



Our Home. Our Mountain. Our Future.

PO Box 1301 • Monteagle, TN 37356  
322 W. Main St. • Monteagle, TN 37356

[SouthCumberlandCommunityFund.org](http://SouthCumberlandCommunityFund.org)

*These young Sewanee Elementary School students planted trees to Make a Difference.*



### Make a Difference FROM PAGE 1

dents spent a day planting the orchard and learning from the University Farm staff about grafting, worms, and tree care. The successful orchard inspired the students to work together as a team to give back to their community.

"I did not know a second grader could make such a difference," said one student participant. When the orchard blooms into fruition, it will provide fruit to the community.

St. Andrew's-Sewanee School was awarded a grant to buy materials and create signs for the Fiery Gizzard reroute, including publicizing Monteagle Chamber of Commerce's new map of the area. Collaboration between the students, local residents and the state park let them to learn beyond the classroom and interact with community members.

"Working with the state parks was a wonderful time. It introduced me to a lot of great folks who do a lot to keep our forests looking beautiful and our people happy," said the project advisor, Burki Gladstone.



## Gathering People and Sharing Information: A Capacity Building Update

Working with Grundy County School System, SCCF's Capacity Building program helped organize a September session for providers of summer programs for children to share their experiences and learn from one another. This was the first time that leaders from the dozen summer programs for young people had ever gathered to discuss their programs and how they can work together. More than 50 people participated in the workshop.

"We want to know about your program. We want to know what worked and what didn't," said Jessie Kinsey, director of schools, as the workshop began. "What challenges did you face? Where can we help one another? Where are we duplicating efforts? Where can we build on each other's work to help our kids?" Kinsey linked the day's efforts to the school system's mission: "Grundy County Schools aspires to provide an enriching educational experience that supports all students' academic, social and emotional development, so that they are learners today who become leaders tomorrow;" and its vision: "Grundy County Schools strive to be a great place to educate and be educated while develop-



Judy Graham, (center) director of Sequatchie Valley Head Start, with Sheila Beard, (left) a member of SCCF's Capacity Building Committee, with Amanda Liford (right), a VISTA working with SCCF.

ing lifelong learners who contribute to their communities in a positive manner."

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3

## Make A Difference Projects Worked!

The four winning projects from 2015–16 Make a Difference contest have been completed and plans are under way for a 2017 project involving all communities across the Plateau on Saturday, March 4. Details for this event are still being developed, but organizers hope to involve area students, families and community members in a day of service.

Last year's Make a Difference program asked students to consider, "If you had \$1,000, what would you do to make a difference in your community?" Projects in grades K–4, 5–8, and 9–12 receiving the most online votes were awarded \$1,000 to carry out their concepts. Winning projects were submitted by Coalmont Elementary School for a school garden and creating Little Free Libraries, by second-graders at Sewanee Elementary School for a fruit orchard, and by St. Andrew's-Sewanee School to develop signage for the state parks.



University Farm Manager Carolyn Hoagland helps students plan the community orchard.

In addition to vegetables, the Coalmont Elementary School garden provided students an opportunity to learn new skills, have a space for sharing of knowledge, and enhanced students' social growth.

Little Free Libraries are being put up at Coalmont, Tracy City, Pelham and Swiss Memorial elementary schools. These libraries serve as a "take a book, leave a book" exchange. The students painted the boxes, as well as learned team-building skills. "Helping children in our community have access to books feels good," said one student participant.

The second-grade class at Sewanee Elementary School used the funds to establish a community orchard. The stu-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 4

November 2016

### OUR MISSION & VISION

The **VISION** of the South Cumberland Community Fund is that the Plateau be a place of hope and prosperity for all its residents and communities, inspired by the Fund's philanthropic and regional leadership.

The **MISSION** of the South Cumberland Community Fund is to improve the quality of life across the Plateau by increasing philanthropic giving and providing community leadership to build on the strength of the area's people, communities and natural setting; enhance community capacity and collaboration; and support innovative ways to solve community problems.

### 2016 Board Members

Margaret C. Woods, *Chair*  
Scott Parrish, *Immediate Past Chair*  
Marshall Graves, *Vice-Chair*  
Bonnie McCardell, *Secretary*  
Jack Murrah, *Treasurer*  
Norm Carl  
Mary Jo Gallagher  
Bill Harper  
Sheri Lawrence  
Dale Layne  
Leah Rhys  
Cameron Swallow  
Howell Adams Jr., *Emeritus*

### Grant Committee Members

Mary Jo Gallagher, *Chair*  
Sheila Beard  
Daniel Crabtree  
Don Hutcheson  
Marietta Poteet  
Valerie Sanders

### Staff

Laura Willis, *Executive Director*  
Nicky Hamilton, *Capacity Building Director*  
Morgan Andrews, *VISTA*  
Amanda Liford, *VISTA*



## SCCF Begins Philanthropy Education Project with Sewanee

South Cumberland Community Fund is expanding its partnership with the University of the South to collaborate on a Community Partnership Philanthropy Internship (CPPI). This program gives students first-hand experience with community-based nonprofit organizations. CPPI will add \$30,000 to SCCF's Grants Program; the funds are provided by a donor to the University who wants students to have the opportunity to learn about philanthropy.

Students will learn the history of philanthropy, about types of charitable organizations, and hear from guest speakers. They will shadow SCCF's Grants Committee during its work in the spring. In the fall, working with SCCF staff, CPPI will have up to \$30,000 a year to recommend for grants for approval by the SCCF board. "This is a unique opportunity to embed students into the process of evaluating and making grants to nonprofits here in our community," said professor Jim Peterman, director of OCE at Sewanee.



Students learn about the opportunities available through CPPI from Nicky Hamilton (left), Laura Willis, and Kai Koopman, office coordinator for the Office of Civic Engagement at Sewanee.

additional \$30,000, and see the impact of their decisions." This project expands a vibrant partnership that began in 2014 when SCCF and the University joined in an application for AmeriCorps/VISTA. CPPI will be led by Professor Jim Peterman, director of the Office of Civic Engagement, Willis, and Nicky Hamilton, who jointly serves as director of Capacity Building for SCCF (through which she oversees the VISTA program) and as senior associate director of Civic Engagement at the University.



Young people come to college with a deep commitment to helping others and terrific experience in community service. "CPPI gives students a chance to see how 'the other side' works: how grant proposals are written, how projects are evaluated, and how decisions are made," said Laura Willis, SCCF executive director. "After observing our Grants Committee at work, they will get to conduct the same process again, using this

## Why I Give

Dale Layne has been part of South Cumberland Community Fund from its very beginning. He was at the earliest planning sessions that dreamed of the positive impact this Fund could have on the Plateau. A native of Grundy County and a business owner, Dale was a member of the first Grants Committee and is completing a three-year term on SCCF's Board.

"I'm really proud of how South Cumberland Community Fund has been able to help our area," Dale said. "I give to SCCF because I know we have created something valuable. Giving to SCCF is a good way to give back to our community."

At times, he said, Grundy County has been divided by its different communities and by the natural topography. "South Cumberland Community Fund is helping unite our county," he said.

Dale cited the many good projects funded by SCCF in its early grant rounds and said he hopes that future projects include economic development efforts to strengthen the area. "For anybody to do good, everybody needs to do good," he said. Thank you, Dale, for your leadership and commitment to our home, our mountain, our future.



## Ways to Give

As you consider your year-end charitable contributions, there are a variety of ways you can make a tax-deductible donation to South Cumberland Community Fund.

Gifts made by personal check can be mailed directly to SCCF via P. O. Box 1301, Monteagle TN 37356.

Gifts made by credit card can be made via SCCF's secure portal on our website, <[www.southcumberlandcommunityfund.org](http://www.southcumberlandcommunityfund.org)>.

Gifts of stock are handled through the Community Fund of Greater Chattanooga, 1270 Market Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402. Some options to think about are: Gifts of Appreciated Stock

A gift of appreciated stock is a great way to support SCCF. When appreciated stock (held more than one year) is given to SCCF, there is a double tax benefit:

1. The gift qualifies for an itemized deduction for the full amount of the stock's value on the date of the gift.
2. The property escapes capital gains tax that would otherwise be due if you sold the stock.

### Donations from IRS Charitable Rollover

If you own an IRA, you must take required minimum distributions (RMD) from the account beginning at age 70-1/2 and pay income tax on those distributions. A charitable alternative is to ask your IRA custodian to make a direct transfer of funds from your IRA to SCCF (you cannot personally receive the funds). The transfer counts toward your RMD, and no tax is due! A transfer up to \$100,000 qualifies for this favorable tax treatment, and you can make this gift year after year.

We are grateful to the many people who have given so much to make South Cumberland Community Fund successful since 2012.

Scott Parrish  
Immediate Past Chair, SCCF Board

## Projects Supported by South Cumberland Community Fund in 2016



Grundy Youth Football received 100 new helmets for its players; Gary Don Melton with his son Aiden at Homecoming 2016.



The Big Creek public park in Coalmont hosted an open house to celebrate the improvements to the site, including a playground, pavilion, picnic tables, and walking trail.



Friends of South Cumberland expanded its "Every Child in the Park" program to include all fourth-grade students in Grundy County.



Grundy County Historical Society in Tracy City completed a major re-roofing project.

## Gathering People FROM PAGE 1

Creativity, curiosity, and community pride were identified as the very best part of the summer programs. Teachers described how the children wanted to come to school on these days because they enjoyed their time so much. There was appreciation of the abundant natural resources available locally, and the need to tap into those as often as feasible. Discussion also focused on how to bring the best elements of these summer programs into the classroom during the school year. Gaps were identified: better scheduling and communication; need for transportation; desire for increased parent involvement; need for programs for middle- and high-school students.

"I am pleased that people see South Cumberland Community Fund as a resource and a convener of different organizations who need direction and help with planning," said Nicky Hamilton. "It was a great day full of energy and enthusiasm for all the programs on the Plateau." Groups participating included Mountain T.O.P., Grundy 4-H, Discover Together/Camp Discover, Sequatchie Valley Head Start, South Cumberland Summer Meal Program, Seeds of Change gardening program, Grundy Area Arts Council, Read to be Ready, Summer Reading Camp, Camp Lit at Tracy City Elementary, and Ready to Read at Swiss Memorial.

Participants said these lively conversations gave them the opportunity to build relationships and make connections that are already improving plans for next year's summer programs, which will in turn, improve the lives of young people across the Plateau.



Students who wanted to "Make a Difference" celebrated the Sewanee Community Orchard.