professor to illustrate an economics book. He thought that if she was able to do the graphs then the other students would get them as well. She has two children – son, John M. Carson, III, and daughter, Elizabeth Alice Carson Lewis, and a grandson and granddaughter. Her husband, Johnny, is deceased.



**Larry Estep** was born in West Chester, PA; his family moved back to Fall Branch, Tennessee, when he was six months old.

Larry began working for First Tennessee Bank in 1973. After several moves and promotions, he became Regional President of the Greeneville market in 1990 until 2000, when he moved to Kingsport to become Regional

President of the Kingsport market until his retirement in July of 2011. After an exciting summer of travel, he joined the executive team of Citizens Bank, Kingsport. Larry's volunteer service includes: Boy Scouts throughout his life; chair of the United Way Campaign of Kingsport/Sullivan County; Chairman of the Greene County Partnership and the Kingsport Chamber; Past Chairman of the Kingsport Industrial Board; Tusculum College Board of Trustees; Kingsport Community Foundation Board Member; and treasurer of Northeast Church of Christ. Others may not be aware that Larry and his wife, Teresa, were high school sweethearts and are still very close to high school friends who also married their high school sweethearts. They frequently go out dancing, dine and travel together. Larry and Teresa have three daughters, Erin, Kelli, and Amy.

Watch ETF on CTV - Channel 12  
Community Television of Knoxville  
9:45 a.m. on Tuesdays  
8:15 p.m. on Saturdays



## NEW ETF BOARD MEMBERS

*New Board Members Continued from page 2*



**John Geppi** was born in Baltimore, MD, and moved to East Tennessee when he joined Covenant Health in 1999. In 2000, he was named Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Geppi previously served as CFO at Memorial Health System in Chattanooga, and spent several years in Atlanta as Senior Vice President and CFO of Northside Hospital and as a consultant for

Affiliated Healthcare Systems and Arthur Andersen & Co. He serves as Secretary to the Covenant Health Board of Directors and is on the boards of several civic and charitable organizations. His volunteer service includes membership in THA and HFMA, Knoxville Area Project Access Board, Knox County Indigent Care Board, and nine years on Catholic Charities of East Tennessee Board. John focuses his philanthropy on helping the underinsured and needy. He enjoys playing golf, exercising, reading, and spending time with family. Geppi and his wife, Debbie, have been married for 37 years and have three children: Christopher (34), Brian (30), and Erica (27). He confesses to being a “geometric doodler.”



**Cee Gee McCord** earned her bachelor’s degree in management from Georgia Institute of Technology, and a Master’s Degree in public administration from Kennesaw State University. As the State Government Relations Manager at Eastman Chemical Company, Cee Gee has the responsibility for public affairs matters related to the company’s domestic sites.

Prior to joining Eastman, she was employed in the nonprofit and public service sector. Her volunteer service includes serving as Chair and Commissioner of the Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Chair of Government Relations for the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce, Past Chair of the Kingsport Community Foundation, United Way of Tennessee board, Tennessee Independent College and University Association (TICUA) board, South Carolina Business and Industry Education Coalition (BIPEC) board, and Vice-Chair of the

Pennsylvania Chemical and Industry Council (PCIC). Cee Gee enjoys working on development/education initiatives. Little known facts about Cee Gee are that for several years she kept bees...and she’d rather mow the grass than cook! McCord and her husband, Jeff, have three children – Sam is a high school English teacher, Grace is entering graduate school, and John is a senior in high school.



**Pat Postma** was born in Eastern Kentucky but moved to Oak Ridge, TN, at the age of four. A graduate of Duke University, Pat met her future husband prior to her senior year. After her two children entered school, she earned a Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Tennessee. In the 80s, she served as a consultant to technology business development in the Oak

Ridge/Knoxville area and was active in developing a regional infrastructure to support start-up companies. Thereafter, she guided the design of a radical new format and unique curriculum for the University’s first Executive MBA for working managers. Pat eventually became Dean for all executive education activities in the College of Business, retiring in 2003. Pat served on the ETF board in the 80s, but most of her career and retirement activities have been focused jointly on education and economic development. She currently serves on the board of the Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation. She enjoys travel, photography, and Santa Fe, NM; she loves the Lady Vols! It is not widely known, but Pat has a friend with whom she organizes social events for Rotary and the Cross of Burgundy wine group, so she is known as a Party Girl in some circles. She has a daughter and a son, both married, and has two teenaged grandsons.



**John Worden** is an East Tennessee native and a graduate of the University of Tennessee. A partner in the financial services firm Worden, Rechenbach & Brooke, John has been with the firm for 19 years. His volunteer service includes: Executive Committee, Board of Directors (Past

*New Board Members  
Continued on page 4*

## TRINITY HEALTH FOUNDATION

### Unexpected Change

Unexpected change wasn't part of the deal that Connie Hutchins made when she signed on to be the chair of Mercy Health Partners Foundation. But, just as she was beginning her term, word came that Mercy Hospital was being sold. In 2011, Catholic Health Partners, the parent company of Mercy Health Partners, sold its Tennessee division to Health Management Associates (HMA). Since HMA is a for-profit health system, Trinity Health Foundation of East Tennessee (THFET), a new nonprofit foundation, was formed to house the funds from Mercy Health Partners Foundation.

As an independent foundation, THFET sought to align with another established foundation that had credibility, was well-respected in the community, and could offer expertise. East Tennessee Foundation (ETF) immediately came to mind. Some of the Trinity board members had also served on the ETF board and were very knowledgeable about how the ETF umbrella could be beneficial. In October, 2011, THFET became a supporting foundation of East Tennessee Foundation.

"Good health is, perhaps, our most important need here in East Tennessee. With the ETF/THFET partnership, we have an exciting opportunity to really improve lives in our region. We're honored that THFET has chosen us in this important mission," said Mike McClamroch, *ETF President & CEO*.

The three foundations (Baptist, St. Mary's, and Mercy) that preceded Trinity focused funding toward specific hospital systems. The Trinity board has seen the creation of the new foundation as a liberating opportunity to reach out and serve the health needs in our community with a broader base. To decide how best to accomplish this community service, the Trinity board is planning a visioning retreat.

Trinity board committees have been busy developing a new name, by-laws, and mission statement. The name Trinity was chosen because of the Foundation's origin from St. Mary's, Baptist, and Mercy, its Christian tenet of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and its focus on nurturing mind, body, and spirit.

"THFET looks with excitement to the opportunity to have a holistic impact on the health of our community through focused philanthropy and thoughtful stewardship, using the funds entrusted to us. The root meaning of philanthropy (love of humanity) comes from two words: knowledge and optimism. Our vision is to create the greatest impact toward improving the health of our community by making wise choices with the funds that we grant, knowing that this vision will make a difference. We extend an invitation to organizations to partner with us to leverage our funding to create the greater good as we minister to those most in need. In our new role we will expand our scope of coverage in the community and will look for new ways to meet critical healthcare needs around us. Our heritage demands we do no less," explained Ms. Hutchins.

### Mission Statement

*Trinity Health Foundation of East Tennessee extends the healing ministry of Jesus by improving the physical, emotional or spiritual health of our community.*

## New Board Members

*New Board Members Continued from page 3*

President) Arts and Culture Alliance; Vice President, Board of Directors, Boy Scouts of America – Great Smoky Mountain Council; President Elect, Board of Directors, Community School of the Arts; Executive Committee, Board of Directors, YMCA of East Tennessee; Board Member, University of Tennessee National Alumni Association – Knox County Chapter; Leadership Knoxville 2007. An Eagle Scout, John has been a troop leader for 18 years and still gives up one night a week / one weekend a month to serve these great kids. John's wife, Meridith, is a former Knox County middle school music teacher who now teaches private lessons. His daughter, Amelia, is probably the cutest little girl you have ever seen, but has just discovered she can shove her whole finger up her nose!

## Online Grant Application

Beginning in January 2012, East Tennessee Foundation (ETF) embarked on a transition to a web-based online grant application system for all competitive grants of the Foundation. The goal of this change is to make the grant application process simpler, more efficient, and more user-friendly for applicants, reviewers, and ETF staff. During the transition, only applicants to a limited number of grant programs can use the new online system. Our goal is to make a full transition to the online grant application process for all competitive grants/scholarship programs by 2013.



## WOMEN'S FUND OF EAST TENNESSEE



### Extraordinary Contributions

The Women's Fund of East Tennessee celebrated their one-year anniversary on February 13, 2012. To date, the Steering Committee volunteers and staff of East Tennessee Foundation have raised \$1.3 million in gifts and pledges toward this endowment committed to helping transform the lives of low-income women and girls in East Tennessee. Alice Mercer led the Steering Committee and staff focusing on raising this extraordinary amount of contributions. The committee and staff agree that her dedication to the fundraising led to success. We are truly grateful for Alice's leadership.

January marked another milestone for the Women's Fund as they convened their new Advisory Board for the first time. The Women's Fund Advisory Board members are: Marty Begalla, Mary Ellen Brewington, Cynthia Burnley, Kay Clayton, Catherine Gilreath, Meg Lonon, Sheena McCall, Alice Mercer, JoAnn Parker, Katharine Pearson Criss, Paige Preston, Hanley Roach, and Carol Transou. The Advisory Board's objectives for 2012 are to continue developing donor relationships, study and research the needs of low-income women and girls in East Tennessee through a variety of resources, and to determine areas of focus for the Women's Fund to review for 2013 grant making.

The Women's Fund is also building relationships across

Tennessee. In February Mary Ellen Brewington, Mary Amber Dunn and Terry Holley traveled to Nashville to meet leaders from our sister funds in Chattanooga, Nashville and Memphis. Fostering these statewide relationships helps us research the obstacles of women and girls in our state and learn more about what has made our sister funds successful over the years.



**Paige Preston, Alice Mercer, Lisa Ling, and Kay Clayton**

The first annual Women's Fund Luncheon was held on March 1st at Cherokee Country Club. Keynote speaker Lisa Ling addressed the sold-out event. The luncheon was presented by Charlie and Moll Anderson Family Foundation and Pilot Flying J. Gold sponsors were: Ann Bailey, Bobbie Congleton, Clayton Bank and Trust, Clayton Homes, Cornerstone Foundation, Home Federal Bank, Miller 64, Scripps Networks and TIS Insurance Services. Numerous Leadership Table Hosts and ticket holders gave of their time and treasure to attend the luncheon. The Women's Fund appreciates the outstanding support from our community.



**The Joyful Noise River Choir performed at the luncheon.**

Chair Kay Clayton, Vice Chair Paige Preston and their committee far exceeded the goals for sponsorships and attendees. The committee is already planning next year's luncheon that will celebrate the first grant awards from the endowment. This enthusiasm for the Women's Fund highlights the need for focused philanthropy on low-income women and girls in our region.

For more information about the Women's Fund of East Tennessee, please contact East Tennessee Foundation.

**Moll Anderson & Lisa Ling**

**Mary Ellen Brewington, Lisa Ling & Christine Winter**

**Dee Haslam**

**Natalie Haslam & Marty Begalla**

# Connections

## KINGSPORT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

### 2012 Kingsport Community Foundation Grants

An Affiliate Fund of East Tennessee Foundation

*Kingsport Community Foundation is a philanthropic organization, governed by a local board of directors. Its mission is to help donors maximize their contributions to the community by awarding grants that enrich lives and strengthen the Greater Kingsport community forever.*

#### **City of Kingsport**

Workshops will be provided for citizens who want to participate in the design and construction of carousel animals for a handmade working carousel.

#### **Contact-Concern of Northeast Tennessee, Inc.**

Contact-Concern will receive Alliance for Information and Referral Systems Accreditation, thereby meeting newly-enacted Tennessee standards as a 2-1-1 service provider.

#### **Girls on the Run of Northeast Tennessee, Inc.**

Girls who attend Blountville Elementary School will participate in a program which utilizes running to teach the principles of self-respect and healthy living.

#### **Greater Kingsport Alliance for Development**

A Health and Wellness program will be provided for children attending the Lee Family Learning Center.

#### **Kingsport Nursery School, Inc.**

Special strollers will enable staff to take children outside in a safe and secure manner, and toddler tumbling mats will support indoor physical activities.

#### **Kingsport Tomorrow, Inc.**

"The Corporate Closet" will provide eligible Kingsport Academic Village graduates with appropriate interview attire and job-readiness skills.

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#### **KingsportARTS**

The weeklong K.E.Y.P.A.D. Summer Camp will provide local high school students with access to the arts.

#### **Literacy Council of Kingsport**

The Literacy Legacy project will improve the employability and parenting life skills of adults who read at a fifth grade level or below.

#### **Netherland Inn/Exchange Place Association**

A Victorian garden at Hammond House will provide period landscaping and opportunities to teach visitors about traditional Victorian gardens.

#### **Netherland Inn/Exchange Place Association**

Heritage Day Camps at the Exchange Place Living History Farm will teach children about spinning and weaving, open-hearth cooking, and other old-time crafts and skills.

#### **Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee**

The Food for Kids Backpack Program will help ensure that hungry school children have access to food.

#### **Small Miracles Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center, Inc.**

The Student Sponsorship Program will assist youth who could benefit from the Equine-Assisted Activities and Therapies Program.

#### **Sullivan County Imagination Library**

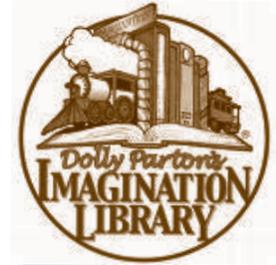
Free books will be provided for children who are between birth and five years of age.

#### **TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING AWARDED:**

**\$32,800**



**Greater Kingsport Alliance for Development**



**Sullivan County Imagination Library**



**Small Miracles Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center, Inc.**



**Netherland Inn/Exchange Place Association**



**Girls on the Run of Northeast Tennessee, Inc.**



*Celebrating 25 Years  
continued from pg. 1*



**Top to Bottom:**  
Marilyn Roddy & Lynn Petr,  
Connie Hutchins & Marty  
Begalla, Gregg Jones & Paul  
Willson, Myra Yeatman,  
Ben Landers, & Marie Alcorn,  
Betsey Bush & Lane Hays

## DEFEATING THE GRIM REAPER

Do you remember the 1995 movie, “Dead Man Walking,” starring Sean Penn and Susan Sarandon? It was based on a book written by a nun who agreed to serve as the spiritual advisor to two death row inmates in the Louisiana State Penitentiary. The title was a phrase used to identify an inmate condemned to death.

In one respect, all of us have something in common with death row inmates. Death is the inevitable last chapter of our life on this earth, and it may occur without warning or over an extended period of time. When I read the obituaries in the newspaper, I can’t help but think that all of those people were alive just a few days ago, but now the world is moving on without them. Death is a harsh visitor, because it’s so final; we’re not given the opportunity for a do-over or for additional time to tie up loose ends. Sooner or later, all of us will occupy a plot in a cemetery.

Even though Death seems to get the last laugh as far as our earthly existence is concerned, there are some ways we can cheat that old rascal. One way is through the values that those of us who are parents have passed along to our children. Many of the principles I live by and the values I hold dear were instilled in me by my parents, and in that regard they are still living through me. Another way we cheat death is in the fond memories that our loved ones and friends will cherish long after we are gone. I think of my best friend who was suddenly snatched out of my life in 2007, and I am flooded with memories of golf, banking, and trips with him; he even influenced my vocabulary! All of us would be well-advised to spend more time making memories with family and friends and less time watching television or staring into a hand-held gizmo.

A third end run around Death is telling the people you love how important they are to you and what they mean to you. A few months ago, I received a letter from a friend of mine, and he told me in that letter how much he appreciated some things I had done for him and how he would never forget how I stood by him in some rough times. Obviously, that meant a lot to me; if either of us had died without that letter being written, a very powerful expression of friendship would have been left on a “to do” list.

It’s true that you cannot write any checks after you die, but you can cheat Death by continuing to give through a fund at East Tennessee Foundation. You can establish a fund with us during your lifetime, or you can leave instructions in your will for a testamentary fund to be established for the purpose of carrying out your philanthropic wishes. One example would be a scholarship fund through which you could provide financial assistance for deserving young people to continue their education. Or you could set up a designated fund that would make annual distributions to one or more nonprofit organizations that you want to continue supporting. You might even establish a donor advised fund and name a family member or trusted friend to serve as the fund advisor on the occasion of your incapacity or demise.

So even though we know we’ll eventually have an appointment with Old Man Death, we can outsmart him in ways that will give us the last laugh after all. “O, Death, where is thy victory? O, Death, where is thy sting?”



**Bob Calloway**  
*V.P. for Advancement*

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donors, grantees, agency fundholders, special guests, present and former mayors) thoroughly enjoyed one another. I reported that at the end of 2011 the Foundation's total assets were \$164.6 million, with 366 funds, 10 supporting organizations, 13 affiliate funds, and gifts received totalling \$25.5 million.

In this first quarter of our 26<sup>th</sup> year, we are mindful of our

mission of building charitable resources to make communities stronger and lives better through thoughtful giving. What an honor, privilege, and great responsibility it is to work with you – our partners – for positive change. Thank you for your support, your advice, your time, your treasure, and your hearts as we build philanthropy in East Tennessee.

**Michael T. McClamroch**  
*ETF President CEO*

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.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alice A. Mercer, *Chair*

Fred D. Womack, *Vice Chair*

Will J. Pugh, *Treasurer*

Michael T. McClamroch, *President & CEO*

Carolyn Schwenn, *Secretary*

Jenny L. Hines, *Past Chair*

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



## E-mail and Website Options

To receive this newsletter and other helpful and exciting updates from East Tennessee Foundation, please contact us at [etf@etf.org](mailto:etf@etf.org) or read it on our website: [www.easttennesseefoundation.org](http://www.easttennesseefoundation.org).

To have a copy of this newsletter sent to someone, contact us by phone, toll-free (877) 524-1223, (865) 524-1223 or e-mail, [etf@etf.org](mailto:etf@etf.org).

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