



Your Foundation.

Your Future.

Fall / Winter 2015

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GASTON COUNTY

A

Annual Allen H. Sims Award Dinner

The recipient of the Allen H. Sims Award for 2015 was Mildred Jackson Sadler. A well-known educator, Mrs. Sadler has been an integral part of the Gaston County School system for many years. Her experience as an educator prepared her for her role as an assistant superintendent in human resources. Her many contributions were recounted at the Sims Dinner. Presenting the award to Mrs. Sadler was a family friend and current CFGC Board member,

Dr. Johnathan Williams. Having been a frequent guest in the Sadler home, Dr. Williams was honored to be selected to present the award and brought a very personal element to the highlight of the evening.

The Community Foundation has a history of supporting education in Gaston County. A video produced to show case areas of impact involving education was the program for the evening. Students from Highland School of Technology were interviewed to better describe how Highland differs from other schools. Scholarship recipients were also interviewed and voiced gratitude for the gift of education made available via scholarships facilitated at the Community Foundation. The video may be viewed from the Foundation's website.

Mildred Sadler established the Mildred J. Sadler Scholarship Fund at the Community Foundation in 2012. She joins others who have set up scholarships for deserving students that will make a difference in the student's life and the community at large. If you are interested in starting a scholarship fund or donating to an existing scholarship fund, contact the Community Foundation office at 704 864 0927.



Mildred J. Sadler



Mildred J. Sadler and Family



Charlton Torrence, Ring Stafford



Leslie Wallace, Amy Spencer, Coleman Efir, Patty Ratchford



Karen Blalock, George & Susie Henry



Dr. & Mrs. Ben Hinton, Shawyna Gore

First Gaston Foundation Fund and Albert G. Myers Scholarship Fund

First Gaston Foundation has a new addition to its name and a new home base. The Board of Directors of First Gaston Foundation voted unanimously to create the First Gaston Foundation Fund at the Community Foundation bringing together two institutions working for the betterment of present and future generations locally.

"It is not unusual for a private foundation to transfer assets to the Community Foundation in an effort to reduce administrative costs and be able to focus on the true charitable intent of the funds," said Ernest Sumner, CFGC Executive Director. The former Board of Trustees for the First Gaston Foundation will serve as the advisors for both the Albert G. Myers Scholarship Fund and the First Gaston Foundation Fund. The following have faithfully served as Board members for the First Gaston Foundation: Frank B. Matthews, Chair, Robert Caldwell, Charlton Torrence, Jr., James Windham, Tuga Adams, Tom Efir, Albert Myers III and Barbara Myers.



First Gaston Foundation Board of Directors

"The valuable work of the Foundation to provide for worthwhile educational and social causes will continue. Much gratitude is extended to the present and past trustees for the tremendous impact this Foundation has had on many lives in Gaston County," said Mr. Frank Matthews II, Chairman of the Board.

Teens Changing Gaston County

Over 30 students from 10 different schools come together once per month for the good of our community. In 2015 the teen board granted \$5,867 to 9 projects in Gaston County.



Visit us on Facebook for more photos and grant listings!



Staff Spotlight



Lynnelle Dobbins has been with the Community Foundation since 2008 as the Financial Coordinator. In 2008 the Foundation had \$44 million in assets & 260 funds. Today, the Community Foundation assets are above \$80

million & has grown to over 375 funds. Although exciting, this growth creates demands that warrant an increase in personnel. Lynnelle has agreed to lend her experience as a part time employee as the Assistant Financial Coordinator. She has trained Angela Micalizzi on the FIMS system & stands ready as a backup if needed. Lynnelle's knowledge will also be required during the RUN months as donations at the Foundation are increased. The Community Foundation is grateful for Lynnelle's years of experience and hard work and her willingness to continue.

Art Therapy



Art is said to be good for the soul. At the Community Foundation art is truly making a difference in the décor and overall feeling visitors experience when they enter the door.

The walls of the Foundation have been enhanced with beautiful local artwork. Board of Director, May Barger, a local artist, has graciously allowed some of her pieces to be displayed at the Foundation. Four paintings hang in the entrance of the office and other pieces are located throughout the office.

As much as we enjoy the works of art displayed, all paintings are available for purchase. As works of art are rotated, our goal would be to continue to display local artists and promote local talent.

Thank you May Barger for your service to the Board and for bringing the Foundation offices to life with vivid color!



Scholarship Showcase

The Mildred J. Sadler Scholarship Recipient of 2015 is Brandon Edward Nixon. Brandon is a graduate of Hunter Huss High School and he is currently attending Gaston College. The Sadler Scholarship was created in 2012 by Mrs. Mildred Jackson Sadler. Criteria for the scholarship is based on financial need, work ethic, academic performance, and strong positive moral character.



Brandon Nixon

Brandon stated, "My goal is to become an engineer and give back to my community. I want to help the less fortunate because there are a lot of people who have helped me along the way."

Sims Dinner 2015



Drs. Susan & Doug Stover



President, Julie Shovelin; recipient Mildred Salder



Mildred Sadler, Allen H. Sims Award Recipient



Mike Wallace, Doris Hancock



Mildred Manning & Sybil Hollowell



Lillian Williams, Barbara & Dr. Johnathan Williams



Dr. Charles Meakin, Nancy & Tim Paschall, Robert Browne



Grayson & Doris Kellar, Joyce Hofeld, & Betty Hacker



Kathy Gray, Beth Landis, Janet Rudisill



Pamela Warlick, Mary Robin & Locke Bell

Discover Planned Giving

“Advisers who want to distinguish themselves from their competitors need to embrace philanthropy as part of their practice.”

-Jim Coutré,
Vice President of
Fidelity
Investments



cfgaston.giftlaw.com



David & Jenny Stultz, Joe Pearson



Sylvia Holmes, Fred Jackson, Lucy Penegar



Bill & Loretta Dodgen & Pearl Burris Floyd

Better Together Celebration



Jim & Hunter Bretzius, Mary Sumner, David Ratchford



Patty Ratchford, Laurie Ness, Alice & Vann Matthews



Jim Windham, Robert Caldwell, Tom Efir, Barbara Myers, Albert Myers III, Tuga Adams, Charlton Torrence, Frank Matthews, Nina Greene



Betty Matthews, Julie Shovelin



Ralph Robinson, Albert Myers III, David Ratchford



Gene Matthews, Charlton Torrence, Kim Price



Rev. Carson Wiggins, Tuga Adams, Frank Matthews



Julie Shovelin, Pamela Warlick



Rev. Carson Wiggins



Andy Warlick, Frank Matthews, Vann Matthews



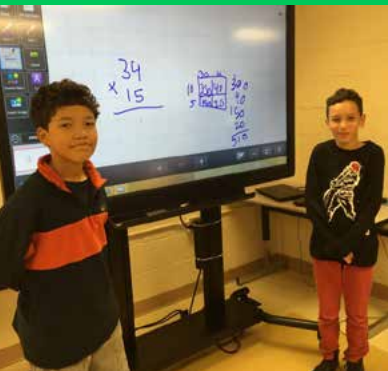
Barbara Myers, Anne Efir, Betty & Frank Matthews, Tuga Adams

Important Dates for the Community Foundation RUN 2016 :

- February 2016** Foundation begins to accept donations / participant registration begins.
- April 16, 2016** Community Foundation RUN 2016, Rotary Pavilion Downtown Gastonia
- April 22, 2016** Deadline for contributions



Grant Highlight



Better technology and better access is now available to the members of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Gaston. A \$20,400 grant from the Community Foundation will enhance the technology at the club's three Gaston County locations and launch a technology-based education program.



"I hope to enhance the career development of our children to make sure they're getting every resource they can through technology," said Chad Melvin, CEO of the local Boys and Girls Club chapter. This grant will provide SMART boards and about 30 iPad Mini tablets. The upgraded technology will be used for a program geared toward science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).



Ernest Sumner, Executive Director said, "Education is a focus point in our community and for our Foundation. Providing high-tech STEM education equipment to youth through the Boys and Girls Club will make available critical after school learning opportunities."



Artspace



If you are looking for progress on the Artspace Project in downtown Gastonia, think for a moment of how the duck paddles furiously underwater. Progress is being made on the building of a four story building containing 40 live/work units for individuals and families.



The developmental stage of the project has several components. One concrete goal of the Artspace project is to present and secure tax credits from the State of North Carolina in order to offer occupants affordable housing. This element is key. The goal of affordable housing for artists and those aspiring to create in a space designed for living and working is what originally sparked the interest of many Artspace supporters. The NC Finance Committee has the task of reviewing all applications for such tax credits and making the determination as to which projects best qualify. Their task is no different from our own grants committee when faced with a high stack of grant applications and only being able to say yes to a limited number of grants due to financial limitations. Although the Gastonia Artspace Project was not selected for this calendar year, the Board is told by Artspace in Minneapolis that it is very common to reapply and be considered in the future.

A second component concerns the process of educating other nonprofit organizations and foundations about Artspace in an effort to find a match for those organizations interested in housing, wellness, arts and economic revitalization of downtown. Artspace touches several areas of interest which makes it an ideal project for which to gain support. This process, however, takes time and energy and will not happen quickly.

In summary, the Artspace Project for downtown Gastonia is moving ahead. If you know of an organization or individual that would benefit from learning more about the project, contact the Community Foundation for Project Packet of Artspace information.

2015 Unrestricted Grant Recipients:

- American Red Cross
- Arc of Gaston County
- As One Ministries
- Backpack Weekend Food Program
- Belmont Community Organization
- Belmont Trolley, Inc.
- Bit of Hope Ranch
- Boys and Girls Club of Greater Gaston
- Catawba Lands Conservancy
- Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation
- Christ Community Outreach Food Ministry
- Classroom Central
- Community Health Partners
- Crisis Pregnancy Center
- Family Promise
- Gaston Symphonic Band
- Gaston Faith Network
- Gaston Family Health Services
- Gaston Together
- Girl Scouts Peaks to Piedmont
- Habitat for Humanity
- HealthNet Gaston
- Holy Angels
- House of Mercy, Inc.
- The King's Daughters Ministry
- Let Me Run
- Off the Streets Program
- Preservation NC
- Prevent Child Abuse Gaston
- The Schiele Museum
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Shining Hope Farms
- Teens Changing Gaston County

Harold T. Sumner Professional Education Grant

Classroom Central and Gaston County DHHS received the 2015 Sumner Education grant. Classroom Central received a grant for Risa Brandon, Volunteer and Distribution Coordinator to attend 'Delivering Excellent Customer Service' offered by the Employer's Association. Gaston County DHHS received a grant for Pushti Patel, Health Education Coordinator to attend the Southern Obesity Summit.



Risa Brandon, Classroom Central



Pushti Patel, Gaston County DHHS

Also granted was a special request to fund a program the Community Foundation will offer to all nonprofits in Gaston County at no charge. "Our board must ask the question of sustainability when reviewing an

organization's grant request. The Foundation felt the need to bring education on this topic to Gaston County at no cost to the nonprofits we support and partner with each day. We are thrilled to offer the program 'Beyond the Grant- Cultivating Relationships, Capacity Building and Sustainability' instructed by the Innovative Nonprofit Solutions group," reported Ernest Sumner, Community Foundation Executive Director. The 90 minute session will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia on February 9th, 2016.

"Project sustainability denotes an organization's ability to accurately determine and maintain desired outcomes, achieve long-term growth, and change in accordance with changing community conditions and needs. This workshop will focus on strategic financing and stewardship, the development of a broad base of community relationships, and communication strategies to facilitate long-term collaborations. Participants will learn the key elements of an effective sustainability plan/strategic fund development plan and concrete actions to ensure sustainability. New fundraising trends and fundraising

strategies will also be shared," program as described by Innovative Nonprofit Solutions group. If your organization is interested in attending the program, please sign up for email newsletters on the Community Foundation's website, www.cfgaston.org.

Beyond The Grant

Where: First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia

When: February 9, 2016

Who: All Gaston County Nonprofits

Why: Strategic fund development and sustainability focus

Costs: \$0

Registration: opens January, sign up for emails online cfgaston.org

Community Impact Funds



Check Presentation to Belmont Trolley, Inc.

2015 Grants:

- ◆ \$5,000 Belmont Rowing Center
- ◆ \$5,000 Belmont Trolley, Inc.



Ribbon Cutting of the Cherryville Rotary Park, funded in 2014

2014 Grant:

- ◆ \$10,000 Cherryville Rotary Park

*2015 grants will be awarded by January 2016



Photo by Alan Hodges, Belmont Banner
Check presentation to Mount Holly Community Development Foundation

2015 Grants were awarded to the Mount Holly Community Development Foundation for the following initiatives:

- ◆ \$2,000 Christmas Tree Project
- ◆ \$3,000 Greenway Entries Benches
- ◆ \$5,000 Informational Kiosk

Community Impact Fund Run Challenge

The Belmont Community Impact Fund issued a challenge to the Cherryville and Mount Holly Impact Funds to see who can raise the highest dollar amount in RUN 2016. The challenge serves many purposes for the Impact Funds:

1. Exposure to more citizens in the community
2. Additional funds raised will allow more grants to each community (every dollar raised for each fund goes back to the city)
3. The Community Foundation will match the amounts raised!

We are excited to give life to the ideas and projects that our Community Impact Funds award," stated Ernest Sumner, Executive Director.

New Board Members of the Foundation



May Barger

- ◆ Co-Founder of Run for the Money
- ◆ Journalism Degree from UNC Chapel Hill
- ◆ Married to Carroll Barger, two children



Dr. Ben Hinton

- ◆ Senior Pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Church
- ◆ Master of Divinity Degree from the Morehouse School of Religion
- ◆ Married to Minister Tangela Hinton, two children

Vann Matthews

- ◆ Retired from Belk, Inc. after 29 years
 - ◆ Lees McRae College and Florida Southern College
- ◆ Married to Alice Matthews, two children



Laurie Ness

- ◆ Retired from 27 years with Colgate-Palmolive Co. and Acosta
 - ◆ Colgate University
- ◆ Married to Dr. Daniel Ness, three children



Marsh Spencer

- ◆ Executive VP of SteelFab, Inc.
- ◆ History Degree from UNC Chapel Hill
- ◆ Married to Amy Spencer, three children



Dr. Johnathan Williams

- ◆ Primary Care Physician at Piedmont Medicine Associates
- ◆ UNC School of Medicine at Chapel Hill
- ◆ Married to Barbara Williams, two children

Board of Directors

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Julia M. Shovelin

Vice President

Richard K. Craig

Secretary/Treasurer

William P. Carstarphen

Members

May C. Barger

Robert S. Browne

Merryman Cassels

Timothy Efird

Dr. Ben Hinton

Jan Jackson

Steven D. Long

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Vann M. Matthews, II

Laurie C. Ness

Robert S. Pearson

Kim S. Price

David R. Ratchford

Sally Robinson

Tony Sigmon

T.J. Solomon, II

Arthur M. Spencer, IV

Ronald M. Sytz

Pamela K. Warlick

Dr. Johnathan D. Williams

New Staff Members of the Foundation



Alison Cookson, Programs Coordinator

- ◆ "Run Coordinator"
- ◆ Previously served 16 years with the Gaston Regional Chamber in many roles, most recently as Interim CEO.



Angela Micalizzi, Financial Coordinator

- ◆ Previously Accountant of the Carolinas Healthcare Foundation
- ◆ MBA from Queens University
- ◆ Certified Public Accountant



Nina Greene, First Gaston

Foundation Fund & Albert G. Myers Scholarship Coordinator

- ◆ Continuing her services for First Gaston
- ◆ Managing scholarships and grants for the two prestigious funds

Your Foundation Staff

Alison Cookson, Programs Coordinator

Lynnelle Dobbins, Assistant Financial Coordinator

Nina Greene, First Gaston Foundation Fund & Albert G. Myers Scholarship Coordinator

Angela Micalizzi, Financial Coordinator

Elizabeth Patton, Grants & Scholarships Coordinator

Janet Spencer, Donor Development Coordinator
Ernest Sumner, Executive Director

Community Foundation of Gaston County

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