



South Cumberland Community Fund
Our Home. Our Mountain. Our Future.



More Giving,
More Good

2020
PHILANTHROPY
REPORT

Our Past Predicts Our Future... and It Is Bright!

In the late summer and early fall of 2011, the long discussed yet never acted upon concept of a community fund on the South Cumberland Plateau once again became a topic of conversation, championed by Beersheba Springs resident, Howell Adams.* This time was different. The right people, at the right time, were together in the right place, and this group of truly remarkable people was finally able to take the right steps to establish a fund to benefit the people of the South Cumberland Plateau.

Year 1 On December 5, 2011, a nine-person steering committee voted to form what is now known as South Cumberland Community Fund (SCCF) as a component fund of Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga. We now had a home on the Plateau and infrastructure from Chattanooga which would allow SCCF to focus on raising awareness and revenue.

The journey since inception has been unprecedented. Donations poured in before we began asking and before we even had stationary on which to thank donors. During the first year, we had several individuals commit to adding SCCF to their estate plans, unheard of for start-up nonprofit organizations. Only 11 months after the decision to form a community fund was made, we met our fundraising goal and awarded more than \$100,000 in grant money to 11 nonprofit organizations on the Mountain.

**Howell Adams served as founding co-chair of the SCCF board*

Year 2 SCCF's second year was no less exciting. Volunteers met around dining room tables, and families hosted their neighbors in their homes to tell the story of SCCF. Finally, an umbrella organization to support the many nonprofit and civic organizations across the Plateau was up and running and making a difference. During a follow-up session with the first cohort of grantees, the group expressed an additional need: they asked SCCF to also provide guidance to improve infrastructure so that they could become sustainable, reliable providers of services for the people of the Plateau.

This was a seminal moment in the life of South Cumberland Community Fund for several reasons:

- 1 The community was making a call for SCCF to step up and become more than a financial resource for the Plateau;
- 2 This call led the Fund to establish a community development program to provide training, workshops, and resources for the local nonprofit community - in essence, providing a path for organizations to become self-sustaining;
- 3 A remarkable and enduring partnership was formed between the University of the South and SCCF, which eventually gave rise to
- 4 South Cumberland AmeriCorps VISTA Project, a Philanthropy Internship Program for University of the South students, and the USDA Summer Meal Program, among many other initiatives.

Today Today South Cumberland Community Fund is feeding the need for leadership among the Plateau's nonprofit organizations to fulfill its original mission to "improve the quality of life across the Plateau by increasing philanthropic giving and providing community leadership."

Over the nine years of SCCF's existence, more than \$2.4 million has been raised for SCCF's annual fund, and its endowment fund has exceeded the \$1 million milestone set in 2011. This was made possible by our community and those who believe in our community. In turn, the Fund has invested more than \$5.6 million in the Plateau over the last nine years through donations, outside grants, and federal funds.

Year 10 Churchill said that "the longer you can look back, the farther you can see forward." As we enter our tenth year in 2021, we only have to look back over the brief nine years of our history to see the great future ahead of us. Thank you to all who have volunteered your time, talent, and treasure to build the foundation for this successful future. Every person and every gift will always make a difference.

—Scott Parrish,
*SCCF Founding Co-
chair; General Manager,
Monteagle Sunday
School Assembly*



ON THE COVER:

Drone shot of Tracy City's newly-completed Roundhouse Park, partially funded by a grant from SCCF.

The South Cumberland Plateau — A Brief History

Tennessee's beautiful South Cumberland Plateau region extends from Sewanee to Beersheba Springs and Palmer to Pelham, encompassing the towns of Monteagle, Tracy City, Coalmont, Gruetli-Laager, and Altamont in between. The Plateau rises up to 1,000 feet above the coves and valleys on either side, with some of these lower lying areas considered part of the overall Plateau geography. Prior to the early 19th Century, the Plateau primarily served as a hunting ground for Woodland Indians who crossed through the area on the Nickajack Trail. Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Creek Indians often wintered there, establishing temporary rock homes and camps along the Elk River and smaller creeks such as Fiery Gizzard Creek.

In the early 19th Century, settlers forged treaties with the indigenous people then moved into the region and cleared land for farms in the fertile valleys. Eventually mills were established in the vast forests of the Plateau. Coal was discovered in what is now Sewanee in 1853, and interest in settling on the Plateau increased significantly. Timber and coal were viewed as more sustainable industries - more attractive than the uncertainties of farming in the valleys below - and the population of the Plateau grew steadily throughout the 1800s.

Grundy County was established on the Plateau

in 1844 with the county seat situated in Altamont. Today, Grundy encompasses almost all of the South Cumberland Plateau as well as Pelham and several coves in the valleys below, with a portion of Monteagle residing in Marion County and Sewanee claimed by Franklin County.

The growth of the coal industry on the Plateau dictated the coming of the railroad to the Mountain in the 1850s. Originating in Cowan in the valley below Sewanee, the Mountain Goat Railroad

made the arduous journey up the Mountain and eventually ran all the way to Palmer, following the progression of the discovery of coal across the Plateau.

As the labor force grew, so did the call for organization — unions were formed and strikes became a part of the landscape. Violence became a component of the evolution of labor/management disputes that were always brewing beneath the surface. Though not involved in the initial union disputes, Highlander Folk School was established in 1932 in Summerfield, located between Monteagle and Tracy City, as a center for labor and civil rights organization. The impetus behind Highlander was education and advocacy for the miners as well as any other rural area workers, but by the 1960s its primary focus had changed to the civil rights movement. In 1962 the Highlander School was shut down by local government under the pretense that it was teaching Communist doctrine.

The black community began leaving the Plateau early on and by the 1950s blacks also left the valley areas looking for better jobs in northern cities that in-



Tracy City coal mine

highest levels of poverty in the state and the economic stagnation common to other Appalachian communities.

For the past four decades, the primary employers on the Plateau have been the University of the South in Sewanee, which now employs 720 individuals from across the region, followed by Grundy County School System which has a workforce of 350 members. Over the years, impressive efforts have been made by community stakeholders, including nonprofit organizations and local governments, to improve the lives of residents economically, as well as through education and health initiatives.

SCCF seeks to assist in these efforts to bring hope and prosperity to the Plateau and all its communities through collaborations with the nonprofit and civic organizations of the

region. The natural resources and beauty of this place combined with local citizens' vision for change is powerful, and a solid foundation for SCCF's work. In the words of one community stakeholder, "The people on the Plateau are the solution if energized and empowered."

Contributors: Jackie Layne Partin and Janelle Layne Taylor, Grundy County Historical Society

*Altamont • Beersheba Springs • Coalmont • Gruetli-Laager
Monteagle • Palmer • Pelham • Sewanee • Tracy City*

cluded Cleveland, OH; Peoria, IL; and Detroit, MI. They were soon followed by many white residents of the Plateau, making their journey north on what was ultimately called the "Hillbilly Highway." By the early 1970s the coal industry on the Plateau was dying, and in 1983 the railroad stopped operations on the Mountain. Given the loss of high-paying coal jobs in the region and very few other employment opportunities, the South Cumberland Plateau came to have some of the

How the SCCF/OCE Partnership Came to Be

As of January 1, 2021, Nicky Hamilton has taken the position of assistant vice president, government and strategic partnerships, as a member of the University of the South's economic development and community relations efforts. SCCF says farewell to Nicky with confidence that her new position will further foster collaboration and advancement for the South Cumberland Plateau.

In an effort to develop long-term, collaborative partnerships with multiple community organizations across the South Cumberland Plateau, the Office of Civic Engagement (OCE) was established in 2015 at the University of the South. Prior to this, the University had various involvements with the communities of the Plateau that lie outside the gates of the University's Domain, but no strategic plan on how to engage with the broader population in a meaningful, sustainable way.

To achieve this goal, the University developed a key partnership with South Cumberland Community Fund. This

partnership emerged as both organizations were developing tactics for supporting their related social impact missions, which were chiefly designed to support the well-being of the residents of the South Cumberland Plateau. This collaboration began with a plan to co-sponsor an AmeriCorps VISTA program, which focuses on capacity building for government-funded and nonprofit organizations. The University and SCCF agreed to share a professional position—the Director of Community Development—to run programs that coordinated the social impact practices of both organizations. The first and only person to-date to hold this crucial role was

Nicky Hamilton. Her innovative leadership in developing a Certificate in Nonprofit Management for local leaders and her creation of a Philanthropy Internship for Sewanee students are just two examples of her creative leadership.

Nicky's steadfast commitment to working with SCCF's board to build relationships



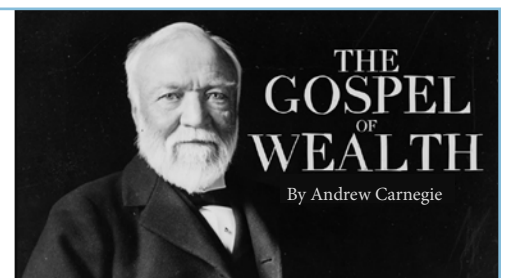
with community leaders and her vigorous support of community-initiated programs helped to establish the community development framework that has become the hallmark of SCCF's engagement with the Plateau's communities and nonprofit and civic organizations and the benchmark for SCCF's work. At the same time, through her position as Director of Community Development, coordinating the work of SCCF and the University, Nicky has made it possible for the University to live up to its commitment "To cultivate knowledge, resources, and relationships to advance the economic, social, and environmental well-being of our communities."

—James Peterman,
Chair, Department of Philosophy,
University of the South; Director, Office of
Civic Engagement, University of the South



Mary Jo Gallagher, former SCCF grants committee chair (far right) and Nicky Hamilton (3rd from right) lead a Philanthropy Internship Program class in 2017.

*Click on the box at right to view reading material for the
University of the South's Philanthropy Internship*



BY THE NUMBERS



\$146,500

The record amount of grant funding that SCCF awarded to 25 nonprofit organizations across the Plateau in 2020. This includes the spring and fall grants cycles, as well as an emergency COVID grant for the purchase of PPE to Grundy County EMS and a board-directed grant from Paul S. McConnell Fund.

Nicky Hamilton Shares Her Thoughts and Hopes for the Future of SCCF

What do you view as your most significant accomplishments during your tenure as community development director?

There are so many things that we were able to accomplish over the past seven years; SCCF grew by leaps and bounds in that time. I would have to say, though, that the relationships we created with local organizations and governments have been most important to our work. These collaborations in turn allowed us to convene individuals and groups from across the Plateau for workshops that brought nonprofit leaders together, as well as teachers from the eight elementary schools across the Plateau who came together to collaborate on teacher training - both of these were firsts. Last fall's *Community Conversations* was such a meaningful gathering for so many, and enabled us to follow up on outcomes from these sessions and prioritize our work, and fund initiatives on the Plateau that reflect priorities set by the broader community - also a first for us.

Another accomplishment has been establishing the South Cumberland AmeriCorps VISTA Project, growing it into one of the largest VISTA cohorts in Tennessee, whose members have done so much to promote sustainability in nonprofits on the Mountain. It was also an honor to see BetterFi, established as a result of a VISTA project, become an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to ending predatory lending and win a national award for Most Significant Innovation to an AmeriCorps Program - a first in Tennessee.

What was your biggest challenge?

Probably the lack of resources and support for rural areas. The South Cumberland Plateau is overlooked by many philanthropic entities, something that you probably never consider unless you are involved with nonprofits on the Plateau. SCCF has been incredibly fortunate to receive a considerable amount of support from individuals on and off the Mountain, which of course is passed on to nonprofits as grants and for other community initiatives. Still, after working with so many community and nonprofit leaders on the Plateau who have accomplished so much, it is frustrating to see the degree to which they are hampered by the lack of resources when they have so much more they want to accomplish.

What do you foresee/hope for the future of SCCF and its role on the Plateau?

Well, the first thing that comes to mind is to borrow the University prayer for "a never-failing succession of benefactors" to support SCCF's work in perpetuity! In addition, I hope that SCCF continues to grow its platform as a convener - we'd love to be able to attract more nationally-based partners to this area, to help us and all of our partners in our work. In the meantime, I am pleased that SCCF will continue to nurture its relationships with local organizations and government - without this continued collaborative work we won't be able to move the needle in a sustainable way.



Thank you for your service, Nicky! Anything else you would like to add?

Something I have yet to mention is the unique relationship between SCCF and the University of the South, which is invaluable. This partnership allowed us to bring the AmeriCorps VISTA program to the Mountain, and to establish the Philanthropy Internship Program for University students which added a fall grants cycle to our grants program, for which we award an additional \$30,000. The collaboration between SCCF and the University is a symbiotic relationship. The two organizations are mutually dependent upon one another despite the significant difference in resources. This partnership encourages every organization and stakeholder on the Plateau to take the opportunity to play a role in making the Plateau a stronger, more viable region.

Nicky's favorite quote

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

—Archbishop Desmond Tutu

FROM THE COMMUNITY

Among many gifts, Nicky's greatest, perhaps, is her ability to establish relationships rooted in mutual respect, trust, and hope. She has connected to the people of the Plateau, not just when business with SCCF was at issue, but as a colleague who cares about and enjoys the company of our partners. This is more than a disposition; it is a commitment to doing the unglamorous work of planning and executing programs that go off without a hitch. She makes everyone look good.

—Jack Murrah, SCCF Founding Board Member

Community Dividends

The founding board of South Cumberland Community Fund adopted the following *Vision* in 2011 to guide its work: that the Plateau be a place of hope and prosperity for all its residents and communities, inspired by the Fund's philanthropic leadership. Great strides have been made toward this goal over the past nine years through SCCF's collaborations with its neighbors and local service agencies in establishing innovative programs and initiatives that confront difficult issues on the Plateau.

In 2018, SCCF streamlined its

If a child is not healthy, well-fed and well-rested, she cannot learn... if a child falls behind in her education, she cannot graduate...if a child does not graduate, economic opportunities available to her are severely limited and the workforce and community suffer.

focus to target three areas of concern for the Plateau: health, education, and community/economic development. The SCCF grants program and *Community Conversations* projects highlighted on pages 4-6 were either funded in 2020

or came to completion last year, and are examples of initiatives that provide a pathway to community and economic development for the region in concert with improved health and education outcomes.

SCCF 2020 Grants Program

SPRING CYCLE GRANT RECIPIENTS

Arts Inside	\$3,037
Beersheba Springs Medical Clinic	\$5,000
Dependable Laundry	\$9,674
DuBose Conference Center	\$5,000
Folks at Home	\$2,540
Grundy County Department of Education	\$7,983
Grundy County Food Bank	\$4,150
Grundy EMS	\$5,160
Grundy County Mayor's Office	\$5,000
Marion Animal Resource Connection	\$2,500
Monteagle Elementary School	\$9,956
Morton Memorial	\$10,000
United Methodist Church	
Mountain T.O.P.	\$5,000
Ascension St. Thomas	\$7,500
Mobile Health Unit	
Tennessee Preservation Trust	\$5,600
Town of Altamont	\$5,000

FALL CYCLE GRANT RECIPIENTS

Arts Inside	\$3,500
Folks at Home	\$2,971
Grundy County Department of Education	\$4,546
Grundy EMS	\$4,913
Mountain Goat Trail Alliance	\$3,569
Pelham Elementary School	\$2,500
Tennessee Preservation Trust	\$3,100
Tracy City Elementary School	\$4,900



Ascension St. Thomas Mobile Health Unit \$7,500 Community/Economic Development and Health

The Mobile Health Unit (MHU) makes monthly visits to the South Cumberland Plateau, providing healthcare at no charge to uninsured and insured patients from the parking lot of Morton Memorial United Methodist Church. In addition to providing well check-ups and physicals, MHU provides prescription medications and acute medical care for Mountain residents, some of whom find themselves without medical coverage due to the pandemic.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

Individuals who are in acute need but would not have been able to enroll in the Mosaic Recovery Center program are now able to do so, thanks to SCCF's support.

—Kenny Green, former pastor,
New Beginnings Church, Monteagle



Community/Economic Development: This \$5,000 grant from SCCF helped finance the innovative logo design for the Plateau's wayfinding initiative (logos pending final approval).



Housing Sewanee, Inc. **\$3,825**
Community/Economic Development, Education, Health
 Housing Sewanee's emphasis on implementing energy-saving techniques in all of its homes led to the development of a demonstration building. This educational facility houses active models of the different energy-efficient systems utilized by Housing Sewanee: geothermal, high-grade insulation, spring-fed water, and lastly, the solar and rain catchment systems which were funded by SCCF.



Roundhouse Park, Tracy City **\$5,000**
Community/Economic Development
 A recent needs assessment conducted with families in Tracy City revealed the desire for a safe, outdoor gathering space. After many years and several grant awards Roundhouse Park became a reality, with SCCF providing a grant for the parking area. One of the longer-term goals of park development involves strengthening the downtown economy of Tracy City, with investment in sidewalks and façade improvements to historic buildings. As families enjoy the downtown district other visitors are likely to follow, with businesses in the area benefiting from increased traffic flow. See the front cover for the recent improvements to this area.



Tennessee Preservation Trust **\$5,600**
Community/Economic Development and Education
 This amount represents two grants awarded in SCCF's 2020 spring and fall cycles to support the completion of the restoration of Monteagle's historic Highlander Folk School library. Between 1932 and 1962 the school provided a valuable training ground for two generations of southern labor organizers and Civil Rights activists, including Martin Luther King, Jr.; Rosa Parks; and Pete Seeger, among others. Once the project is completed the library will be listed on the National Register of Historic Places and will serve as a gathering space for community events as well as a destination for those interested in learning about the history of the social justice movement in Tennessee and the South.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

When people visit our beautiful area, they want to see all the places and venues that we have to offer, but it is difficult to navigate to these places based upon current signage. In addition to providing clear signage for visitors, new wayfinding signs will be visually attractive to visitors and will better showcase our area, and the logos that have been created will give each community their own unique identity.

—Grundy County Mayor Michael Brady

SCCF/OCE Community Conversations

In fall of 2019, SCCF and the University's Office of Civic Engagement (OCE) sponsored *Community Conversations*, an opportunity for the community to come together to discuss pressing issues facing the communities of the

Plateau, with the intent of identifying top priorities for SCCF's and OCE's work moving forward. Following two sessions with more than 120 participants and a follow-up community-wide survey, SCCF provided funding in early fall 2020 for six

projects, four of which have already made progress on their initiatives. This targeted funding falls outside the normal SCCF grants process and is in response to issues that the community identified as worthy of immediate attention.



GRACE/Mosaic Recovery Center \$3,000

Community/Economic Development and Health

This funding that provides three individuals facing substance abuse and addiction with one year of full-time residency is a project of New Beginnings Church in Monteagle and Grace Recovery Alliance Community Endeavor. The Mosaic Center's facility in Pelham is a faith-based community that also provides job training and placement, parenting classes, and equine therapy for its residents.



Sequatchie Valley Head Start \$11,500

Community/Economic Development and Education

Head Start provides a safe and nurturing environment for children ages 0–5, strengthening families and preparing children for their next environment by promoting school readiness skills across all content areas. This grant allowed Sequatchie Valley Head Start to purchase 1,500+ books for children to call their own to be read at home by parents and caregivers, in response to this agency's ongoing effort to promote early childhood literacy.



Growing Roots \$3,276

Community/Economic Development, Education, Health

This project supported the construction of six sturdy and sustainable raised garden beds by volunteers at South Cumberland Learning & Development Center (SCLDC) in Tracy City. The beds are part of a garden-based health and wellness enrichment program offered by the Growing Roots After School Initiative (ASI). ASI is a trauma-informed, STEAM-based youth program that operates in close partnership with the Building Strong Brains/Discover Together Tutoring Center at SCLDC.



South Cumberland Learning and Development Center \$2,500

Community/Economic Development and Education

Building Strong Brains/Discover Together has partnered with AmeriCorps, Grundy County School System, and Growing Roots to spearhead the launch of the tutoring center at SCLDC. SCCF designated *Community Conversations* funding to purchase four desktop computers for tutoring, and the facility safely opened its doors in December of 2020 to students identified as at-risk for truancy. To-date, 16 students have received academic support and mentoring from a staff tutor, as well as eight volunteer tutors.

SCCF 2020 COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS FUNDING RECIPIENTS

GRACE/Mosaic Recovery Center	\$3,000
Growing Roots	\$3,276
Grundy County Sheriff's Office	\$7,080
Sequatchie Valley Head Start	\$11,500
South Cumberland Learning & Development Center	\$2,500
South Cumberland Plateau Health Network	\$7,000

Donate Now

to support these and other projects that bring hope and prosperity to the South Cumberland Plateau.

A New Way to Give

Donors now have access to PayPal to make donations to SCCF. Go to www.southcumberlandcommunityfund.org and click on Support Us/Ways to Give to make a donation today! Thank you for your support.



BY THE NUMBERS



\$83,000

The amount that SCCF invested in community development initiatives in 2020, including \$34,356 for priorities identified by the broader community through *Community Conversations*—a first for SCCF!

2020 Hindsight

On behalf of the SCCF Development Committee, I want to thank you—our generous donors—for your unwavering support of SCCF this past year. Given our status as a relatively young nonprofit organization, we switched gears in March and moved to a more cautious plan based on the pandemic: we reset previous projections, trimmed our budgets, and revised our grants program guidelines in anticipation of our grantees needing help with operating expenses.

We hunkered down to protect SCCF and preserve our resources so that we could continue to provide support for our collaborations with the nonprofit and civic organizations of the Plateau. Our own board of directors took on the challenge by exceeding previous levels of annual fund giving. We added 60 new donors in 2020, and redoubled our efforts

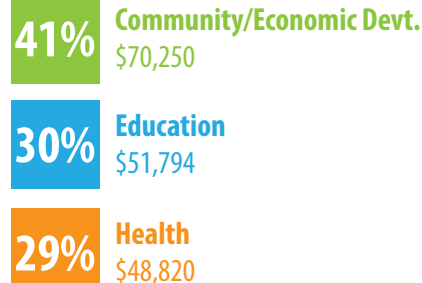
to reach a milestone of \$1,000,000 for the SCCF endowment to create a new revenue stream and achieved this impressive goal by year-end. We reinvented our annual fundraiser from a seated dinner to a drive-through event featuring locally grown food, with major sponsors enabling us to bring meals to more than 200 first responders and healthcare providers in gratitude for their service. When, in November, we still had a significant gap to meet our target, you, our steadfast donors, answered the call and helped us reach our goal. Together, we moved mountains.

Thank you for your overwhelming support in 2020!

—Carol Titus,
Co-chair, SCCF
Development
Committee

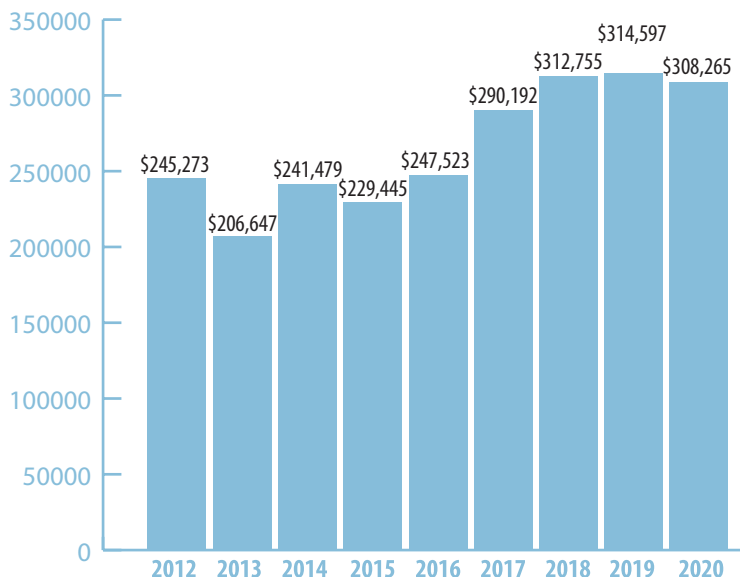


2020 Grant and Community Development Funding by SCCF Focus Group



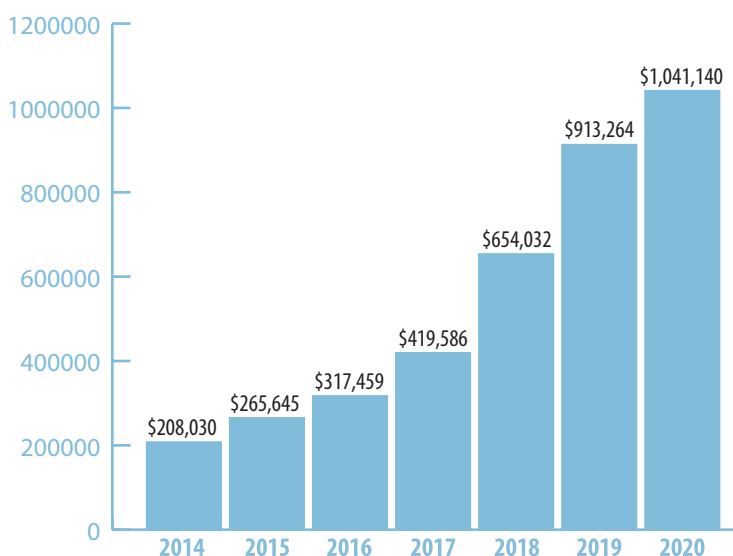
History of SCCF Annual Fund

SCCF exceeded its annual fund goal thanks to our donors who stepped up in 2020.



History of SCCF Endowment Fund

SCCF reached the \$1 million milestone for its endowment fund in 2020.



DID YOU KNOW?

If you use Amazon.com you may not realize that you can generate donations for the charity of your choice through your purchases. By simply shopping through the AmazonSmile portal and choosing SCCF as your charity, 0.5% of every purchase you make will benefit the communities of the Plateau. [Sign up for an AmazonSmile account today!](#)



8 / Sowing Seeds for the Future

Several years ago, my wife, Anne, and I were traveling and visited a botanical garden. As we entered the garden, I noticed a sign that spoke to me. It was a quote from Robert Louis Stevenson. It read:

“Let us not measure each day so much by the harvest we reap, but by the seeds we sow.”

How does this quote relate to planned giving? It is the essence of planned giving. In contrast to annual giving, planned giving sets seeds to germinate, to be harvested later. It asks the donor (sower) to explore the kind of seeds he or she might want to plant and the produce to be harvested. Various “tools” are available to facilitate the cultivation based on the needs and objectives of the donor in consultation with one’s advisors. The key to the planting is finding the passion: one’s “hot button,” to create a “garden” that stirs the heart in caring for others, thereby establishing a potential legacy for those who have given and for those who might benefit from the harvest.

There are a variety of ways one can make a planned gift and create a legacy through South Cumberland Community Fund. The “tools” available are as follows:

- 1 Leave a **Charitable Bequest** in your will designating a set amount or percentage of your estate to be left to SCCF and/or creating a specific fund of interest.
- 2 Utilize your **IRA**, or a portion thereof, as a primary or contingent beneficiary, naming SCCF as recipient.
- 3 Utilize a **Life Insurance Policy**. This option is probably the easiest to implement as it does not require redrafting documents—a change of ownership and/or change of beneficiary form allows you to allocate all or a portion of the proceeds to the beneficiary(ies) of your choice.
- 4 Create either a **Charitable Lead** or **Remainder Trust** keeping in mind the needs of both SCCF and one’s heirs. Careful drafting of documents is needed in conjunction with one’s attorney.



Bill Davis with his wife, Anne. Bill spent 35 years in the wealth management field and retired from Northern Trust Bank of Florida.

Planned giving through South Cumberland Community Fund allows you to establish a charitable legacy while also creating the potential for significant financial and tax benefits. Any decision should be made in conjunction with one’s financial, tax, and legal advisors. In the interim, SCCF stands ready to work with you to identify the “seeds,” “tools,” and “harvest” you wish to explore.

—Bill Davis,
SCCF Founding Board Member

*If you wish to make a planned giving gift,
please contact SCCF Director Janet Cooper at
jcooper@southcumberlandcommunityfund.org or 931.313.1663
to arrange an appointment to discuss your plans.*



Planned giving donor Dede Clements (right) with Jane Dalrymple-Hollo, both committed SCCF supporters, at an SCCF fundraiser in 2018.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

I am so grateful for the success of SCCF! When I wrote my initial planned gift letter, life was dramatically different. Sitting in solitude in my inn which I was forced to close during COVID19, I have been focusing on gratitude. . . deep thanks for all the blessings I still have. Grace, an unmerited universal gift, truly begets gratitude, and in turn begets generosity...and the circle continues. A planned gift is a way of giving to benefit others and a way of saying thank you to Grace.

—Dede Clements,
SCCF planned giving donor and community volunteer

Gratitude for Retiring Board Members

Sheila Beard

Plateau native and Monteagle resident Sheila Beard returned to the board in 2018 after a brief respite to chair the SCCF Community Development Committee. Sheila had served two previous terms on the SCCF board, which included positions on the SCCF steering and community development committees, and three years as chair of the SCCF Grants Committee. Sheila's vast experience working with Plateau communities, including her position at Sequatchie Valley Head Start, has been invaluable to SCCF's work. Sheila and former community development director, Nicky Hamilton, were a formidable team, creating numerous transformative collaborations with nonprofit and civic organizations across the region. SCCF is deeply grateful to Sheila for her long and fruitful commitment to this organization and the greater community.



Dot Neale

A part-time resident of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly, Dot Neale brought an impressive 35-year career with IBM to the table when she joined the SCCF board. Dot began her one-year board term by serving on the SCCF Development Committee for which she also took on the role of events chair. She moved on to the grants committee in her final year, assisting with the 2020 spring cycle grants process. Dot and her husband, Doug Ferris, are committed supporters of SCCF, and we are grateful to both of them for their sustaining influence on this organization.



Marshall Graves

Tracy City resident and businessman, Marshall Graves, joined the SCCF board in 2015 and served two terms. In addition to chairing the SCCF Communications Committee, Marshall served as SCCF vice chair before serving as chair. Marshall steered the board through the early stages of creating a three-year strategic plan, contributed critical advice on institutional infrastructure and board governance, and was instrumental in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of South. SCCF is fortunate to have had Marshall's expertise in its efforts to grow the organization.



Mike Partin

Mike Partin, CEO of Sequatchie Valley Electric, served one term on the SCCF board, which unfortunately ended prematurely due to other commitments. A life-long resident of Grundy County—he and his wife, Kim, live on the family's 150-year-old farm in Pelham—he is especially suited to understand the importance of SCCF's work in the region. In the two-plus years that Mike spent on the SCCF board he served on the nominating committee, and most importantly led the two Community Conversations sessions held in October 2019 to which community members were invited to brainstorm new initiatives to support the South Cumberland Plateau.



SCCF 2021 Elected Board Members



Betty Carpenter



Eddie Krenson



Rick Wright

BY THE
NUMBERS



2,400

Number of volunteer hours donated in 2020 by SCCF board and committee members, for an estimated value of \$56,435.

2020 Annual Fund Donors

Mr. & Mrs. Garrett Adams*
 Mr. & Mrs. ^ Howell Adams, Jr.*
 Mr. & Mrs. Howell Adams, III
 Mr. Jerry Adams
 Mr. & Mrs. John R. Adams
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Adams*
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert N. Adrian
 Henry & Lesa Agee
 The Right Rev. J. Neil Alexander
 Don & Edith Adams Allison*
 Nancy & Lee Allsbrook
 Mr. Stephen Alvarez °
 AmazonSmile Foundation
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Ambrose
 Ms. Mae Ambrose
 Mr. & Mrs. Newton Anderson
 Mr. & Mrs. Scott Anderson*
 Anonymous (2)
 Arts Inside
 Ms. Carol Ayala
 Ayco Charitable Foundation
 Margaret & Robert Ayres
 Mrs. Robert Ayres*
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Babson*
 Dan & Lee Ann Backlund
 Mr. & Mrs. John Baggenstoss
 Sam & Kelly Baggett
 Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Baird
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ball
 Mrs. Bill Barry*
 Ms. Julia Bates
 Ms. Phoebe Bates*
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Revisit the cover of this edition for a comparison between this 1928 photo of downtown Tracy City and the current profile of this gateway community to the South Cumberland State Park.

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Local musicians entertained patrons at SCCF's Fall Harvest Celebration drive-through fundraiser on September 12, as they waited to receive their beautifully packaged gourmet dinners.



South Cumberland Community Fund
Our Home. Our Mountain. Our Future.

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