



## *Meeting Challenges with Action*

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Demonstrating Resilience in Response to COVID-19

Introducing Conscious Discipline Curriculum to Plateau Schools

Virtual Workshop: *Managing in Crisis and Uncertainty*

Expanding Summer Meal Program to Meet Greater Need

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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.

# Coming Together During Challenging Times



Summertime on the Mountain is quieter this year, but much is going on behind the scenes. Thanks to teleconferencing and electronic voting, our board has continued to work throughout the pandemic.

We have just awarded grants to 16 community partners who are pursuing worthwhile projects or finding ways to sustain their organizations during this time of uncertainty. In this issue you can also read about the adjustments we made to the application process to accommodate the immediate needs of some of our nonprofits and the interesting projects others are pursuing. In the early stages of COVID-19 we granted emergency funds to Grundy County Emergency Management Agency for the purchase of PPE supplies for first responders and health care professionals across the Plateau. We are supporting tourism efforts to boost our economy. Once again, our summer meal program is in high gear, and is especially essential this year. We are assisting with teacher preparation for stu-

dents' emotional well-being as they return this fall.

All of this could not happen without your support. I invite you to consider a donation and volunteering your time, as SCCF is experiencing financial challenges, too.

As I described our mission in my first letter to you as chair, and as I now complete my tenure at the end of this year: My sincere wish is that for those of you who have left the Plateau that you remain connected; for those who have stayed, that you thrive here and make it stronger; and for those who visit, that you value all this area has to offer. Whatever your relationship to the Plateau, I hope something has struck you as a reason to become more involved with us.

—Sheri Lawrence  
 SCCF Board Chair

*In March, as a result of the COVID pandemic, SCCF provided an emergency grant to Grundy County Emergency Management Agency to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders and health care professionals on the Plateau. This funding was followed by an additional grant for PPE awarded during SCCF's 2020 spring grants cycle to Grundy County Emergency Medical Services.*





**Virtual Celebration of the Plateau Honors 16 Spring Cycle Grant Recipients**

Story on pages 2-3

More than 70 nonprofit and civic leaders and members of the community attended the virtual presentation of SCCF's Celebration of the Plateau on June 9, 2020, honoring SCCF spring cycle grant recipients.



**SCCF and Plateau Partners Respond to COVID-19 Pandemic**

Story on pages 4-5

Morton Memorial United Methodist Church food bank and other nonprofits across the region joined SCCF in embracing innovative practices to continue serving the Plateau safely and effectively in the face of COVID-19.



**Summer Meal Program Provides 7,000 Meals/Week for Plateau Children**

Story on pages 6-7

The Summer Meal Program has returned to the Plateau to provide meals for the region's children - an especially needed service in this time of economic hardship due to the pandemic.

# Celebration of the Plateau Recognizes 16 Nonprofits and Honors SCCF Founding Board Member Bonnie McCardell

On June 9, 2020 SCCF's spring grants cycle recipients were recognized through a virtual presentation that was joined by community members, nonprofit leaders, and community stakeholders from across the South Cumberland Plateau. In addition, SCCF founding board member Bonnie McCardell was honored for her contributions to the communities of the Plateau as she and her husband, John McCardell (now former Vice Chancellor for the University of the South), completed ten years of service to the University and the broader Plateau community.

Congratulations to our 2020 spring cycle grant recipients and a big thank you to Bonnie, who was instrumental in the establishment of South Cumberland Community Fund.



Bonnie McCardell with friend and colleague Jim Peterman, University of the South Office of Civic Engagement director.

## SCCF 2020 Spring Grants Cycle Funded Projects

<b>Arts Inside</b>	<b>\$3,037</b>	<b>Grundy EMS, Inc.</b>	<b>\$5,160</b>	<b>Morton Memorial</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
Multimedia equipment to facilitate workshop presentations		Personal protection equipment for paramedics and EMTs		<b>United Methodist Church</b>	
				General operating expenses for food bank	
<b>Beersheba Springs Medical Clinic</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>Grundy County Food Bank</b>	<b>\$4,150</b>	<b>Mountain T.O.P.</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
General operating expenses		General operating expenses		Summer staff salaries	
<b>Dependable Laundry</b>	<b>\$9,674</b>	<b>Grundy County Mayor's Office</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>St. Thomas Medical Partners</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>
General operating expenses		Design fee for creation of branding logos for the communities of the South Cumberland Plateau		<b>Mobile Health Unit</b>	
<b>DuBose Conference Center</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>			Free, basic medical care for South Cumberland Plateau	
General operating expenses		<b>Marion Animal Resource Connection (MARC)</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>Tennessee Preservation Trust</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Folks at Home</b>	<b>\$2,540</b>	Spay/neutering project and educational program for humane treatment of animals		Restoration of the Plateau's historic Highlander Folk School	
General operating expenses				<b>Town of Altamont</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Grundy County Department of Education</b>	<b>\$7,983</b>	<b>Monteagle Elementary School</b>	<b>\$9,956</b>	Renovation of Florence Scruggs Municipal Auditorium	
"Enrollment Express": A streamlined software program that allows for the collection of accurate enrollment data		"Technology Project": Chromebooks for every student			

## Proclamation for Bonnie McCardell

Whereas, in 2011, Bonnie attracted key people on the South Cumberland Plateau who believed “the time has come” for the creation of an organization to improve the lives of its people, now known as South Cumberland Community Fund (SCCF).

Whereas, her vision and unwavering focus were responsible for the broad impact realized through the grants and community development work of SCCF, and the ensuing ground-breaking partnership with the University of the South’s Office of Civic Engagement.

Whereas, to work with Bonnie from the early years of SCCF to the present is to walk beside someone who has been enriched by years of community service, and who has developed the wisdom to both see the long view and imagine the many small steps it takes to get there.

Whereas, her gift for relating to people, wherever they find themselves in life, brings together players from every community on the Plateau who are working to enhance the lives of their fellow citizens.

Whereas, Bonnie knows how to weather the tumbles without losing hope; is persistent and tenacious and will find a way to move forward but always with her ear to the ground, listening for community wisdom to find the next step.

Whereas, Bonnie is the most rooted, committed, inclusive, and responsible kind of servant leader, no matter the job at hand, and her passion for lifting up disadvantaged communities by empowering the leaders among them is real—as evidenced by her establishment of *Make a Difference Day* and work in early childhood education and through *Discover Together*.

Whereas, Bonnie is a friend, an inspiration, and a beacon to others who are seeking ways to enrich their communities through collaboration and engagement with the stakeholders in these communities: the people who live in them.

— South Cumberland Community Fund Board —  
June 9, 2020

## Mayor’s Office Grant Will Expand Tourism Across the Plateau

As a result of a grant awarded to the Grundy County Mayor’s Office during SCCF’s 2020 spring grants cycle, the firm Tommy Stokes Design of Knoxville has been hired to support a tourism-focused branding initiative for the South Cumberland Plateau. This project follows the creation of a new website for the region, and will include design work for individual, unique logos for each of its nine communities.

Fulfillment of this grant will include



the participation of the Grundy County Mayor’s Office, Southeast Tennessee Tourism Association, South Cumberland Plateau AmeriCorps VISTA Project, and the communities of the Plateau in a collaborative effort to bring about economic change in the region for the benefit of its residents.

## New Fund Established to Support SCCF Grants Process

The University of the South’s Board of Regents announced the creation of the *Bonnie and John McCardell Fund for Community Philanthropy* on June 17, 2020. The fund will support an important aspect of the University’s civic engagement program: the innovative Community Philanthropy Internship Program. University student interns have the opportunity to take a course on the theory and practice of philanthro-

py, which includes shadowing the grant-making process of South Cumberland Community Fund (SCCF). The course concludes with students awarding grants totaling \$30,000 to community nonprofits in a second round of SCCF grant awards. Through this educational and deliberative process, University students share in SCCF’s vision of creating prosperity and hope for the residents of the South Cumberland Plateau.

Students who participated in the University’s 2019 Philanthropy Internship Program awarded eight grants totaling \$29,887 during SCCF’s fall grants cycle.



# SCCF and Plateau Partners Demonstrate Resilience in Response to COVID-19

## *SCCF Provides Emergency Grant and Adjusts Grants Policy*

As the coronavirus crisis unfolded, SCCF moved quickly to adopt new methods to accommodate the emerging needs of its nonprofit partners. A first initiative that surfaced was making sure that first responders and health care professionals had access to much-needed personal protection equipment (PPE) in order to safely serve the communities of the Plateau. At the request of Grundy County Emergency Management Agency, SCCF awarded a \$10,000 emergency grant for the purchase of PPE for these essential workers.

Secondly, the SCCF Grants Committee chose to allow grant applicants to apply for funding for operational expenses in addition to its policy of providing funding for innovative, sustainable projects. The committee correctly assumed that given the economic hardship that was sure to occur as a result of the crisis, the resources that Plateau nonprofits relied on would be diminished, affecting their bottom line. The change in policy to provide funding in 2020 for operational expenses was welcomed by the nonprofit community and resulted in 7 out of 23 applicants applying in this new category.

## MANAGING IN CRISIS AND UNCERTAINTY

Learn exemplary leadership practices in the context of leading teams and resilience in crisis

Recognize the differences between leadership and management

Increase confidence in personal leadership



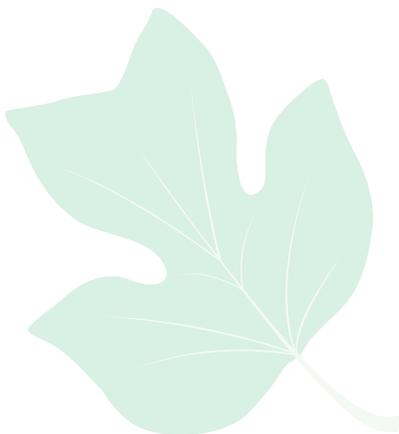
**JUNE 12**  
10:00 a.m.

**ZOOM ID**  
939 7479 0375

*A leadership-focused workshop presented by*  
**Karen Proctor**

*On June 12 twenty-five nonprofit leaders and community members joined a Zoom training session led by social innovator and University of the South Special Assistant to the Provost, Karen Proctor, to gain useful leadership skills for implementation in times of crisis.*

*In response to COVID-19, Beersheba Springs Medical Clinic has moved part of its operations to its parking lot, consulting with patients from their cars while practicing safe social distancing. As executive director Alison Gower (left) takes prescription orders and addresses other medical complaints outside, staff member Renae Hobbs (right) is inside taking calls and making referrals for patients to BSMC providers.*





# Conscious Discipline®

## *SCCF and Sequatchie Valley Head Start Introduce Conscious Discipline® Curriculum to Schools on the South Cumberland Plateau*

SCCF's Community Development Committee is working with the Grundy County School System, Monteagle and Sewanee Elementary Schools, and Sequatchie Valley Head Start to introduce a new program to the Plateau that will assist teachers and students when they return to school in the fall. Through a grant provided by SCCF, teachers and administrators at seven of the Plateau's elementary schools are able to access this training via Zoom sessions over the summer.

**Conscious Discipline®** is a comprehensive classroom management program and social-emotional curriculum. Based on current brain research, child development information, and developmentally appropriate practices, *Conscious Discipline®* is a comprehensive emotional intelligence and classroom management system that integrates all domains of learning (social, emotional, physical, cultural, and cognitive) into one seamless curriculum. This approach to child development and learning is particularly useful today given the distress and uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## CREATE INVITING VIRTUAL SPACES & USING TECHNOLOGY IMAGINATIVELY

Experience different methods for tapping the intelligence, wisdom, imagination, and creativity of groups

### JULY 23

10-11:30 a.m.

Join early for Zoom tutorial  
9:30-10:00 a.m.



A session built to support nonprofit leaders in navigating the bouncy transitions and uncertainties ahead, as we move back-and-forth between online and in-person interactions.

*SCCF hosted a "Liberating Structures" workshop on July 23 that builds support for the transitions ahead as nonprofits navigate between online and in-person communication.*

*The food bank at Morton Memorial United Methodist Church (MMUMC) hasn't missed a beat since the pandemic hit, continuing to provide nutritious sustenance to food-challenged Plateau residents on a monthly basis while adjusting to meet the confines of COVID-19. Early in the shut-down, a grateful client thoughtfully provided a token of appreciation to an MMUMC volunteer wrapped in a disinfectant wipe, in a gesture of grace and care.*



# Summer Meal Program Expands Outreach During COVID-19

For eight weeks this summer, South Cumberland Community Fund, the University of the South's Office of Civic Engagement, South Cumberland Plateau AmeriCorps VISTA Project, University Dining, several community partners, and USDA have collaborated to sponsor the South Cumberland Summer Meal Program (SMP), providing more than 7,000 meals per week to children ages 18 and under across the Plateau at seven elementary schools and at four sites in Franklin County. 2020

marks the sixth year that this impactful program has benefited children across the South Cumberland Plateau by providing nourishing meals during the summer months.

SMP is able to reach many more children this year due to USDA waivers that address the challenges of COVID-19. This year's meal distribution follows a "grab-and-go" format that allows parents and guardians to pick up meals without the requirement of having a child present. Multiple meals are distributed to families once a week to en-

sure children access to five day's-worth of nutritious breakfasts and lunches. In addition to meals provided through the USDA Summer Food Service Program, a federal grant awarded to the Chattanooga Food Bank has enabled the distribution of an additional 300 pounds of food per week to Grundy County families. Fourteen local Summer Associate VISTAs began their tenure on June 8 and are responsible for distributing meals for the program through July 29.

The 2020 Summer Meal Program has allowed

the University of the South to employ more than 90 full-time staff members at McClurg Dining Hall this summer. Providing jobs for this number would not have been possible otherwise, due to COVID-19-related cancellations of summer events, workshops, and conferences at the University. We are grateful to these dedicated employees and to the Plateau's Summer Associate VISTA cohort for supporting this very important service for residents of the South Cumberland Plateau at a crucial moment in the history of this program.



*“The USDA-funded South Cumberland Plateau Meal Program allows us to feed thousands of meals weekly to food insecure young people on our beloved Plateau and at the same time keep the majority of our staff members working throughout the summer. It really is a win/win for our community.”*

— Chef Rick Wright —  
University Dining  
University of the South

*“I am so happy that Monteagle Elementary is able to serve as a summer meal program site this year - it is our first time to do so, given increased need due to COVID-19. Food insecurity has always been present in Monteagle, and now it is being recognized, which is so important.”*

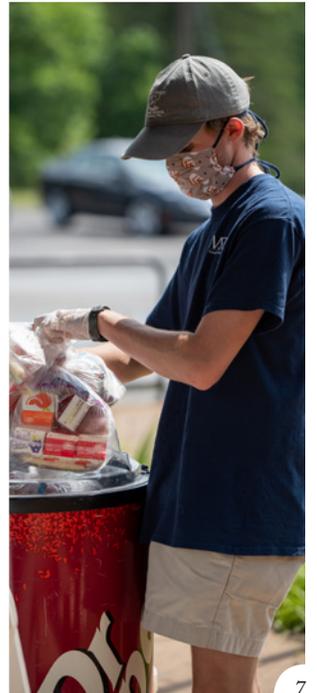
— Jennifer McBee —  
Pre-K teacher, Monteagle Elementary, and avid Summer Meal Program volunteer

*“My main motivation for serving as a VISTA this summer was to learn about farming in a place I really love, but I have been pleasantly surprised at how rewarding it is to make a tangible impact on hunger on the Plateau.”*

— James Bratton —  
SCP Summer Associate  
VISTA

*“People have been sharing things with me as they pick up their meals about how much it means to them that this program exists. This is affirmation of how I am helping to make a difference in their lives.”*

— Anna Wingo —  
SCP Summer Associate  
VISTA



# SCCF Needs Your Support in 2020

Now more than ever, SCCF needs the support of clear-sighted and committed donors in order to sustain its monetary and collaborative support for the nonprofits of the South Cumberland Plateau. Over the past nine years, with the help of its Plateau partners, SCCF has made significant progress in support of initiatives to improve education, health, and economic development in the region. We can continue this growth only through the support of individuals who understand the vital need and potential of this beautiful

place that we call home. If you have already made a donation to SCCF this year, we are deeply grateful.

We still need contributions to make our 2020 annual fund goal. If you have yet to contribute, we thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of a gift to SCCF in 2020. You may donate by returning the enclosed mailer or by going to [www.southcumberlandcommunityfund.org](http://www.southcumberlandcommunityfund.org) and clicking on the Support Us button at the top of the page.



Photo courtesy of Stephen Alvarez

## FALL HARVEST CELEBRATION

*A Drive-through Feast*

September 12, 2020

## SCCF Sponsors COVID-Safe Drive-Through Fall Fundraiser

Demonstrating innovation and resilience, the SCCF Development Committee has come through with a delightful, socially distanced plan for the SCCF annual fall fundraiser. The community is invited to participate by purchasing gourmet meals prepared by Emily Frith of Corner Market Catering using products from local growers, to be picked up Saturday evening, September 12 at Monteagle Sunday School Assembly (MSSA).

“Attendees” will be greeted at the MSSA gate and directed to the dining hall, with gloved and masked SCCF supporters guiding the way. Volunteers will be stationed at the MSSA dining hall to carefully deliver packaged meals to donors’ trunks or cargo areas.

SCCF supporters also have the opportunity to purchase Fall Fundraiser sponsorships to provide meals from area restaurants on September 11 for first responders and health care professionals on the Plateau. Lunches will be delivered by the South Cumberland Plateau AmeriCorps VISTA cohort that day in fulfillment of the AmeriCorps 9/11 Service Day requirement. Sponsors will be recognized on meal inserts the night of the 12th.

*Thank you to Fall Fundraiser sponsors and SCP VISTAs for this added opportunity!*

Go to [www.southcumberlandcommunityfund.org](http://www.southcumberlandcommunityfund.org) for more information and register for and purchase your gourmet feast.

*Thank you for your support!*

The Fall Fundraiser supports the SCCF grants program and SCCF’s many other community development initiatives across the South Cumberland Plateau.

# Check Your Email and the SCCF Facebook Page and Website for Upcoming SCCF Events

July 23	July 30	August 31	Sept. 11
<p><i>Liberating Structures Workshop</i></p> <p>An SCCF Zoom workshop open to the Plateau community</p>	<p><i>SCCF holiday card design contest deadline</i></p> <p>All Plateau elementary and high school students encouraged to submit an entry</p>	<p><i>SCCF holiday card contest winner announced</i></p> <p>Winning drawing to be featured on SCCF's 2020 holiday card</p>	<p><i>Lunch delivery to Plateau's 1st responders &amp; health care professionals</i></p> <p>An AmeriCorps VISTA service project made possible by SCCF Fall Harvest Celebration sponsors</p>
Sept. 12	Sept. 15-Dec. 15	November	Dec. 31
<p><i>Fall Harvest Celebration A Drive-Through Feast</i></p> <p>Annual fundraiser for SCCF featuring produce from local growers</p>	<p><i>SCCF holiday card sale</i></p> <p>Featuring winning artwork by Plateau student</p>	<p><i>Philanthropy Internship Program Grants Ceremony</i></p> <p>Plateau community invited to celebrate SCCF fall grant recipients (<i>dtbd</i>)</p>	<p><i>SCCF Annual Campaign Ends</i></p> <p>Please visit SCCF website to make a donation</p>

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

## This Holiday Season Honor Your Loved Ones with a Student-Inspired SCCF Holiday Card



This summer SCCF sponsored a contest to capture a unique design for the annual SCCF holiday card while providing a fun activity that celebrates the creativity of children across the South Cumberland Plateau. Elementary and high school students have

been encouraged to submit entries by July 31, with the winning design to be featured on cards that will be purchased by SCCF donors to honor friends and family this holiday season. The winning participant will receive 20 cards to share with family and friends.

SCCF will also offer a three-pack of SCCF holiday cards from 2017, 2018, and 2019 for purchase. Holiday cards will go on sale in mid-September: information on ordering and card pick-up will be posted on SCCF's Facebook page and website, as well as through email.

SCCF holiday cards are a great way to support SCCF and its work with the communities of the Plateau; to honor important people in your life, whose names will be listed in SCCF's annual report; and to recognize a student in our area for their creativity. *Thank you for your support!*



Our Home. Our Mountain. Our Future.

MAILING  
PO Box 1301 • Monteagle, TN 37356

OFFICE  
322 W. Main St. • Monteagle, TN 37356

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



*SCCF Summer Associate VISTA's are meeting challenges with action! Thank you for your support of the USDA Summer Meal Program.*



**VISTA**  
Volunteers in Service to America