

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Community Foundation of West Alabama is to promote charitable giving for present and future generations.

Community Foundation



Volume 24, Number 1
SPRING 2025

OF WEST ALABAMA

YOUR GIVING GIVES ON IS OUR TAGLINE

The mission statement of the CFWA notes our goal of encouraging charitable giving. On any given year we will make donations to about 250 different charitable organizations. Those donations are made possible by you, the donors. We hope we are leading by example as we encourage support of our local nonprofit community.

I thought it might be of interest to see some national trends in giving. The following stats are from the Blackbaud Institute and Giving USA Reports.

Recent trends reflect giving to be increasing at a rate of 9% year over year.

The average age of a donor in the US is 65 and makes two charitable donations a year. \$813 is the average donation amount.

As a subsector, education is the largest recipient of donations, with higher-ed edging K-12 slightly.

The month with the highest giving is December followed by November.

Americans gave \$550 billion in 2023.

For middle income earners, the average yearly charitable donation is \$3,296.

For high-net-worth households, the average donated in 2022 was \$34,917.

Most donors (64%) prefer to give online.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

The most popular funds held at the CFWA are the DAFs. These comprise about two-thirds of our accounts. Our donors find these to be very convenient, offering great tax advantages. Recent statistics from the US reflect:

There were almost 2 million donor-advised funds held in the US in 2022.

These funds held about \$230 billion.

Donor recommended grants from these DAFs totaled more than \$50 billion to charities.

The average DAF in the US was \$117,466. This is an interesting statistic, considering the average CFWA DAF is \$103,400. Thus, the CFWA is very near the average.

I will be glad to discuss the DAFs with you. Give me a call.

YOUR GIVING GIVES ON

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A MESSAGE FROM GLENN

Recently I read that the average age for a donor in the US is 65. I suppose that can be attributed to being in the phase of life where many responsibilities at least financially are removed, and one can reflect on matters of lasting importance. On occasion I am made aware of exceptions to the rule. Such was the case recently when a student at the University of Alabama visited my office and expressed a desire to set up a Donor Advised Fund. He wanted to encourage his fellow students to help raise funds and put the money into the DAF so that once a year they could all decide what charitable group would receive their donation. They will consider several local charities and make their charitable grant to a deserving charity. They will then start the process over for the next year. The young philanthropist expressed his desire to start something that will carry over into their working years. What a great story. When we say our mission is to encourage charitable giving, we understand that applies to all ages. Thank you, Zachary Goldman, for setting a great example for our young people.

Northport lost one of its rising young leaders on February 24, when Sam Phillips died at the early age of 34. Sam was involved in many civic works and will be missed. His grandfather, Sam Faucett, served on the Board of the CFWA for 22 years. Young Sam was one of my students when I was a school principal. Our sympathy is with the family. The Sam Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund was set up in his memory.



*Glenn Taylor,
President/CEO*

IN MEMORY OF

October 17, 2025 - March 19, 2025

Buddy Burton
Drew & Angela Hamiter

Mr. Shirley Fields
Bobby & Cathy Wooldridge

Mr. Norm Hibbard
Lynn & Melinda Corder

Rebecca Ann Guy Holland
Richard Holland

Ms. Shelley Jones
Lynn & Melinda Corder

IN HONOR OF

October 17, 2024 - March 19, 2025

Teresa & Jim Beardsley
Tamas Bartha

Frankie Burton
Drew & Angela Hamiter

Susan Cork
Liz Pearce

Mr. & Mrs. William Frazier
Mr. Robert Tolbert

Dr. & Mrs. Burritt Hess
Mr. Robert Tolbert

FALL GRANTS

The CFWA awarded grants to eight area nonprofits as part of our fall grant cycle. These grants were funded by Endowment Funds within the CFWA. The CFWA awards grants twice yearly based on an application process. In its 25-year existence, the CFWA has given over \$25 million to charitable causes.

The 2024 Fall Grant Recipients are pictured from left to right:

- Tina Turley – Theatre Tuscaloosa
- Nicole Harshman – Focus 50+
- Lauren Hurn – Tuscaloosa Angels
- Susan Lavendar – Community Soup Bowl
- Anna Goode – Make A Wish
- Ebony Johnson – Tuscaloosa Children’s Center
- Lori Barnett – Where Love Never Ends
- Alicia Sherman – Liberty Learning Foundation



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The CFWA welcomes the following new directors. We look forward to what each brings to the board.

- Michele Coley, Exclusive Allstate Agency Owner
- Brad Crow, Manager Northport Auto Supply
- Wade Drinkard, Retired District Court Judge
- Mike Mitchell, Chief Credit Officer, Bryant Bank
- Libby Shaw, Retired VP, Secretary & General Counsel, The Westervelt Company
- Bill Walker, attorney



Michele Coley



Wade Drinkard



Libby Shaw



Brad Crow



Mike Mitchell



Bill Walker

FIDDLE FEST

The 9th Annual Fiddle Fest was held on February 22 at Shelton State Community College. This is a joint effort between Visit Tuscaloosa, Shelton State, and the Community Foundation of West Alabama. The Festival drew visitors from nine states to experience the one-day event. Please visit the website www.thefiddlefest.com for more information. Glenn and Phyllis Gamble are pictured with the grand prize winner, Justin Branum of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.



EDUCATION GRANTS

A total of twelve teachers from area schools were funded as part of the Education Grant Cycle. These grants are available each fall for area classroom teachers. Nikki Little of Skyland Elementary School is pictured with her check serving as an early present for her classroom

