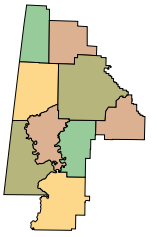


MISSION STATEMENT

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

Community Foundation



Volume 24 Number 2
FALL 2025

OF WEST ALABAMA

PILLARS ENTERS 3RD DECADE

With a beginning in 2004, the Pillars of West Alabama continues to annually honor those of our community who have contributed so much to making West Alabama the crown jewel of Alabama. This year's class is Dr. Stuart Bell, Pierce Boyd, Martin Houston, Tim Parker, George and Betty Shirley, Dr. John Waits, and Elizabeth Winter. They are pictured below at the October 2 event at Indian Hills Country Club.



2025 Pillars of the Community
Community Foundation of West Alabama

YOUR GIVING GIVES ON

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Chairman

Phyllis Gamble
Vice Chair

Heyward Gould
Sec/Trea

Lin Moore
Past Chair

Michele Coley
Director

Susan Cork
Director

Brad Crow
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Director

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Glenn Taylor
President/CEO

Rebecca Elmore
Admin Assistant

Past Directors

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John L. Blackburn

Pierce Boyd

Davis S. "Buddy" Burton, Jr.

Marion Combs

John T. "Jack" DeWitt

Claude Edwards

John England

Sam P. Faucett

Jim Flemming

Laura Gregory

P. Fred Hahn, Sr

James I. Harrison, III

Shelley Jones

Barry Mason

Gina Miers

Anne Moman

Larry O'Neal

Mary Bess Paluzzi

Pam Parker

Tim Parker

Dave Pass

Gordon Rosen

Leah Ann Sexton

Hugh Stegall

Charles Storey

William A. Tate

A MESSAGE FROM GLENN

Milestones define us. They are reminders of where we have been, and they point us toward the future. Those statements were in a letter I recently read, and I thought about how appropriate they are for our consideration today. The Community Foundation of West Alabama has crossed significant milestones this year. We are approaching the \$30 Million mark in funds given back to our nonprofit community. We have passed the \$20 Million mark in assets; we now have \$30 Million in our crosshairs. Why is this important? The more funds under our management, the more we can help our nonprofit community. For many years, we have averaged over \$1 Million each year to over 200 local nonprofit organizations. We are anxious to increase those amounts to the \$2 Million plateau.

We realize all of this is made possible by the generosity of our community.

It is not community in the aggregate sense. It is community in the individual sense. Every gift is important. Every individual is a part of the big picture. Indeed, that is the concept of a community foundation.

We have had many individuals choose to use the CFWA in their estate planning. One such friend of the Foundation was Charles Cook. Mr. Cook was a pharmacist in the Vernon area for many years. With his passing in 2023, he chose to leave a sizable portion of his estate to his endowment at the CFWA. He wanted it to be a continual source of funding, doing good for the generations to come. What a selfless act!

We can manage these estates and preserve the corpus for future generations. We are aware of many who have named the CFWA in their estate plans. Some have chosen to set up these funds for scholarship purposes. This is a wonderful way to pay it forward. This year 32 students have received scholarships totaling \$109,000 from the CFWA. It is not unusual for past recipients to reach out to the CFWA expressing thanks for the help they received during their educational years.

In a comparable way, we say thank you to each of you who have been a part of the CFWA since 1999. The CFWA is uniquely positioned to help with a myriad of philanthropic plans. Contact us if you have any questions.



*Glenn Taylor,
President/CEO*

IN MEMORY OF

March 19, 2025-September 30, 2025

Jody Blackburn
Ms. Lyda Black

Cynthia Burton
Larry & Margaret O'Neal

William "Bill" Jessup
Anne Monfore

Tom Jones
Lynn & Melinda Corder

Robert Lake
Larry & Margaret O'Neal

Yvonne McCullar
Brad & Susan Cork
Donny & Becky Elmore

Mary Otts Nelson
Annette and Walter Dean
Bobby & Molly Ingram
Ms. Rosemary Ingram
John & Mary Bess Paluzzi
Bryant Bank

George & Betty Shirley
Karen & Jim Brooks
Dr. Cathy Randall

IN HONOR OF

March 19, 2025-September 30, 2025

Dr. & Mrs. Stuart Bell
Karen & Jim Brooks
Dr. Cathy Randall
Ms. Helene Hibbard

Pierce Boyd
Karen & Jim Brooks
Dr. Cathy Randall
Ms. Helene Hibbard

Pierce & Louise Boyd
Rev. Richard Losch

Dr. Richard Holland
Louise & Pierce Boyd

Martin Houston
Karen & Jim Brooks
Dr. Cathy Randall
Ms. Helene Hibbard

Father Richard Losch
Louise & Pierce Boyd

Dr. John P. Miller
Ms. Mary Laseter

Tim Parker
Karen & Jim Brooks
Dr. Cathy Randall
Ms. Helene Hibbard

Dr. John Waits
Karen & Jim Brooks
Dr. Cathy Randall
Ms. Helene Hibbard

Elizabeth Winter
Karen & Jim Brooks
Dr. Cathy Randall
Ms. Helene Hibbard

SPRING GRANTS

The CFWA offers community grants twice yearly, with our spring and fall grant cycles. Our endowments help to support our many wonderful nonprofit organizations. More information may be found at www.thecfwa.org.



The recipients of the 2025 Spring grants are pictured from left to right:

Front Row

Pam Charleton, Hope's Choice; Jessica Hoggle, Rooted Tuscaloosa; Lauren Jamison, Kentuck Art Center; Alisha Jones, Jr. Achievement Tuscaloosa; Mary Jane Turner, Tuscaloosa Children's Theatre; Kim Turner, Boys and Girls Club of West Alabama

2nd Row

Sheldrick McNeal and Jean Rykaczewski, West Alabama Food Bank; Nicole Dugat and Kathy Harris, Schoolyard Roots; Chris Miller, SAV-A-LIFE; Alonzo Jackson, Service2Sumter; Ebony Johnson, Tuscaloosa Children's Center; Chad Nichols, Sight Savers

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Elois Zeanah Endowed Scholarships

These scholarships are given each year to college students at the Sophomore level. This year these \$2,500 awards went to Adrienne Stephens, Matthew Clary, and Hannah Weeks.





P.O. BOX 3033
TUSCALOOSA, AL 35403



TCHS SCHOLARSHIPS

Six scholarships were presented to TCHS seniors this year. Pictured with Glenn and Sam Faucett are Tori Madison, Caleb Rogers, Camp Bender, Bailee Weeks, Kaydee Hadden, and Mikalah Vinson.

For a full listing of all 2025 recipients, visit the CFWA website.

FIDDLE FEST CONTINUES TO GROW

Plans are being made for the 10th annual Southeast Fiddle Championship to be held on February 28, 2026, on the beautiful Martin Campus of Shelton State. This is a collaborative effort between the City of Tuscaloosa, Shelton State Community College, the CFWA, and many local sponsors. It draws visitors each year from many states. Pictured with Glenn are two local legislators, Senator Gerald Allen and Representative Bill Lamb, who both love the festival.

