

From Conversations to Concerted Action

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Fall Harvest Celebration Is a Win-Win
for the South Cumberland Plateau



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SouthCumberlandCommunityFund.org

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THE VISION of SCCF 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 SCCF 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 collaborations
- support innovative ways to solve community problems.

ON THE COVER: Children at Sequatchie Valley Head Start, SCCF's partner in the early childhood literacy initiative, engage in story time.

A Message from the Director



Back in March, I would not have dreamed that the nonprofits of the South Cumberland Plateau would be able to accomplish what they have this year. The emergency Zooms and lengthy phone calls that we all endured at the beginning of the pandemic - to discuss revised budgets, canceled events, how to raise funds in uncertain economic times, and much more - were variously wearisome, disheartening, and anxiety-ridden. In spite of this challenge, we came together this year to create change, achieve results, and find hope, which

is a testament to the resilience and optimism of the people of this region.

This past summer, the SCCF Community Development Committee began discussions with several Plateau nonprofits whose missions reflect initiatives that emerged during last year's Community Conversations. Six important programs emerged from these collaborations, to be funded over the coming year.

In spite of the pandemic, other SCCF-funded organizations stepped in to provide safe, socially distanced health care for the region, including free health care and flu shots at various locations on the Plateau.

In a collaboration between SCCF and the University of the South, eight grants totaling \$30,000 were awarded to area nonprofits in October by University students, after they virtually shadowed the SCCF grants process in the spring and interviewed applicants this fall. These philanthropy internship students are now

passionately empowered to include civic engagement in their futures.

Finally, a challenge grant made by four individuals last month coupled with an unexpected, generous gift from an anonymous donor allowed SCCF to reach its \$1 million endowment milestone. This development allows for further sustainability for SCCF's mission to provide support for and engage in collaborations with the nonprofits of the South Cumberland Plateau.

None of the accomplishments listed here would have been achieved without the support of committed donors - not only SCCF donors, but everyone who stepped up this year to support the numerous community organizations who strive to create hope and prosperity for the region. Thank you, thank you. The sacrifices you made when they were most sorely needed will not be forgotten.

—Janet Cooper
SCCF Director

our
home
our
mountain
our
future

A Milestone Met! SCCF Endowment Reaches First Million



An anonymous, generous gift
lifts us over the top

Celebrating first million dollars
for SCCF endowment

Raised in less than a decade

Earnings on the endowment enable
SCCF to broaden its impact

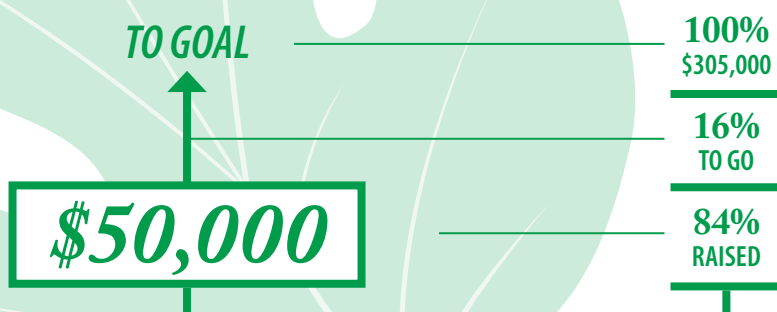
Creates a brighter outlook for
the future with our partners
on the Plateau

Photograph by Jack Ivey



Thank you to our donors.

SCCF Annual Fund Is 16% Away from 2020 Goal



The amount SCCF has left to raise to reach its annual fund goal!

SCCF has \$50,000 left to raise to reach the \$305,000 goal for its 2020 annual fund. Please go to www.southcumberlandcommunityfund.org and donate today to help us ensure that SCCF will be able to successfully continue its collaborations with the communities of the South Cumberland Plateau.

University of the South Philanthropy Internship Students Award Eight Grants During SCCF's Fall Cycle

Arts Inside: \$3,500

Arts Inside works to strengthen and maintain relationships between incarcerated men and women at the Grundy County Jail and their family members. This program offers arts and education programming as a way to promote creativity and encourage healthy expression. As Arts Inside expands its focus to deliver flexible case management and advocacy services, this grant provides funding to collaborate on a research study to identify the most pressing needs of ex-incarcerated individuals and develop organizational capacity to meet those particular needs.

Folks at Home: \$2,971

Folks at Home is a local nonprofit organization that coordinates services to empower individuals to live at home with dignity in the community they love. This grant will enable Folks at Home to contract with Compassionate Care to provide transportation during the COVID-19 pandemic for “essential” doctor’s appointments for a 12-month period.

Grundy Co. Dept. of Education: \$4,546

Grundy County Department of Education serves approximately 2,000 students in one high school and six elementary/middle schools across the county. This grant will purchase 14 Mifi devices and data to ensure internet access and support high-quality academic instruction for all students in both school and virtual classrooms. Mifi devices are wireless routers that act as mobile Wi-Fi hotspots that help students maintain online learning without interruption.

Grundy EMS: \$4,913

Grundy EMS provides prehospital care and emergency and non-emergency ambulance transportation to the sick and injured in the community. Grundy EMS will use this grant to purchase additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ensure an adequate supply is available to protect employees and patients from COVID-19.

Mountain Goat Trail Alliance: \$3,569

Mountain Goat Trail Alliance is committed to building a multiuse, multi-modal 40-mile walking and cycling trail connecting the communities of the Plateau along the path of the Plateau’s historic Mountain Goat Railroad. This grant provides funding to resurface the wooden bridge behind La Bella Pearl Restaurant to prevent accidents of slipping in damp conditions.

Pelham Elementary: \$2,500

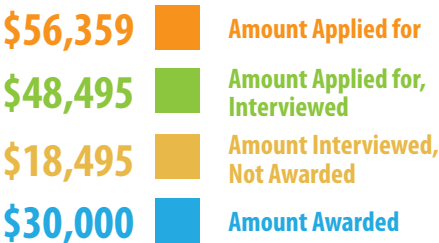
The mission of Pelham Elementary School is to provide a safe and caring environment where students can grow and learn academically, socially, physically, and emotionally in preparation for their future. This grant will fund a sensory room to provide students diagnosed with sensory processing issues with the proper environment they need to adequately help them succeed in school.

Tennessee Preservation Trust: \$3,100

The Tennessee Preservation Trust works to promote, preserve, and protect our state’s diverse historic resources through education, advocacy, and collaborative partnerships. This grant provides funding to complete the restoration of the historic Highlander Folk School library. After the completion of the building, the Highlander Folk School library will be listed on the National Register of Historic Places and serve as a media center, community space, and a place for those interested in learning about the social justice movement in Tennessee and the greater South.

Tracy City Elementary School: \$4,900

Tracy City Elementary School serves approximately 348 students in grades Pre-K through 8th from families in Tracy City and surrounding communities in Grundy County. The mission of Tracy City Elementary is to develop hearts, minds, and lives for the future. This grant will purchase 20 Chrome-book computers as part of an initiative to ensure high-quality academic instruction for all students in both school and virtual classrooms.



The Light of the World through Philanthropy: A Love Letter to Our Community in 100 Years

University of the South alum (C'91) Rondal Richardson joined the Philanthropy Grant Awards Ceremony Zoom on October 30 to speak to University students and other attendees about the power of philanthropy. Currently serving as the Entertainment and Donor Liaison to Nashville's Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Rondal has vast experience working with celebrities and other donors to make a difference in lives through philanthropy.



Using examples such as Benjamin

Franklin's amazing vision in the early years of philanthropy, to Abraham Lincoln's profound belief in the American Experiment expressed in his Gettysburg Address, to letters written by Tennesseans suffering from the flu pandemic of 100 years ago - Richardson provided examples of the "love letters" from our nation's history that teach us the strength of who we are and who we can become. He urged the Plateau community to envision what a love letter to future generations of philanthropists might look like, and to build upon our work in order to make that a reality.

"Even in the middle of a pandemic, we choose to take responsibility for our parts of the whole again. We offer assurance and civility, even when the world isn't always kind. We dig into our deep wells and tributaries to become humanitarians and fighters for justice. Because – mind you – it's a time of dangerous opportunity."

—Rondal Richardson, 2020 Philanthropy Grant Awards Ceremony

Bonnie and John McCardell Fund for Community Philanthropy

An endowed fund honoring Bonnie and John McCardell has been established with \$241,000 in gifts and pledges. The Bonnie and John McCardell Fund for Community Philanthropy joins a previously established community philanthropy fund, created in 2017. Together the two funds represent just under \$500,000 in endowment, and, when fully vested, the program will be able to award one grant each year between \$20,000 and \$25,000 to support the Philanthropy Internship Program, a unique partnership between the University of the South and SCCF.

"Before taking the philanthropy class, I had never thought much about what philanthropy actually means. As an international student, most projects at home are predominantly government funded or funded through foreign aid. In the U. S., you had Andrew Carnegie and the likes lay a foundation to guide people on how to better use their wealth. In the U. S. people often share their money while in developing nations like mine, prayers, family support, and community visits define what we know as philanthropy. My biggest take-away from this course is that philanthropy means simply sharing what you have. So philanthropy has always existed in my country as well, but it has a different face to it."



—Feza Umutohi, C'22, University philanthropy student from Kigali, Rwanda



A sampling of philanthropy internship students, grantees, SCCF board members, the University's Office of Civic Engagement staff, and other attendees who joined the 2020 Philanthropy Grant Awards Ceremony Zoom on October 30.

Community Conversations Initiatives are Taking Off

In October 2019, SCCF sponsored two days of Community Conversations with community members from across the Plateau to identify pressing issues for the region. SCCF heard your concerns, and is moving forward in collaboration with various nonprofit partners to tackle these issues and support projects that will bring about desired change.

This past summer, SCCF put out a call to organizations whose missions reflect these initiatives, asking them to submit proposals that align with defined goals in the areas of health, education, and economic development. The graphic at right is a summary of Community Conversations initiatives that was approved for funding by SCCF's Community Development Committee this fall; in total \$34,356 in funding were approved. We thank the Plateau community for its participation in Community Conversations discussions, and its dedication to strengthening the lives of all South Cumberland Plateau residents.

GRACE (GRUNDY RECOVERY ALLIANCE COMMUNITY ENDEAVOR): \$3,000

GRACE is a faith-based, nonprofit recovery organization focused on providing educational programs and safe, welcoming environments to build and strengthen community, and aid recovery from disruptive life events. This funding will support one year of residency at Mosaic Men's Recovery Center for three individuals, which will expand available resources to treat substance abuse and addiction as well as increase access to mental health care.

GROWING ROOTS: \$3,276

Growing Roots is focused on whole health and encourages wellness in every part of a person's being - everything from the food we put in our bodies to social structures that provide support and community. These funds will enable the construction of sturdy, sustainable garden beds; agricultural-based learning; and equipment for youth and young adult culinary instruction as part of after-school programming. This funding meets the perceived need for more vocational/technical education and training opportunities on the Mountain, as well as social-emotional education and soft skills training for students.

TOP PRIORITIES

HEALTH

- Expand resources available to prevent and treat substance abuse and addiction 91%
- Seek opportunities to increase access to mental health care 83%

EDUCATION

- Develop more vocational/technical education and training opportunities 87%
- Focus on early childhood literacy 82%

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Develop strategies to improve job opportunities 89%
- Identify workforce development priorities and develop strategies to offer training for specific vocational/technical skills 84%

GRUNDY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE: \$7,080

This funding for Grundy County Sheriff's Office will provide online training for staff to improve competency in responding to mental health crises, suicide prevention, and motivational interviewing among the incarcerated population. This project answers the call for expanding resources to prevent and treat substance abuse and addiction, and increases access to mental health care.

SEQUATCHIE VALLEY HEAD START: \$11,500

This assistance will allow Head Start to purchase 1,500+ books for children to call their own, in this agency's ongoing effort to promote early childhood literacy. Part of this funding includes funds to add special book labels to each book that contain helpful tips for parents on how to read and interact with their child during at-home story time. In addition, educational materials on social and emotional well-being and good nutrition will be sent home with families each month.

SOUTH CUMBERLAND LEARNING DEVELOPMENT CENTER: \$2,500

This innovative, groundbreaking facility is located in the former Grundy County High School in Tracy City, and will serve as a one-stop nonprofit service center for the region. Newly opened in spring 2020, Safe Baby Court has moved its operations to the center, and will be followed by the Growing Roots project and Grundy County Workforce Services in fall 2020. In a partnership with Building Strong Brains Tennessee, this funding will provide three desktop computers to outfit the workforce's student center to help students access credit recovery classes in an effort to graduate on time, as well as provide after-school tutoring. This initiative addresses the need for more vocational and educational training on the Plateau.

SOUTH CUMBERLAND PLATEAU HEALTH NETWORK: \$7,000

Grundy County's Health Network will use this funding to develop a strategic plan to reduce barriers that currently exist throughout the local area for accessing medicine-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder. The goal is to develop a comprehensive action plan to guide the ongoing work of social service agencies on the South Cumberland Plateau to address these barriers in order to expand available resources to prevent and treat substance abuse and addiction.

Nonprofit leaders and numerous other members of the community, SCCF staff and board members, SCP AmeriCorps VISTA members, and staff from the University's Office of Civic Engagement gathered at DuBose Conference Center for a day of Community Conversations in October 2019.

SCCF Grant Assists 2020 *Dash to the Door* in Setting New Record

The 2020 virtual Dash to the Door 5K run/walk that benefited Beersheba Springs Medical Clinic (BSMC) was the most successful in the history of this event. Due to \$22,000 in matching grants, a strategic fundraising plan initiative funded by SCCF's Community Development Committee, BSMC board and staff support, ancillary events sponsored by Stacy Beam Fine Art, and financial support from numerous other donors, the 2020 event exceeded this year's \$50,000 goal.



“I want to express my thanks to SCCF for always believing in the concept of having a one-stop shop for family resources on the Plateau. It has been a very long process, but the South Cumberland Learning and Development Center (SCLDC) is now open. The mission of SCLDC is to offer programs that support the health, education, and social development of families, including behavioral health care, workforce development, post-secondary college support, drug prevention, and early childhood intervention.”

—Emily Partin

Director, Family Resource Center, Grundy County School System



SCCF Fall Fundraiser Provides Support for the Mountain's Essential Workers, Local Growers, and Area Businesses

Thanks to the ingenuity of the South Cumberland Community Fund Development Committee, SCCF was able to sponsor a multi-faceted, COVID-safe fundraiser on September 12 that broadened the impact of this annual event. The Fall Harvest Celebration not only raised funds to benefit area nonprofits, but also supported local growers, restaurants, and other businesses, as well as the Plateau's essential workers, all of whom are facing various challenges this year.

Donors drove through the grounds of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly the evening of the 12th to pick up their specially packaged, gourmet dinners at the Assembly dining hall, prepared by Corner Market Catering and using many

ingredients from local growers. Masked SCCF volunteers delivered meals to donors' trunks and cargo spaces while local musicians entertained drivers from the patio. In addition, nineteen Fall Harvest Celebration sponsors made possible the delivery of more than 200 meals sourced from area restaurants and delivered to essential workers on 9/11 Service Day by the South Cumberland Plateau (SCP) AmeriCorps VISTA cohort, to thank them for their support during the pandemic.

This event was a win-win for so many, and a perfect example of how this Mountain's communities can come together to create a common good. Thank you to our event sponsors, donors, volunteers, and local growers and businesses who made this event a success!

Fall Harvest Celebration UNDERWRITER



Fall Harvest Celebration SPONSORS

Madeline & Howell Adams
 Mary & Nick Babson
 Sheila & Bill Beard
 Jan & Joe DeLozier
 Knowles & Bill Harper
 Burton Jablin & Barron Patterson
 Sheri & Mark Lawrence
 Lee & Tom Limbird
 Marguerite & Sam Lloyd
 Lodge Manufacturing
 Pam & Greg Maloof
 June & Joe Mays
 Dot Neale & Doug Ferris
 Ruth Patterson & Rich Wyckoff
 Anne & Claude Stuart
 Pam & Steve Taylor
 Christi Teasley & Carlton Young
 Carol & Bill Titus
 Margaret Woods

Fall Harvest Celebration GROWERS & BUSINESSES

Bell's Cove Honey, Pelham
 The Bread Peddler, Monteagle
 Cove Creek Farm, Tracy City
 Full Circle Candles, Monteagle
 Brown's Hollar Farm, Tracy City
 Sequatchie Cove Farm, Sequatchie
 Ned Stone, Sewanee Domain
 Wheeler's Orchard & Vineyard, Dunlap
 White City Produce & Greenhouse, White City



The SCP AmeriCorps VISTA cohort delivered meals to area first responders and health care professionals on 9/11 Service Day.



SCCF volunteers Howell Adams and Leah Rhys greet donors as they arrive to pick up their gourmet meals on September 12.

9/11 Service Day Meal Recipients

911 Call Center
 Beersheba Springs Medical Clinic
 Altamont Volunteer Fire Dept.
 Beersheba Springs Volunteer Fire Dept.
 Coalmont Volunteer Fire Dept.
 Emerald-Hodgson
 Hospital Emergency Room
 Gruetli-Laager Volunteer Fire Dept.
 Grundy County EMS
 Grundy County Health
 Grundy County Sheriff's Dept.
 Monteagle Police Dept.
 Monteagle Volunteer Fire Dept.
 Mountain Valley Mental Health Center
 Palmer Volunteer Fire Dept.
 Pelham Volunteer Fire Dept.
 Safe Baby Court
 Sewanee Police Dept.
 Sewanee Volunteer Fire Dept.
 Tracy City Police Dept.
 Tracy City Volunteer Fire Dept.



Thank You to Our First Responders and Health Care Professionals



VISTAs load meals from Monteagle's Mi Casa restaurant, bound for Beersheba Springs Medical Clinic.



Grundy County Health Department - Altamont



Grundy County Sheriff's Office - Altamont



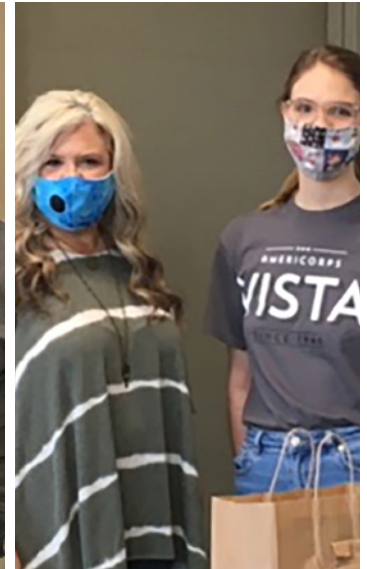
Beersheba Springs Medical Clinic



VISTAs depart Sewanee's Blue Chair Cafe after picking up meals for Emerald-Hodgson Hospital emergency room staff.



Grundy County EMS - Sewanee division



Safe Baby Court - South Cumberland Learning & Development Center, Tracy City



Sewanee Volunteer Fire Department

Many, many thanks to Fall Harvest Celebration sponsors for making the 9/11 meal delivery possible. Also thank you to the South Cumberland Plateau AmeriCorps VISTA cohort and SCCF board members for delivering these meals to first responders and health care professionals across the Plateau on 9/11 Service Day.

Sewanee Elementary 5th Grader Wins SCCF 2020 Tribute Holiday Card Contest

Maggie Lu Rudd, a 5th grader at Sewanee Elementary School, is the winning artist for the 2020 SCCF tribute holiday

card. SCCF deeply appreciates Maggie's contribution to lighting up lives on the South Cumberland Plateau this holiday season.

Please go to the website listed below to buy your cards today! Thank you for your support of SCCF and the communities of the Plateau.



SOUTH CUMBERLAND COMMUNITY FUND holiday cards are a perfect way to honor your loved ones this holiday season, through a gift to SCCF. 2020 holiday cards are priced at \$10 each, and give donors the opportunity to have their card recipients recognized in the 2020 SCCF annual report, to go out in early 2021.

In addition, a limited edition 3-pack of SCCF holiday cards from past years is available for \$15/pack. These cards also afford the opportunity for donors to honor their recipients.

Your donation to this project not only brings value through additional monetary support for SCCF and its collaborations with area nonprofits, but also provides the opportunity to make a meaningful gift to a friend or loved one while at the same time recognizing their special place in your life.



www.southcumberlandcommunityfund.org





South Cumberland Community Fund

Our Home. Our Mountain. Our Future.

Please make a donation to SCCF's annual fund today to help us continue to provide:

- \$130,000 in grants awarded annually to nonprofits, community organizations, and area schools
- \$65,000 invested annually in innovative, sustainable community development projects that support health, education, and economic development initiatives; as well as support for top priorities derived from SCCF and the University of the South's Community Conversations for opioid addiction prevention, early childhood literacy, and workforce development
- SCCF workshops and consults that cover timely topics such as navigating the virtual workspace, nonprofit fundraising, crisis management, etc.

Please go to www.southcumberlandcommunityfund.org to make your donation. Thank you for your support of SCCF's collaborations with the region's stakeholders to promote hope and prosperity for the South Cumberland Plateau.



Over the years, SCCF has done more to draw together the people of the Plateau than any effort by any other organization that I know."

—Mary Priestley, Naturalist and Author

Follow us, spread the news, and share our work.



southcumberlandcommunityfund.org



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SCCF's ongoing partnership with the Ascension St. Thomas Mobile Health Unit supports a primary care and flu shot clinic at Morton Memorial United Methodist Church in Monteagle the second Saturday monthly.

The next clinic held is...

Saturday • December 12

9 a.m.—Noon

The clinic is free and open to the community.

**Wear a mask, wash your hands,
get a flu shot... stay safe!**



MAILING

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SouthCumberlandCommunityFund.org



SCCF board member Rich Wyckoff delivers gourmet meals to donor Bill Beard at SCCF's drive through fall fundraiser on September 12.