

south cumberland **COMMUNITY FUND**



SPRING 2025
NEWSLETTER & ANNUAL REPORT

Thanks to our donors and the work of our partners, SCCF has invested over \$2.5 million to advance hope and prosperity on the Plateau since 2012.

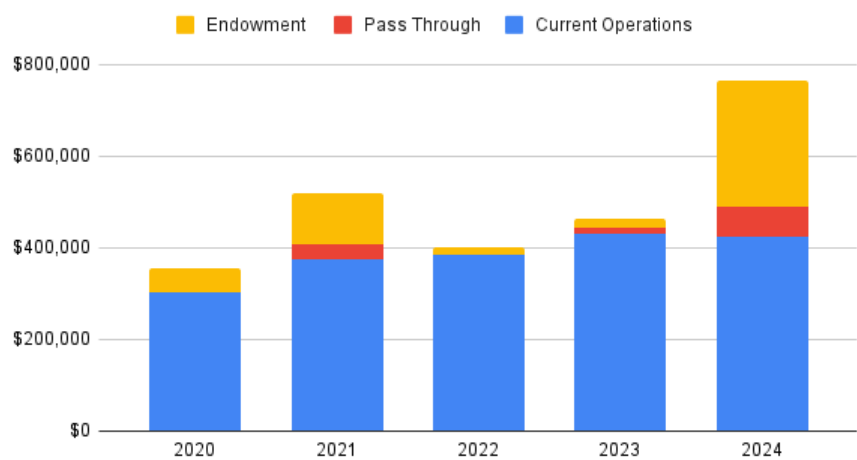
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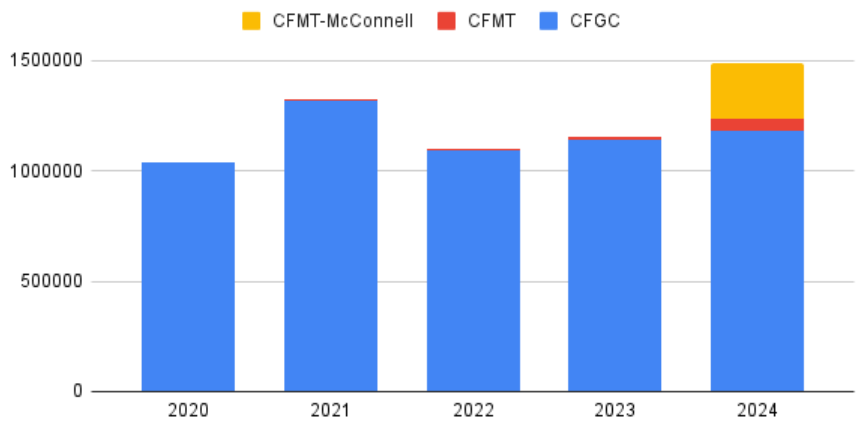
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GIFTS AND GRANTS 2020-2024



ENDOWMENTS HELD AT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA AND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE



South Cumberland Community Fund has three endowment accounts. Two are general endowment funds and one is restricted for music programs. The total value as of 12/31/24 was \$1,458,058. A full endowment report is sent to endowment donors in July.

A Letter from the Executive Director

On the last Thursday of January at the weekly meeting of the Monteagle-Sewanee Rotary, the guest speaker came in the form of a TED Talk by John LaMotte, “Why Heroes Don’t Change the World.” (<https://youtu.be/UDHrgQ5NmI4?si=tapnCG7O7lRaRPfU>). LaMotte contended that, despite the fact that we are inundated by hero narratives, real change only comes when people work together in community action. When you compare the hero narrative side by side with the community action narrative, LaMotte explains, the instructions are quite different. The hero narrative asks the listener/viewer/consumer to wait, wait some more, watch, and then clap. By contrast the community action narrative comes with these instructions:

- Think about the condition you wish to change.
- Identify the people who can work with you.
- Identify an achievable goal.
- Accomplish that goal.
- Rinse and repeat.

Community action is at the heart of this Community Fund. Year after year, we take LaMotte’s action steps. Our strategic plan directs us to support the improvement of education, greater access to health-promoting activities (including medical care, and economic and community development). We bring together donors and volunteers and community partners to do this work together. We support achievable projects and the organizations completing them. We do it all over again every year.

Let us acknowledge all of you who are reading this newsletter. You are our donors, our partners, our cheerleaders, and our friends—in short, the people with whom we join in this work. Your contributions are not passive acts. They connect to a hub of ongoing activity. Thank you for being part of this work. This Fund is a community of people moving ever more confidently toward the vision that the South Cumberland Plateau is a place of hope and prosperity for all who live here. The community is all of us, from donors, to volunteers, to grantees, to the recipients of grantee services. We are joined by a common purpose and common vision.

We are not here to fix the world or to save the world, as a hero might, but to change the world, in this place, incrementally, year after year, goal after goal, and connection after connection! We are proud to be doing that with you.

— Tom Sanders, Executive Director

Cover: Late breaking news! SCCF awarded a grant by the Tennessee Department of Health to build the South Cumberland Health Mobility Network in partnership with area agencies and nonprofits. From left, Jim Peterman, South Cumberland Health Network; Mandy Bouldin, director of community development; Maggie Oramas, Mosaic Recovery Center; and Jackie Cox, Rachel Hackworth, Marsha Privett, and Jake McIntyre of SETHRA.



Green Spaces for All

Over the summer and fall, a group of people came together to build a coherent vision of community change that focused on creating (or renewing) “Green Spaces for All,” a network of public parks across the Plateau that would provide access to exercise, cultural assets, and nature. Participants included South Cumberland Community Fund as well as mayors of all the towns on the Plateau and a visionary team from Vanderbilt University who helped put together a multi-million dollar grant proposal, with the Community Fund as the statutory partner, tapped to coordinate work with all the town governments.

The Community Fund was invited by the Vanderbilt team to partner on the grant proposal and to serve as a liaison with the town governments. The resulting proposal identified several million dollars of funding that responded to those towns’ aspirations for new green spaces, and every town in Grundy County, including Pelham and Monteagle, as well as nonprofits such as the Friends of the Parks and Rise Up Grundy, developed coherent plans for improving everyday citizens’ access to green spaces.

“A really interesting piece of information, which is counterintuitive, is that a relatively low percentage of people on the Plateau have access to a place to exercise or enjoy nature, even though the Plateau has some of the most spectacular state parks in Tennessee,” says Tom Sanders, executive director. That statistic is reported in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s annual county health assessments, which cover the entire country.

“Presence of an asset is not necessarily access to an asset,” observes Brooke Ackerly, the Vanderbilt professor who is the project director for the grant proposal. Ackerly identifies two reasons that more municipal parks are necessary for greater access. The state parks, while the envy of other places in the state, are located at the edges of the community, with the exception of the park locations near Tracy City. Because transportation is also an emergent challenge on the Plateau,

the remoteness of those parks is especially significant for the most vulnerable. In addition, the parks, located on lands regulated by longstanding state natural areas legislation, feature hiking trails that are mainly accessible to the able-bodied.

In addition to focusing on green spaces, the project also proposed an ambitious program of water testing to understand better how some outcomes may be connected to the legacy of coal mining on the Plateau.

“Our partners on the Plateau really came up with some wonderful Green Space ideas,” says Sanders. “We have not heard whether or not this grant proposal will be funded, but the great story here is that preparing the application meant that many of us in the community are working more closely together, and we have developed a vision that we know will appeal to some grantmaker some time.”

Work on those new funding opportunities is already beginning, with Daniel Crabtree, mayor of Palmer, preparing a new grant proposal for a municipal park, and with the Civic Design Center, which is partnering with the Fund on the Healthy Built Environment planning grant from the Tennessee Department of Health, working hard to identify funding sources for some of the ideas that emerged in both planning processes. That state grant helped prepare the ground for working on the larger federal grant that was submitted in the fall.

Sanders is grateful for the experience of working with others on the proposal, even though it appears changes in the EPA mean the grant will not be funded. “The past year and a half has been an exciting new chapter in thinking about the connection between the built environment and health,” says Sanders. “We are grateful to the state for kicking that off with a grant from the Tennessee Department of Health, and we are grateful to our Vanderbilt partners, Brooke Ackerly and Kayle Anderson for helping us connect with our community in a new way.”



Previous page. In January, community leaders met to discuss the Green Spaces for All grant, which had been submitted to the EPA in November. Among the topics discussed was funding alternatives to launch projects planned during planning process should the grant not be funded.

On this page: top left, Tom Meeks, mayor of Coalmont, and Tom Sanders in Phipps Park, where planned improvements will foster improved health and safety in his town as well as access to historic coke ovens and opportunities to expand heritage tourism. Above, groundbreaking takes place at the Miracle on the Mountain Park. The hoped-for EPA grant was but one piece of the funding for this innovative park for children of all abilities that has been championed by county Mayor Michael Brady. Lower left, Randi Keel, daughter of board member Julie Keel, participates in Dream Town, an activity designed to let children's voices be heard as the community considers healthy design.

Better Collaboration is the Goal of New Grant Policies

“Write your ‘I have a dream’ letter,” said Bob Willems, a member of the community development committee, at a joint meeting of the grants and community development committees in early December. Willems was riffing on a proposed evolution in the grantmaking process, where partners had more opportunity to participate in the grantmaking process by having a step before the official application, where they could talk with committee members and others about their big ideas.

The “letter of intent” has been a step in the process for just one of the Fund’s grant rounds—the grant for collaborative projects by two or more partners—which was initiated in the summer of 2022. It gives applicants a chance to get feedback on their ideas and learn better how to align their requests with the Fund’s strategic goals. At that meeting in December, the joint committee voiced support for something like a letter of intent for all three competitive grant rounds (spring, summer, and fall).

What would that look like? To sum up the message implied in Willems’ assertion: keep it simple and aspirational.

Adding letters of intent is one of several significant changes in grant policies and procedures starting in 2025 that focus on more flexible funding, fewer hurdles, more collaborative reporting (where committee members and partners worked together to document the impact of grants).

At its January meeting, the board of South Cumberland Community Fund approved two important new grant policies: approval of indirect charges in grant proposals, and approval of unrestricted grants that are tied to organizations’ transparency in operations.

That first policy was pioneered in the student-directed grant round in the fall when the student-led grants committee added a \$1,000 indirect payment to the project grant requests. Each of the partners received funding for projects costing

\$5,000, and were awarded an additional \$1,000 in “indirect” costs. “We are so grateful to the grants committee for recognizing that launching a new project requires additional staff time and effort and costs to the institution,” noted Wall Wofford, whose organization—Folks@Home—received funding for a blood pressure kiosk available to the public.

The second policy—to open up unrestricted grants—came out of committee members’ desire to be more flexible with grantmaking while ensuring that grants continued to have demonstrable impact. Except for years during COVID, when the board pivoted to making unrestricted grants to help organizations whose revenue and costs were hit by responses to the pandemic, the Fund has primarily made grants to launch innovative projects.

In January, the board approved a move to tie new unrestricted grants to organizations’ Guidestar status. Guidestar is a free resource for nonprofits. The Guidestar organization downloads IRS documents and creates a comprehensive directory of nonprofits, with basic tax information. Organizations are able to claim their Guidestar profile and add information to it. The more information added, the better the organization’s transparency score, with transparency being information that helps donors know whether or not their support would be a good philanthropic investment.

“We have long asked organizations to provide us information about their mission and financial situation as part of the application process,” says Betty Carpenter, chair of the grants committee. “We thought that by having our partners give all that information to Guidestar instead, then they could also inform other donors about their situation.” Building a winning Guidestar profile and filling out a grant application should take about the same amount of time, observed Tom Sanders.



For her part, Julie Keel, chair of community development, believes that more unrestricted grants will still have a positive impact on innovation on the Plateau. “Innovation: nonprofits doing what they do well in a fully funded way. That’s innovative!” she texted in early December.

Alignment between grants committee and national best practices

An important new practice, an idea first advanced by grants committee members, is to transform the way grantees report on their progress. Several committee members—notably Bran Potter, Sydney Shipps, and Martha Krenson—have been making pre-grant site visits to applicants. “You learn a lot about those organizations from those visits,” says Potter, “and as a committee we learn from each other as we are making sometimes very difficult choices.”

Last summer, members of the grants committee began to wonder aloud if those site visits ought not to extend to the post-award processes. “We should be having conversations with those folks who get grants rather than asking them to produce lengthy reports,” said Lee Limbird, who is on both the grants and the community development committees. Limbird envisioned teams of committee members going to organizations and having a conversation not just about the particular grant but how the Community Fund and the partner could strengthen their relationship.”

A new report form is much simpler, but also serves as a launching pad, gathering basic accountability measures while setting up conversations about community impact as well as the growing capacity of our partners. These are all hallmarks of participatory grantmaking, a topic that Ally Hollis and Tom Sanders learned about in a course offered by the Appalachian Regional Commission last fall. Members of the grants committee and the new Director of Community Development, Mandy Bouldin, also hope that the new reporting practices will integrate seamlessly with a Purposeful Partners Program, which is designed to address partners’ needs, wherever they are in their life cycles. Read more about this in Bouldin’s letter on p. 12.

Top, Betty Carpenter, chair of the grants committee, addresses a grant orientation session where streamlined application and reporting and opportunities for new categories of grants were explained. “Our grants committee comes from people all across the Plateau,” she said, “and they take their job very seriously. Below, Julie Keel, chair of the community development committee, which manages a non-competitive small grant round especially designed for building organizational capacity among partners. These two operational committees are working more closely together to support area nonprofits.



Grants Awarded to Plateau Partners

At a grant celebration held at the UT Extension Office (previously the cafeteria of Coalmont Elementary School) on November 14, South Cumberland Community Fund awarded grants of \$24,000 to four partner organizations (\$6,000 each): Swiss Heritage Center of Gruetli-Laager, Mosaic Recovery Center of Pelham, the Town of Tracy City, and Folks@Home of Sewanee.

Since 2017, students at the University of the South have comprised the grants committee for the Community Fund's fall grant round. The philanthropy education program was made possible by donors to the University who created an endowment to support community philanthropy. University faculty and staff partner with staff and volunteers of South Cumberland Community Fund to educate students on the grantmaking process. As part of the practical experience gained in the course, they analyze grant requests and make recommendations to the Community Fund's board.

"This is a really wonderful collaboration between the University and South Cumberland Community Fund," said Tom Sanders, executive director. "Other educational institutions have similar grant making programs, but

Sewanee has taken their program a step further than most by integrating their work with that of the Community Fund. We are really grateful for the opportunity to help educate students and to have more funding for good causes on the Plateau."

Ashton Butler, Emma Lively, Stewart Miller, and Clara Rominger were this year's philanthropy students. They not only carefully considered the grant applications, but they also served as interns with other educational or charitable organizations in the area.

To provide context for the awards, the students read personal essays connecting experiences from their own lives to the work of the plateau partner that was receiving the grant. The essays not only developed the rationale for the grant but gave greater insight into how the work being supported would have a meaningful positive impact on the community and people in it.

"It's important for effective learning that students make personal connections," noted Amy Patterson, who led the evening's remarks by telling a story of her grandmother, who made quilts for family members. "We learned about public



narrative as a tool for social change by reading Marshall Ganz and wanted to incorporate that in our study and the public celebration. The story of self connects to the story of us and then that connects to the story of now. What is the issue that prompts us now?"

In turn, the grant recipients added their own remarks—their own story of now—reflecting on the long timeline of hope, the positive power of collaboration, and the value of persistence in pursuing charitable goals.

Mosaic Recovery Center - Represented by Maggie Orames. The Mosaic Center of Pelham, Tennessee, is on a mission to see men experience the fullness of freedom from addiction, and this includes their relationships with children. With the grant, the Center will build a playground at its residential facility so that men in residence can have the opportunity to play with their children.

Grundy County Swiss Historical Society - Represented by Jackie and Marvin Lawley. The Grundy County Swiss Historical Society has been given the Old Gruetli Post Office building located on TN Highway 108 and 20th Avenue in Gruetli-Laager with the stipulation that it be moved to the Stoker-Stampfli Farm Museum. The grant will help the museum prepare for moving the historic structure to the new site.



Folks at Home - Represented by Wall Wofford. Folks at Home, centrally located in the downtown area of Sewanee, will purchase a Blood Pressure Monitoring Kiosk and to place it in the front lobby. The Kiosk will be available to all members of the community to bring a significant preventive health benefit for the entire community.

Town of Tracy City - Represented by Stacie Hutcheson and Emily Partin. The Town of Tracy City is renovating the old Grundy County High School auditorium to offer more opportunities for this rural community to engage in art through music, drama, and film. The 200+ seat venue will be the only indoor stage of its kind available in Grundy County. In the past year renovations have included the installation of a new roof, windows, and exterior doors (doors are ordered). This grant will focus on upgrading the electrical and lights.

Previous page, Fall grant recipients alongside Amy Patterson, board member and Director of Sewanee's Office of Civic Engagement, with students from her capstone class who served as the grant committee. New playground at Mosaic Recovery Center. The Grundy County Swiss Heritage Society will secure and move a historic building. Top left, Kate Gunderson tries out the blood pressure kiosk purchased by Folks@Home to be used by community members in Sewanee. Top right, renovations to the auditorium at the Littell-Partin Center (old Grundy County High School), with the latest grant supporting new lighting.



Collaborative Grants Address Access to Health-Promoting Services

In 2022, when South Cumberland Community Fund launched its “Make Lasting Connections” grant round for collaborative projects, the first two grants helped establish a free medical clinic in Tracy City and a collaborative project called Housing Hub. In 2024, Housing Hub established itself as an independent 501c3 and is busily developing itself to address housing access on the Plateau. In the meantime, thanks to a partnership with the Town of Tracy City, and in response to the growing role of the clinic in providing access to health care, the clinic has been re-formed as the South Cumberland Community Clinic and is moving to a much larger space in the Littell-Partin Center Annex.

That move is funded in large part by a grant from South Cumberland Community Fund in the third round of the Make Lasting Connections collaborative grant, which is supported by the Fund’s endowment.

In 2024, the Fund announced three new recipients of “Make Lasting Connections” grants at the Fall Fundraiser in early October. In addition to approving a grant to expand the clinic, the board also approved grants to the Beersheba Springs Medical Clinic and to Folks@Home in Sewanee.

Both grants to the clinic and Folks@Home had to do with transportation, which is an emergent challenge on the Plateau, particularly for vulnerable populations. The

Beersheba clinic has entered into a partnership with the Grundy County Jail to provide dental services for inmates. The grant paid the costs of transport and other associated costs for expanding dental care to individuals who are under the care of a cash strapped public institution.

For its part, Folks@Home has entered into a partnership with the St. James Episcopal Church and the St. Mark’s Community Association to provide transportation for needed services in the Midway and St. Mark’s communities. Transportation is one of the central services of Folks@Home, a member organization whose purpose is to assist people in living independently as they age or face other mobility and health issues. The grant will provide resources to allow Folks@Home to provide transportation services to nonmembers in the target communities.

Above: The Tracy City Free Medical Clinic, now the South Cumberland Community Clinic, will be relocating from the first floor of the Littell-Partin Center (right side), to the one-story annex building across the parking lot (left side) once renovations to the suite are complete.

Right page: Tom Phelps is hard at work painting the new office. He stopped to walk us through the plan for their space which will be bigger, brighter, and more comfortable. Bottom left, Marilyn Phelps works prepping the closet for a new ceiling. Bottom right, Tom and Chris Breneman stand in front of what will be finished into the new reception counter.



Last fall, Mandy Bouldin joined the Community Fund team as director of community development, a joint position with the University of the South's Office of Civic Engagement. Bouldin works with partners of the Fund and also administers the University's AmeriCorps grant. We asked her to reflect on her work and how it connects with her past experiences and future aspirations for the partnership. At right, Mandy attends a Grant information session in the spring.



Mandy Bouldin Reflects

I became acquainted with SCCF and the University of the South at Sewanee through my work as the Executive Director of the Beersheba Springs Medical Clinic, a free medical and dental clinic. During that time, I saw up close the challenges and barriers the people of Grundy County face every day. Through grants, internships, and programs, SCCF and the University were a tremendous resource for us.

As a nonprofit executive for over nine years, I learned partnerships and collaborations, and acquiring the technical skills needed to face challenges unique to nonprofits was crucial to success. I created our Purposeful Partners Project to connect nonprofits to one another to share best practices and resources. We will bring experts to help them diversify their funding streams and work toward sustainability. It will deepen SCCF's understanding of each partner's needs and stage in their life cycle to inform future grantmaking.

I plan to expand the University's AmeriCorps program in local recruitment for workforce development and increase Grundy's overall education level. The program allows nonprofits to add capacity for direct service initiatives to further their mission at a very low cost. In return, the service member gains relevant skills and experience. For every year of service, they receive the Segal Education Award, up to \$7,350 for every year for up to four years, and an additional stipend during their service.

When I was at the Beersheba Clinic, the AmeriCorps program helped us add the region's first Community Health Worker who addresses the social determinants of health per patient, treating the entire person as they relate to and live in their community. I am also exploring using the program

to provide affordable childcare so caregivers can return to work, bring more money home to their families, and hopefully increase the number of available teachers over time. Expanding literacy efforts throughout Grundy County to fill gaps schools can no longer afford, such as support for libraries, is essential. As a first-generation college graduate, I now dream of providing a path for others who share that dream. Literacy is the foundation.

Our summer meal program wouldn't be possible without our student and community AmeriCorps. By expanding to seven days of lunch and breakfast, we intend to increase to 100,000 meals in the summer of 2025! The meals are required to be nutritionally balanced, helping to reduce summer slide. Feedback from families is that with the savings, they can buy bulk foods during those months that can help their families for months to come or buy foods they can rarely afford without this assistance.

I'm delighted to be in a dynamic role that represents a partnership between two remarkable organizations and serves a region where my family has deep roots. There's much work ahead, and I couldn't be more excited to be part of it.

Editor's note: This year, 2025, has brought us hints of significant potential changes in federal funding, such as AmeriCorps, particularly for programs serving the most vulnerable among us. We believe that strong local philanthropies like ours can stand in the gaps that may arise, when and if federal support for basic services disappears. With your generous help, we will continue to be a focal point for a community that ensures hope and prosperity for all who live on the South Cumberland Plateau.



Welcome to SCCF's New Board Members

Rhea Bowden

Rhea is a retired member of the Sewanee community where he serves as an at-large member of the Community Council. He is a 1976 graduate of the University of the South, where he returned to work for 12 years in the Office of Advancement. Prior to that, he had a 32-year career in sales and manufacturing in Greenville, SC. While in Greenville, Rhea served on the boards of the Greenville Literacy Association and the Summit Bank as well as vestryman, head usher, and volunteer youth basketball coach at Christ Church Episcopal. Rhea and his wife, Nancy, a former member of the SCCF board, have lived on the Plateau since 2013.

Daniel Crabtree

Daniel is a lifelong resident of Grundy County and is proud to call the Plateau his home. He has served in many different positions in the community including Mayor of Palmer, Chair of the Grundy County Commission, and, most recently, Grundy County Assessor of Property. Daniel knew at a young age that it was his calling to serve his fellow citizens and his community in some capacity. He has served on many different boards and non-profits throughout his adult life including the SCCF grants committee where he loved being a part of the grants process. Daniel also serves as the Associate Pastor of his church and continues to be very involved in the lives of the youth on and across the plateau. Daniel and his wife Lisa have 3 daughters and 4 grandchildren and enjoy spending as much time as possible in the beautiful outdoor setting of the Cumberland Plateau.

Katy Morgan

Kathryn (Katy) Morgan came to the South Cumberland Plateau in 2022 to accept a faculty position in psychology at the University of the South, and has become deeply involved in the work of the Fund through leadership of the Healthy Built Environment Project and service on the Community Development Committee.

Morgan studies civic and sociopolitical identity development among young people as they take part in efforts to build collective power and promote community wellbeing. As a community-based researcher, she partners with schools and other youth-serving organizations to understand, promote, and sustain empowering community contexts where young people can engage in social change efforts. Her research explores experiential approaches to civic learning and development in schools and communities, guiding interventions aimed at improving youth outcomes. She also facilitates youth participatory action research collectives and explores the developmental roots of civic and sociopolitical identity among organizers, activists, and other community leaders.

Morgan earned a B.A. in English and Education from Millsaps College, an M.Ed. in Community Development and Action from Vanderbilt University, and a Ph.D. in Community Research and Action from Vanderbilt University.

Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope.

Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith.

Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love.

No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint. Therefore we must be saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness.”

-Reinhold Niebuhr, *The Irony of American History*

What We Heard

On October 5, 160 people gathered for the annual Fall Fundraiser. As the program—a conversation between John Seigenthaler and Eric Motley—concluded, Motley rose to deliver an inspiring message, a quotation from Reinhold Niebuhr, who posits that we are saved by hope, faith, love and forgiveness. To view a recording of the conversation, follow the qr code on this page or find in the blog on our website.

At South Cumberland Community Fund, we envision the South Cumberland Plateau as a place of hope and prosperity for all who live here. We are grateful to our speakers and attendees for an evening that provides over 20% of our revenue for the year while making connections between us all—those who give, those who do the work, those who study and plan, and all of those who benefit.

On behalf of the board of directors and all our partners on the Plateau, we are grateful to all who contributed to the success of the event. **We are particularly grateful to Tower Community Bank, the event sponsor and to our patrons and table hosts.**

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Images: Photos in the donor roll are from the Fall Fundraiser on October 4, 2024.

A Letter from our new Board Chair

It is an honor and a privilege to begin my term as Chair of the Board for the South Cumberland Community Fund. As a board member, I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to serve under the outstanding leadership of Rich Wycoff and Marguerite Lloyd. As Vice Chair for the past two years, I have learned a great deal from Marguerite, as she skillfully and lovingly guided the board into its second decade of service. The South Cumberland Community Fund is also fortunate to have Tom Sanders as Executive Director. Tom, along with Associate Director Ally Hollis, has enabled SCCF to raise greater revenue, increase grantmaking, and strengthen connections within the greater community. SCCF is also blessed to have a talented and generous Board who faithfully support the mission of the South Cumberland Community Fund. Their wisdom and stewardship are invaluable assets and inspire confidence in our continued success in the future.

My primary goal as Board Chair is to use my forty-two years in education and seventeen years as a head of school to strengthen SCCF organizationally. We have already begun to implement Board evaluation protocols, introduce Results Based Accountability principles into our grant making process, deepen our connections to the community, and grow our organizational capacity to better serve the needs

of the South Cumberland Plateau. On behalf of the Board and all our community partners, I want to thank all of you who have supported the mission of SCCF in the past and will continue to support our work in the future. With your help and generosity, we will undoubtedly succeed in bringing greater hope and prosperity to the South Cumberland Plateau in 2025.

Sincerely,

Eddie Krenson, Board Chair





PO BOX 1301 MONTEAGLE, TN 37356



Community Fund New Hire!

Mandy Bouldin joined the South Cumberland Community Fund as Director of Community Development in October of 2024. The position is shared between SCCF and the University of the South's Office of Civic Engagement. Mandy has 10 years of experience in nonprofit work, including her most recent position as the Executive Director of the Beersheba Springs Medical Clinic. She was previously the President/CEO of the McMinnville-Warren County Chamber of Commerce and founding board member and Interim Executive Director of the McMinnville Tourism Development Board.

Mandy brings her skills in building programs and support to strengthen nonprofits across the plateau, helping advance their missions by diversifying their funding, bolster their administration and governance, and advance their missions. Mandy oversees the Americorps program as well as the Summer Meal Program for the University. She has plans to enhance local recruitment of Americorps service members for workforce development and provide Segal Education Awards to Grundy County service members. These can be applied at colleges and technical schools to advance skills and education in the county.

Mandy holds a Bachelor in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from Tennessee Technological University and a Master of Public Administration from Anna Maria College. She was awarded the 2019 Changemaker of the Year by the McMinnville Young Professionals, a group she co-founded in her hometown while at the Chamber.