

September 2026

Impact

IN ACTION



This Issue:

Lamar Gives Kickoff

A Giving Strategy Your Clients May Be Missing

Medicine River Art Piece Unveiled

Whats New? Recent Highlights From The Foundation



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
of Central Georgia

LAMAR GIVES 365 KICKOFF

THIRTEEN YEARS OF NEIGHBORS DECIDING TOGETHER



LAMAR GIVES 365 ANNUAL KICKOFF, BARNESVILLE, 2026.

Late last month, roughly 140 members of Lamar Gives 365 gathered in Barnesville for the program's annual Kickoff, the unofficial start of a new giving cycle for one of Central Georgia's most distinctive philanthropic models. Each member commits \$365 a year, pools that gift with everyone else's, and then votes on which local nonprofits receive the resulting grants.

It's a simple idea that's now thirteen years old, and looking back at a few of those grants shows what that simplicity has added up to.

In 2015, LG365 funded a school-based health center through the Lamar County Health Department, bringing basic medical care

directly into a place students already were every day. In 2020, a grant to Dolly Good Puppy supported spay and neuter services for the community, addressing a practical, ongoing need most people don't think about until it touches their own household. And last year, LG365 members helped fund the largest Lamar Arts Kids Camp yet, more children picking up a paintbrush last summer than in any year prior.

Three different causes, three different decades of a child or a pet or a patient's life. What ties them together isn't a dollar figure. It's that a room full of neighbors sat down, looked at what Lamar County actually needed, and decided together.

That's the part of LG365 that doesn't show up in a grant total: it's a membership model built entirely around a shared vote. Members review applications, discuss finalists, and choose where the year's funding goes. No single donor decides. No board makes the call alone. It's collective, and it's local.

With the 2026-2027 membership window open through October 30, now is the moment to be part of that decision. Whether you've watched LG365 grow since year one or you're hearing about it for the first time in this newsletter, the invitation is the same: sit at the table, help choose, and see what your neighbors decide to build next.

Learn more or join at lamargives.org/join.

MEMBERSHIP OPEN THROUGH OCTOBER
30 — JOIN NOW

A GIVING STRATEGY YOUR CLIENTS MAY BE MISSING

The Client Who Gives Every Year But Never Gets to Itemize

You probably have a few of them. Clients in the wealth-building stage of their lives who give consistently to their church, their alma mater, a cause they care about, and every year that giving disappears into the standard deduction without producing any additional tax benefit. Bunching fixes that. Accelerating multiple years of contributions into a single tax year, combined with mortgage interest and state and local taxes, is often enough to cross the threshold. The other years, they take the standard deduction.

WHERE A DONOR-ADVISED FUND MAKES IT PRACTICAL

The obvious objection: the client doesn't want to deliver three years of support to their organizations all at once. A donor advised fund solves that.

The client contributes the larger gift to the fund in year one and receives the full deduction at that point. Then they recommend grants to the charities they care about on whatever schedule they choose. The tax benefit is concentrated. Their giving pattern stays exactly as it was.

One additional opportunity: if the client holds appreciated stock, contributing shares directly to the fund rather than cash avoids capital gains tax on the appreciation and generates a deduction for the full fair market value. For clients in a wealth-building stage, this can meaningfully strengthen the strategy.

WHY ADVISORS IN CENTRAL GEORGIA WORK WITH CFCG

The Community Foundation of Central Georgia has offered donor advised funds since 1993. We work regularly with estate attorneys, CPAs, and financial planners across the region. When you refer a client to us, we take that seriously. Our goal is to steward your client with the same level of service you do! For the Foundation, that means straightforward fund setup, responsive service, and a team that handles the details, so the experience reflects well on the relationship you have built with your client.

If you have clients who might benefit from this conversation, we would welcome the chance to talk with you or your client.

TALK WITH US

Contact us at 478-750-9338 or visit cfega.org.

REFER A CLIENT TO CFCG

As always, donors should consult their financial advisor, CPA, or tax professional regarding their specific circumstances before implementing any charitable giving strategy.

THE RIVER THAT CONNECTS

Medicine River | Bicentennial Park, East Macon



MEDICINE RIVER, BICENTENNIAL PARK, EAST MACON, UNVEILED AUGUST 20, 2026. PHOTO: CREDIT.

On the corner of Schell Avenue and Main Street, in the northwest corner of Bicentennial Park, something new stands at the edge of East Macon. It is called Medicine River, and it was made by Muscogee (Creek) artist Starr Hardridge alongside local collaborators Randy Heart and Tanner Coleman. It was unveiled on August 20, in a park that sits not far from the Ocmulgee River, on land that the Muscogee people called home long before they were removed from it.

Hardridge made the work with that history in mind.

"Medicine River seeks to heal land by the joining of hands that bind the diverse communities of Macon, Georgia and Mvskoke communities in Oklahoma," Hardridge told WGXA. "Through traditional art practice we connect directly with land and acknowledge the ancestral peoples that came before us. Kinship to land, water and animals is the legacy that is carried on by Mvskoke descendants to this day. In ancient times our tribal towns were connected by the Ocmulgee River. In that same vein, I believe that art is the river that can connect and heal humanity. Art is love and love is medicine."

The piece was installed near the DeWitt McCrary House, which will one day serve as home to the Muscogee (Creek) Cultural Center. It represents a convergence of voices: a Muscogee artist working alongside Macon collaborators, and a national arts grant matched by local philanthropic support.

"Starr, Randy, and Tanner have created a work of art that resonates with all of us, both the Nation that was removed from this area and Central Georgia's present and future residents," Macon Arts Alliance Executive Director Julie Wilkerson told WGXA.

The project was made possible through an Our Town grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, with matching funds provided by the Bicentennial Fund at the Community Foundation of Central Georgia. That kind of partnership, a national investment meeting a local commitment, is what makes public art like this possible. It requires someone in the community willing to say that this story is worth telling here, in this park, on this corner, in this city.

Medicine River is that answer. It stands now in East Macon, at the edge of a park named for a bicentennial, near a river that connected nations long before the city existed. It is an invitation to look at that history clearly and to believe, as Hardridge does, that art can be the thing that carries us toward each other.

FIVE THINGS WORTH KNOWING



1 CAPACITY BUILDING

NONPROFIT GPS

GROWING PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY

Nonprofit G.P.S. trains nonprofit staff and boards in the fundamentals of running a sustainable organization. This fall we held a train-the-trainer session, and the five-part series is underway.



2 NEW FUND DEBORAH H. REDDICK HUNGER RELIEF EFFORT

Lewis Reddick established this fund to honor the life and legacy of Deborah H. Reddick, a Macon native remembered for her strength, generosity, devotion to family, and compassion for others.



3 DISASTER RELIEF REBUILDING MARKET STREET

A fire took Mama D's Restaurant and Goggans Florist off Market Street months ago. Now a \$15,000 grant from the Barnesville Disaster Relief Fund is helping the Downtown Development Authority rebuild, storefront by storefront. That is what community looks like.



4 PUBLIC SPACE MYLES WIMBERLY PARK, BARNESVILLE

The City of Barnesville reopened Myles-Wimberly Park on Richardson Street with a ribbon cutting, giving the children of Barnesville-Lamar County a safe, beautiful place to play. The ceremony also honored Mrs. Ruth Walker and recognized the Myles and Wimberly families.



5 SCHOLARSHIPS CWN SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Congratulations to Shannon Ragusa, Tiara Groce, and Marie Lou Abbott, three of eight women who received Career Women's Network Scholarships this year. It was an honor to celebrate them at the annual luncheon.