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



Fourteen nonprofit organizations from across the Plateau received grants at the Celebration of the Plateau, July 1st on the grounds of DuBose Conference Center. Full story on page 2. Photo courtesy of Photography by Farris, Monteagle, TN



I am happy and honored to have been chosen by the SCCF board to be its new chair. I would like to begin by thanking my predecessor, Marshall Graves, for his thoughtful leadership of this organization. Marshall has been an enthusiastic supporter and effective guide through a significant growth period for South Cumberland Community Fund.

My affinity for the Plateau runs deep. I grew up in the mountains of North Carolina in a rural community and town of 25,000 people, and my husband and

daughter are graduates of the University of the South. A combination of a love for this environment and Sewanee led us back here to live part-time, and I look forward to the future when we will be able to be on the Mountain even more.

I assume the chair position as we celebrate our newest grantee awards. Once again, we will provide financial support and mentoring across the Plateau. As I became more familiar with the mission of SCCF, what interested me most was assisting organizations with the utilization of their grants to their utmost ability. Through our sponsored workshops, consulting, networking, and AmeriCorps VISTA assistance, the nonprofits of the Plateau are building viable, sustainable services.

SCCF strives to preserve the beauty and history of our Mountain and to improve the prosperity and well-being of its communities. I want those who leave, to return to a better place. I want those who stay, to thrive here and make the Plateau even stronger. I want those who visit, to value all this area has to offer. If you have left and returned, stayed, or visited, I hope something has struck you as a reason to become more involved with us.

Sheri Lawrence, SCCF Chair

SCCF AWARDS SPRING 2018 GRANTS

On a sunny Sunday in July, community members and partners across the Plateau came together to celebrate SCCF's newest grantees at the Celebration of the Plateau. SCCF's Board of Directors was pleased to award \$91,049 to 14 organizations for the spring 2018 grants cycle. This year marks the first time partial grants were awarded, which allowed SCCF to expand its support for community partners who presented applications for projects for which the total costs were outside SCCF's scope of funding.



Monteagle Elementary teachers and staff attended Celebration of the Plateau to accept their grant award.



SCCF board member Rich Wyckoff, Celebration Chair Linda Parrish, and Bill Beard.



2017/2018 AmeriCorps VISTAs were recognized for their contributions to communities across the Plateau. Photos provided by Photography by Farris

VISTA BY THE NUMBERS

29,773.8 HOURS WORKED

734 VOLUNTEERS RECRUITED

\$307,735 CASH DONATIONS*

\$37,468 IN-KIND DONATIONS

*Calculated according to the Tennessee value of volunteer time rate of \$24.69/hr.

Organization	Amount	Project Description
Beersheba Springs Medical Clinic	\$9,846.00	Dental chair and compressor for the new dental suite, the first and only in Grundy County
BetterFi	\$9,932.00	Loan fund, loan-loss reserve, and travel/meetings
Coalmont Elementary	\$7,023.00	Multimedia equipment for auditorium (projector, screen, and PA system upgrades)
Grundy County Department of Education	\$9,966.00	Musical instruments for school music program*
Grundy County Swiss Historical Society	\$9,820.00	Seven replacement windows for the historic Stoker-Stampfli Farmhouse
Life Choices Pregnancy Support Center, Inc.	\$8,532.98	'Earn While You Learn' parenting skills curriculum
May Justus Memorial Library	\$5,600.00	'Ready to Read' leveled readers for library collection
Monteagle Elementary	\$5,562.00	Multimedia equipment for auditorium (a screen, LCD projector and cart)
Morton Memorial United Methodist Church	\$9,050.00	Electric pallet jack for food ministry
Mountain Goat Trail Alliance	\$10,000.00	Design planning, engineering, inspection for trail between Ingman Farm & DuBose
Mountain Heritage Preservation Society	\$2,457.00	All-weather roof for outdoor stage
Mountain T.O.P.	\$4,020.00	'Home Ownership Mastery Education' workshops for homeowners
S Double A Ranch	\$1,200.00	Gardening supplies and tools for a community garden for the sober living program
Sewanee Community Chest	\$1,100.00	Wobble chairs and musical instruments for Sewanee Elementary

GRANTS IN ACTION:

TRACY CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SENSORY ROOM

When Caroline McCullough, the Speech and Language teacher at Tracy City Elementary School, was awarded a \$4,833 grant to create Grundy County School District's first sensory room, even she was cautious about the long term impact. However, since then she has seen outcomes firsthand. This innovative learning environment teaches students about emotional regulation and grounding techniques. The room includes covers to dull harsh fluorescent lights and speakers for relaxing music, as well as specialized equipment to help students, especially those with learning disabilities, process and manage their emotions, which allows them to return to class, able to participate in ways they could not previously.

Since opening the room in late January 2018, Ms. McCullough has seen transformations in many of her students. She explained the effect the room has had on one student who she described as having low response times: When she helped the student use a piece of equipment called the Double Squeezer, she said, "It woke him up...it was something he'd never experienced, a deep pressure, that he had wanted but he didn't know how to ask for." After that, "...he just kept talking and answering and there wasn't as big of a delay."



Based on its success so far, Ms. McCullough hopes that Tracy City Elementary's sensory room can serve as a model for other schools in the county. The sensory room was one of seven grants awarded by the inaugural Philanthropy Internship Program, a partnership between SCCF and the University of the South.

"Thanks to SCCF and Grundy County School System, our school is now able to offer accommodations so students have greater success inside and outside the classroom."

- Caroline McCullough



SCCF Community Development Director Nicky Hamilton with philanthropy internship students, Loring McDonald and Emily Badgett.

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY

TO APPLY FOR SCCF

GRANT IN 2018

The first round of SCCF 2018 grant-giving served as an educational opportunity for University of the South students participating in the Philanthropy Internship Program. This innovative partnership between SCCF and the University exposes students to academic theory and concepts of philanthropy through weekly meetings led by Community Development Director Nicky Hamilton, coupled with hands-on experience for students who also shadow the spring grants process. In the fall, students will use what they have learned to award an additional \$30,000 in grants. All organizations that applied in the spring will be eligible to apply for this second round of funding.



Reading materials for the philanthropy internship program, a joint venture of SCCF and the University of the South.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

School staff, AmeriCorps VISTAs, and community volunteers in front of a new mural in the greenhouse at Swiss Elementary School.

SCCF hosted the second Make a Difference (MAD) day of service on March 3rd with more than 400 volunteers participating. Community members, students, parents, and teachers served 1,600+ hours at the eight elementary schools across the Plateau. MAD is truly an effort that requires the shared time and talents of many, and SCCF is grateful to everyone who participated. The hard work of many allowed walls and murals to be painted, libraries to be organized and gardens planted, and provided every school with a general spruce-up. “SCCF appreciates the amazing partnership of the local schools, the VISTA program, and the community in making this day such a success,” said Make a Difference chair Bonnie McCardell.

SPRING WORKSHOP SUPPORTS

READING INITIATIVE

In partnership with Grundy County School District, this spring SCCF sponsored a full-day workshop on Play Based Experiential Learning for pre-k and elementary school teachers, in support of the district’s goal of all students reading at grade level by 3rd grade. Joan Almon, Beersheba Springs part-time resident and co-founder of Alliance for Children, and Melissa Flowers, kindergarten teacher at MTSU’s Homer Pittard Campus School, offered a variety of approaches that meet state standards while allowing for age appropriate activities and discovery. One teacher shared that she “loved the presentation as it taught us how to incorporate play while still teaching the standards.” At a time when teachers all across the country are concerned about meeting these guidelines, the workshop was both timely and reassuring.

The 15 teachers that participated explored concepts through a variety of hands-on activities, and found the workshop to be “motivating, informative, and very beneficial.” Plans are underway for teachers to visit Flowers’ classroom, and to create a support network to share ideas and innovative strategies that increase early learning skills.



A young volunteer at Sewanee Elementary School writes a thank you note to school staff on Make A Difference Day.



CENTER FOR NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Specialists from Center for Nonprofit Management in Nashville came to the Mountain this spring to conduct a workshop that addressed the program evaluation process. As reflected by its title, “Evaluation: *Love it or Hate it,*” the workshop stressed that the evaluation process, while daunting to most, is crucial to making data driven decisions about program improvement which are necessary to understand the impact of a program. Twenty-five participants from local organizations learned about the process through activities involving logic models as well as qualitative and quantitative data, and came away ready to take their new knowledge back to their organizations.

“I learned a lot and it was incredibly well done. It feels incredibly pertinent to my future work as well.”



A CNM evaluation workshop held March 29th was attended by representatives from 25 nonprofit organizations from across the Plateau.

“Excellent workshop - I’ve spent a lot of time in similar programs that didn’t teach me much and only seemed to reiterate common sense practices. This was incredibly productive and so worth my time.”

ATTENDANCE & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT



Decades of studies have shown that families and communities strongly affect children’s school success. Inspired by our partnerships aimed at developing the potential of our youth, SCCF was delighted to co-sponsor Grundy County’s first community summit on attendance and family engagement practices, coordinated by Family Engagement Coordinator VISTA Evelyn Ahnrud and Attendance Coordinator VISTA Caroline Bell.

The summit brought together administrators, teachers, and the board of directors of Grundy County School District; county judges; Head Start representatives; members of the TN State Department; and more to discuss the importance of family engagement and attendance. The conference included panel discussions and presentations on county-specific data with the aim of connecting resources and soliciting community support.

“This informative and well-organized event allowed me to better understand the roles that different community members play in the quest for better family engagement and student attendance.”

Find us on 



AN EVENING WITH MARGUERITE KONDRACKE

SCCF is delighted to welcome national leader for community and educational change, Marguerite Kondracke, as speaker at its annual fundraiser on Saturday, September 15th. Marguerite will speak on “‘I’ve Been to the Mountaintop’ - Our Personal Journey.”

Throughout Marguerite’s more than 40-year career, children and families and their communities have been at the center of her work. Marguerite served as Tennessee’s Commissioner for Human Services for Governor Lamar Alexander and joined him during his tenure in the U. S. Senate as director of staff services for the Sub-committee for Children and Families. She went on to co-found Bright Horizons Family Solutions, which has grown to become the nation’s largest provider of workplace child-care. In 2012 Marguerite retired as president of Ameri-ca’s Promise Alliance, founded by Gen. Colin Powell. In 2010 President Barack Obama named Marguerite to the board of Corporation for National and Community Service, and she received a degree from the University of the South in 2011.

An **Evening with Marguerite Kondracke** will be hosted by Anne and Claude Stuart in their exceptionally unique Monteagle home, Good Knight Cottage, and is sponsored by Tower Community Bank. Tables for eight are available for \$2,000 and individual reservations are \$250 each.

Please RSVP at southcumberlandcommunityfund.org under the “Events” tab. Or you may mail a check to SCCF, P. O. Box 1301, Monteagle, TN 37356. Your payment is your reservation - seating is limited.

SCCF CLIFFTOPS RECEPTION

Clifftops resident John Canale hosted a wonderful evening for the neighborhood, giving residents the opportunity to learn more about SCCF while experiencing his beautiful home. Four years ago John made a gift of \$100,000 to establish the SCCF endowment, and that evening he made an additional \$100,000 gift to the fund. Since John’s initial gift the endowment has grown to more than \$550,000.



Host John Canale with Howell and Madeline Adams at the Clifftops reception April 26th.



Fawn and Michael Yarworth, Earnie Lumpkins, and Nancy Bradshaw.



Bill and Anne Davis with Nick Babson.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



MARYMOR “BOO” SANBORN CRAVENS JUNE 4, 1922 – MAY 9, 2018

Marymor “Boo” Cravens loved the South Cumberland Plateau, where she lived for most of her life until her recent death at age 95. The brief periods in her life when Sewanee wasn’t her address include her early school years and college, service in the Red Cross during World War II, and the pursuit of a career in social work in Memphis. Boo had many friends, colleagues, clients, and family who lived up and down the Plateau. One very special friend, Paul Scofield McConnell, served as music professor, organist, and choirmaster at the University for a distinguished career of 27 years. Boo developed a close relationship with Paul and his son, and was appointed guardian for his son by Paul in his later years.

After Paul’s death in 1982 the Paul S. McConnell Fund was established in his honor to bring music to the Plateau. At that point, Henry Agee, an estate attorney, became part of the story. “Boo liked involving the entire Plateau in philanthropic ventures, marshalling Plateau-wide charitable forces,” recalls Henry. “She had been monitoring the early stages of planning for the South Cumberland Community Fund, to see if it would materialize; at that time she was searching for a way to honor Paul McConnell through music on the Plateau. Somehow we found an address for the new fund, and sent our first check in December 2011 the first gift received by SCCF for their annual fund.”

In spring 2013, Boo was invited to the first Plateau-wide children’s choir event, sponsored in part by the McConnell Fund. Organized by the outstanding choir director and teacher, Nancy Allsbrook, and held at the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly for parents and families, friends, and supporters, a standing-room-only crowd applauded a spirited and polished performance. “I didn’t know there were so many others who liked to sing as much as I do,” said one young participant.

The McConnell Fund has supported music activities on the Plateau through SCCF for eight years, and plans to move the fund to SCCF’s endowment in the near future.

For information on how to make a gift to the SCCF endowment, contact Janet Cooper, jcooper@southcumberlandcommunityfund.org.

JOIN US IN 2018

The 2018 annual campaign of South Cumberland Community Fund kicked off in April and will continue until the end of the year. The goal of this year’s annual fund is \$300,000, with the additional opportunity to support SCCF’s sustainability by making a contribution to the SCCF endowment fund. Your donation will enable SCCF to continue to provide grants and programs for non-profits that improve education and health services and foster economic development in the nine communities of the South Cumberland Plateau.

JOIN US!

To make a donation to the
SCCF Annual Campaign
please visit our website
southcumberlandcommunityfund.org

OR

mail your check to SCCF:
PO Box 1301 • Monteagle
TN • 37356



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



More than 100 parents and children attended the first Plateau-wide Play Day, co-sponsored by SCCF. Children explored creative play options and enjoyed pizza at St. James Episcopal Church in Midway, Mountain TOP in Coalmont, Grundy Lakes in Tracy City, and Pelham Elementary School.

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