Community Foundation of Central Georgia is enhancing the quality of life for the people of Central Georgia, where philanthropy thrives, neighborhoods are strong, and citizens work toward common goals.
The Community Foundation of Central Georgia’s board and staff strive to ensure our region is one where philanthropy thrives, neighborhoods are strong, and citizens work toward common goals. The Foundation’s mission of enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of Central Georgia is at the forefront of all we do.

The Community Foundation offers outstanding personal service to donors, strong financial management, effective grantmaking, positive community leadership, and collaboration with its donors, other grantmakers, and nonprofit organizations. CFCG continues to receive a clean governance letter from the Foundation’s auditors and maintains accreditation with the Community Foundation National Standards Board.

The Foundation is expanding geographically, attracting diverse groups and strengthening relationships. One example is the new Lamar Gives 365 program at the Barnesville-Lamar Community Foundation. 164 members joined this giving effort in the inaugural year and 54% of them were new donors to BLCF.

The Foundation remains a positive force for community change. CFCG recently launched a new neighborhood grantmaking program designed to support grassroots neighborhood initiatives. The pilot program targeted three neighborhoods — Village Green (Macon-Bibb), Walnut Creek/East Macon (Macon-Bibb) and Harrisburg (Milledgeville). This program will eventually support neighborhoods in all twenty counties the Foundation serves in Central Georgia.

Thanks to the Foundation’s generous donors, the Community Foundation has awarded more than $67 million in grants and scholarships since its inception, and CFCG’s assets total more than $106 million dollars. The power of an endowment is strong. We are very grateful for the support of our donors, volunteers and friends of the Foundation.

G. Boone Smith, III
Chairman

Kathryn H. Dennis
President
Albert and Margaret Billingslea established a donor advised fund at CFCG in 1995 to support organizations and causes they cared about. Both have since passed away: Albert in 2005, Margaret in March of 2015. Now their daughters—Karen, Margaret Rose and Paula—are the advisors of their family’s fund. They see their fund as an opportunity not only to memorialize their parents but also to help others.

CREATING A LEGACY

The Albert Billingslea Fund

Albert and Margaret Billingslea never sought recognition for the good that they did, but their children, after much discussion among themselves and with a close family friend, Virgil Adams, think it is time to share the story of their parents’ good works. Albert owned a successful construction business in Macon, and he built neighborhoods and churches throughout the city. Mr. Billingslea served for many years on the Bibb County Board of Commissioners, working collaboratively for improvements like road-paving and for the establishment of a rehabilitation facility for men recovering from addiction. Even after he left public office his advice was sought by younger politicians. In spite of this active public life, Mr. Billingslea was a humble, unassuming man. The Billingslea children knew him as a private man devoted to both them and to their mother during their marriage of 63 years. One of their daughters, Karen, has been surprised to learn how involved her mother was in giving to the community. “She was always quiet and in the background,” says Karen Billingslea. “For me, she was always at home.”

At her mother’s funeral, Karen learned of the extent of Mrs. Billingslea’s active devotion to her church, St. Peter Claver. “Whenever they needed anything, she was there.” Once, when a former priest was ill, Mrs. Billingslea took him into her home and cared for him.

CFCG provided information to the Billingslea family about the history of their parents’ giving. The sisters want to sustain and further their parents’ philanthropic interests, such as supporting substance abuse rehabilitation and scholarships for technical education. The Fund also provides an opportunity to support additional causes important to the sisters. They rely on CFCG’s knowledge of community needs and community organizations to help them identify ways to do so.

“This fund is a good way for us to focus our energies. It gives us a way to think of our parents and the things they were interested in and would have liked to do for the community.” —Karen Billingslea
Central Georgia has been good to our family over the years. Fran and I enjoy supporting worthy causes in the Macon area, as well as other places where we have interests,” says Bill Matthews, who was the Founding Chairman of the Community Foundation of Central Georgia in 1993. “In addition to our own interests, we have three children who live in three different cities and we also take pleasure in helping them support causes in which they’re involved, in the communities where they live and work.”

The Matthews Fund was one of the first funds to be established in the newly formed Community Foundation in 1993, as those inaugural board members were encouraged to set up donor advised funds to jump-start the Foundation’s early efforts. Mr. and Mrs. Matthews advise what grants are made from their fund now, but in future years, their children will recommend grants from this family fund. “The staff of CFCG has accumulated a good knowledge of our children’s interests and the communities they live in so it will be an easy transition.”

Donor Advised Funds can be established by individuals, families or companies. The advisors of the fund have the privilege of recommending grants to charitable organizations that match their interests, and they can choose who will advise their fund when they are no longer able.
In 2009, the Trustees of the Central Georgia Technical College Foundation began looking for a resource to oversee funds donated by foundations and private donors. They didn’t have to look far. “It was important to our Trustees that our endowment be placed with a local organization that would both benefit from our investment and keep the funds in our community,” says Tonya McClure, Assistant Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Central Georgia Technical College. “When the Trustees looked at Community Foundation of Central Georgia in 2009, they were drawn to its focus on servant leadership and its established programs which give back to the community. “CFCG’s stewardship of the College’s endowment has provided a tremendous return on CGTC Foundation’s investment.”

Prior to its partnership with CFCG, the College’s Foundation had internally managed its own endowment fund. Now, CFCG’s expert oversight of those funds frees the College’s staff to focus on developing relationships with foundations and donors.

When the College was approached this year by two individual long term benefactors who each wanted to create a permanent legacy, they knew they needed “the expertise of the Community Foundation.” CFCG guided the College in establishing two separate scholarship funds as companion funds to its larger endowment.

The Albert Jackson Dupree Scholarship Fund of the CGTC Foundation was established from funds donated by Dupree’s son, Tim, who served as Treasurer to the College’s Board of Trustees. Tim and his wife, Linda Shingler, hosted many fundraising events to benefit the College. After Tim passed away unexpectedly, Linda continued contributing to the fund and agreed to serve as a Trustee for the College.

Lou Crouch, a retired instructor of the College and longtime supporter of the CGTC Foundation, had supported students in the criminal justice field. The newly-established Lou Crouch Scholarship Endowment Fund of the CGTC Foundation at CFCG will perpetuate Lou Crouch’s generous support and direct it specifically to student aid.

The College has found that not only does CFCG...
Nonprofit organizations choose to set up an endowment fund to provide a perpetual source of income to support their mission. The Community Foundation of Central Georgia offers these nonprofits high quality and diversified investment management, planned giving support, and publicity.

In 2013, Central Georgia Technical College in Macon merged with Middle Georgia Technical College in Warner Robins. CGTC annually instructs 12,000 students at three campuses and seven centers in their eleven-county service area as well as through online learning. They train and accredit students to provide technical services in specific medical fields such as cardiac care, radiology and pharmacology and to maintain aircraft, automobiles and air conditioners.

provide optimal stewardship of CGTC’s primary endowment but also offers a range of options for sustaining the organization, for segregating the endowment and scholarship funds from their other assets, and for ensuring that the College’s resources are maximally directed to provide students a “hand up.”

Boys and Girls Club Endowment Fund
Bragg Jam Fund
Central Georgia Technical College Foundation Funds
Cherry Blossom Festival Endowment Fund
Family Counseling Center Fund
Federated Garden Clubs of Macon, Inc. Endowment Fund
Friends of the Grand Fund
Friends of the Library Milner, Inc. Fund
Friends of Rose Hill Cemetery Fund
Friends of Tyler’s Place Dog Park Fund
Georgia Industrial Children’s Home Foundation, Inc. Fund
Girl Scouts Endowment Fund
Grand Opera House Endowment Fund
Historic Riverside Cemetery Conservancy Endowment Fund
Junior League of Macon Endowment Fund
Lamar County Schools System Endowment Fund
Middle Georgia Regional Library Endowment Funds
Museum of Arts and Sciences Endowment Funds
Nutcracker of Middle Georgia Endowment Fund
Ocmulgee Heritage Trail of Middle Georgia, Inc. Fund
Ocmulgee Land Trust, Inc. Fund
Ocmulgee National Monument Association Endowment Fund
Ola Mae Ford Tubman African American Museum Endowment Fund
Rotary Education Endowment Fund
Sidney Lanier Cottage Endowment
Southwest High School Foundation Fund
St. George’s Episcopal School Endowment Fund
Theatre Macon Endowment Fund
United Way of Central Georgia, Inc. Fund
GEOGRAPHIC IMPACT

The Community Foundation of Central Georgia serves the following 20 counties in Georgia: BALDWIN, BIBB, BLEGKLEY, BUTTS, COFFEE, CRAWFORD, DODGE, HOUSTON, JASPER, JONES, LAMAR, LAURENS, MONROE, PEACH, PULASKI, SPALDING, TAYLOR, TWIGGS, UPSON, and WILKINSON counties.

Affiliate Foundations
The Community Foundation of Central Georgia has affiliate foundations in Barnesville-Lamar County, Coffee County and Fort Valley. CFCG provides the administrative support for these Foundations. Each affiliate foundation has its own local Board of Directors under the umbrella of CFCG’s Board of Directors.
DO A GOOD TURN DAILY. George William Grier, Jr., faithfully followed this Boy Scout slogan for most of his life, after he joined the Scouts at age 12 in 1923. His wife, Sarah Coleman Hodges Grier, was like-minded. The Griers contributed many hours of volunteer service to civic and church organizations. In addition, they shared a commitment to educating young people — George as a Scoutmaster and Sarah as a career educator. Their children, George William Grier, III and Mary Anne Grier Gaudry, are perpetuating their parents’ legacy through a scholarship fund at the Community Foundation of Central Georgia.

The Sarah and George William Grier, Jr. Scholarship Fund provides a scholarship annually to a student who is pursuing a career in education — a “future educator.” Both George and Sarah Grier were dedicated to public education in Bibb County. George was in the first graduating class (1929) of Lanier High School for Boys on Holt Avenue. Sarah taught for many years at Pearl Stephens and ended her career at Bellevue Elementary where she taught alongside her daughter, Mary Anne Gaudry.

From top, clockwise: George and Sarah Grier. Sarah Grier with the American Red Cross. 1929 Eagle Scouts (with George Grier on the back row, left).
Their son, George, learned about the Community Foundation when he was asked to contribute to a scholarship for Central High students at the Community Foundation of Central Georgia. That sparked the idea of setting up their own scholarship fund with money available from their parent’s estate. George said, “I learned the Foundation knows what to do and how to do it. There is a lot of work to administering scholarships, and CFCG handles all the paperwork and details.” CFCG helps maximize the impact of the scholarship, and George and Mary Anne have been impressed with the gracious personal recognition that CFCG provides.

“We were fortunate to have such wonderful parents. They volunteered all the time and got to know the community. Through working on the selection committee to choose recipients of our scholarship, I have enjoyed getting to know what people are doing and seeing what is possible.” says their daughter, Mary Anne. “Our parents would be honored and pleased to know about this fund.”
“It was the best wrong turn I ever made.” says Carol Wheeler as she begins the tale of how she rescued her beloved pet, Ozzy. Returning to Macon several years ago, she got off Interstate 75 and turned the wrong way. Stopped at a traffic light she noticed a tiny kitten with a lacerated eye. Carol scooped him up with the merciful intention of taking him to an emergency clinic to be put to sleep. “I thought he could live only a few more hours.” However, by the time she reached Macon, the clinic had closed. The next morning, after his injuries were tended, Carol was able to take him home, where he took up residence as “the alpha cat and sweet mentor” to her other cats. Last year, Ozzy was in Carol’s arms as he passed away.

“My mother was a cat person. I grew up in a household where pets were loved,” says Carol when describing how she loves animals. When her mother, Carrie Johnson Wheeler, passed in February of 2013, Carol planned to set up a field of interest fund honoring Mrs. Wheeler’s particular passion for animal welfare. Carol was familiar with CFCG through her work with Central Georgia C.A.R.E.S., and her estate planning attorney, Boone Smith, III, affirmed that a field of interest fund at CFCG would be a great way to accomplish her charitable objectives.

For this fund, the Foundation runs a competitive grant program that accepts applications from groups that are working in the area of animal welfare. Then, Carol is able to identify programs and organizations she wishes to fund. Carol studies the applications submitted and decides which organization are awarded grants. She specified the timeline for awards and established criteria for awards to be given to organizations which provide spay and neuter services, animal adoption, and prevention of animal cruelty. Since inception, three organizations have received grants from Ozzy’s Fund for spay-neuter services. These programs are important to Carol because “if we can control the animal population, there won’t be so many dogs and cats being cast aside who could be wonderful pets.”

“If you rescue an animal, they rescue you. They innately know that you love them and they are so loyal. My ten years with Ozzy were the best of my life.” Ozzy’s story personifies both the need for animal rescue and the rewards to be gained from it. Ozzy’s Fund makes possible the loyal stewardship of animals which Carol Wheeler honed in her childhood home.

A Field of Interest Fund can be used to support a variety of organizations within a specific focus area, which could be geographic or programmatic. Through this type of fund, a donor who has a passion in a specific area (such as animals or their community), can learn of and support needs from organizations that are working in the given area.
You don’t have to be able to give thousands of dollars to make a difference. All it takes is a dollar a day,” says Brandy Tuttle, Grants Committee Chair for Lamar Gives 365.

By pooling their money in Lamar Gives 365, people can become engaged in giving to their community and decide how their donated dollars are spent.

People are invited to donate $365 annually — the equivalent of a dollar a day. Half of their money is set aside for current grants, and the other half goes into an endowment fund for Barnesville-Lamar County.

“When we first heard the idea for the program, we were blown away and wanted to jump right on it,” says Charles Glass, Chair of BLCF. Glass and other BLCF Board Members promoted Lamar Gives 365 throughout Lamar County. Together, they recruited 164 members to join the program in its inaugural year.

“The Foundation Board did a lot of planning and preparation but as members signed on they took on the work of the Grants Committee,” says Glass. BLCF Board Members knew that volunteer participation was critical to the success of the program. They encouraged members to serve on a committee. “We wanted members to feel like they owned this,” said Glass. At the Grant Finalist Event, grant applicants made two-minute presentations to the membership about their proposed project. Members used voting devices so they could vote on each of the grant applicants. That evening, the members collectively awarded $25,000 to ten organizations. After the grants were made, members went on site visits to the recipient organizations so they could see their dollars at work. In addition to the inaugural grants that were made, the members helped build an endowment of nearly $60,000 that will support Lamar County in perpetuity.

BLCF Board Members — most of them middle-aged, established leaders — were thrilled with the success of this new program. They succeeded in involving young people in philanthropy. One of those is Brandy Tuttle, who came to Barnesville six years ago and now chairs the Grants Committee of Lamar Gives 365.

Encouraged by the groundswell of community response in the first year of Lamar Gives 365, its leaders, says Glass, “want to reach out to many more people.”

Lamar Gives 365 is a “dollar a day” giving circle designed to bring people together to improve the community they love.
Barnesville-Lamar Community Foundation

BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

"Barnesville is a small, rural, farm-based community. There’s not a lot of industry here — mostly local businesses. The biggest thing we have going for us are the people themselves, who are very giving," says Noel Riggins, immediate past Chair of the Barnesville-Lamar Community Foundation, an affiliate of Community Foundation of Central Georgia. "The Barnesville-Lamar Community Foundation is a local center for philanthropy that brings our community together."

BLCF began in 2006 with a start-up grant and ample assistance from CFCG. Since its inception nearly ten years ago, the Barnesville-Lamar Community Foundation has thrived because of the dedicated work of its local Board of Directors. Today, BLCF has a variety of endowed funds, including endowments for Lamar County Schools, St. George’s Episcopal School and the Milner Library. Additionally, individuals and families have their own donor advised funds at the Foundation for their personal philanthropy.

Following a 2011 tornado, BLCF created a disaster fund to provide relief to those affected by the tornado. After all the needs were met, the Disaster Relief Fund remained to support the Barnesville-Lamar community in the event of another natural disaster.

Through its grant programs, BLCF has made an impact on pressing community needs. Grants through the Barnesville-Lamar Community Foundation are enhancing local charitable programs and are making Lamar County a better place to live.

Riggins is grateful for the guidance from the Community Foundation of Central Georgia. He calls CFCG “the guiding light.” He said, “The staff of the Community Foundation of Central Georgia have provided expert stewardship of the funds and oversight of the Foundation.”
Community Foundation of Coffee County

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

What compels dozens of teenagers in Douglas, Georgia, to leave their comfortable beds at sunup and labor until sundown for seven days during their summer vacation? They rehabilitate homes through a program called Camp One Fifty One. This camp is just one of the programs that has been supported by a grant from the Community Foundation of Coffee County, an affiliate Foundation of the Community Foundation of Central Georgia. Bob Preston, grants chair for Community Foundation of Coffee County (CFCC), is proud of the impact that CFCC is having by supporting non-profit organizations — like Camp One Fifty One — in Coffee County and the immediate surrounding areas.

In 2002, local leaders attended a retreat in Douglas and submitted ideas for improving the quality of life in their community. One of those ideas was to establish a community foundation which they accomplished by partnering with Community Foundation of Central Georgia. Preston says “The staff of CFCG provides a beautiful conduit to administer funds to benefit our community in perpetuity.”

So far, CFCC has awarded more than $33,000 in grants to fifteen organizations such as the Coffee Atkinson Retired Educators, The Boys and Girls Club, Douglas-Coffee County Humane Society, Coffee Alliance for the Arts, the Hope Center, Still Waters Outreach, Wesley Glen Ministries and the World War II Flight Training Museum.

CFCC doesn’t solicit annual funds to avoid competing with the many local nonprofits it supports. Rather it promotes planned giving to individuals who create their own funds within the Foundation or give to CFCC’s endowment. As a result, the assets of the Community Foundation of Coffee County now exceed $2,500,000, and the Foundation is certainly improving the quality of life in Coffee County. Preston credits the commitment and hard work of Bob Porter, the Chairman of the Board of CFCC, for its burgeoning success.

Community Foundation of Fort Valley

MAKING AN IMPACT

The Community Foundation of Fort Valley illustrates how the Community Foundation of Central Georgia extends its reach throughout its 20-county footprint to foster affiliate foundations and support philanthropy across Central Georgia. Bryant Culpepper, Chairman of the Board of the Community Foundation of Fort Valley says, “Having the support of the Community Foundation of Central Georgia sustains us. Had it not been for them, we would not have been able to succeed.”

The Community Foundation of Fort Valley was spearheaded in 2002 by then-Mayor John Stumbo who approached several local families to contribute to the corpus of an endowment to fund local charitable projects. They affiliated with CFCG whose professional staff oversees the fund, conducts research on community needs and on the organizations which apply for grants, and administers the awards. CFCG also “sees that the projects get done and the money is spent as designated.” Thus all the funds raised by the volunteer board go to the endowment. Board members represent a diverse cross-section of Fort Valley,” explains Culpepper. “They have a broad-based working knowledge of needs in the community and know who to approach for support.”

“Our grants provide little things which make a big impact.” explains Culpepper. Community Foundation of Fort Valley, through small, thoughtfully considered grants is having a big impact on meeting the needs of people in Fort Valley.
WHAT IS POWERFUL GIVING?

The Community Foundation provides a simple, powerful and highly personal approach to giving. It exists to help people easily and effectively support the charitable organizations and causes they care about — during their life or through their will.

1. DONORS
Individuals, families or organizations give through the Community Foundation to achieve their charitable goals and leave a personal legacy.

2. GIVE ALL TYPES OF ASSETS
Donors can give cash, appreciated securities, retirement assets, real estate or other assets. CFCG can also accept unusual assets from donors who are wealthy in unexpected ways. The donor receives the maximum charitable and tax benefits for their contributions.

3. TO THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
The Community Foundation of Central Georgia is a 501(c)3 public charity and is accredited by the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.

4. TO CREATE THEIR OWN FUND
Donors create their own fund. They recommend grants from their fund and choose who will advise their fund when they are no longer able.

5. WHICH IS CAREFULLY INVESTED
CFCG provides high quality stewardship of funds, which are pooled for investment purposes. This enables less expensive access to high quality investment management.

6. TO ALLOW FOR GRANTS IN PERPETUITY.
Donors retain the privilege of recommending grants from their fund to nonprofits, religious organizations, educational institutions and government entities.

WE ARE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF CENTRAL GEORGIA.

Visit cfcga.org

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