



WHEN WE:

Create **PARTNERSHIPS** to improve the overall health of our community

Take advantage of key **OPPORTUNITIES** to build for the future

Invest in our people, giving them every opportunity to **SUCCEED**

Try **UNIQUE** and different things and find success

Learn from each new **EXPERIENCE** that comes our way

Shape our healthcare systems to **IMPACT** those who need help the most, we are ...

POISED FOR GREATNESS

PARTNERSHIPS



When she first started traveling to Walker County while in college, Elyse Peters was alarmed by the number of fast food restaurants verses the limited spaces for outdoor recreation. A little over three years later, as Coordinator of the Walker County Health Action Partnership (HAP), she sees change on the horizon.

While Highway 78 is still dotted with fast food, there are new opportunities to access fresh, affordable foods throughout Walker County. Because of HAP's work, there are people routinely walking in downtown Jasper, running and biking on the Horse Creek Trail in Dora/Sumiton, kayaking on Walker County Lake and events promoting physical activity and social interaction.

The Walker Area Community Foundation has provided backbone support to HAP since its inception. "While the financial support of the Foundation is a great asset to the partnership, I believe its thoughtful leadership has been its most valuable contribution. Supporting and seeing a greater future than what the present offers, the Foundation is willing to ask the questions that challenge our communities to do more and be better."

"One of the things that make me proud to live in Walker County is the people. Those who I work with truly want something better and are willing to work together to make that happen. They are people that don't see things as they always have been, but who have a vision for something greater."

Elyse Peters

OPPORTUNITIES



Moving to Jasper from Memphis was a business opportunity for Kevin Callahan. A longtime car dealer and businessman, Kevin had absolute confidence in his ability to succeed selling cars in our area. His only concern was that he and his wife, Pam, could make Walker County home and become a part of the local community. "As an outsider coming into the community, I have come to realize that in Jasper and our area, we have a much better product to sell than I think many who have lived here for years realize."

Kevin sees a bright future for Walker County. While our leaders will have challenges in the days to come, he believes there is a strong core support group of people and organizations who will assist and advise them on the correct path. The area has such a rich history of perseverance and a great future with the right people using the resources that are available. He believes the Foundation is one of our greatest resources.

"The respect the Foundation has from people in the area is evident anywhere you go in Walker County. I think every municipality in Walker County looks to the Foundation for guidance on some level. The ability of the staff to take an idea or suggestion and execute it at the highest level on all fronts is spectacular, and the board is made up of people who have no personal gain to be had by their involvement. They serve 100% because they have a love for the area and a desire to see Walker County succeed in the future."

Kevin Callahan

SUCCEED



Becoming the Mayor of Oakman at such young age was a little nerve-racking at first for Cory Franks. Yet, he was committed to serving his hometown because he did not want it to sit idle when he could see so much potential. "I saw the need for new and fresh ideas within my community, and it has definitely been a great experience thus far."

Oakman is beginning to see a renewed sense of pride and love within the community. Over the last few years, they have evolved tremendously in the area of education with the resources their K-12 schools now offer, including a healthcare clinic within the elementary school. They recently received funding from the Foundation to renovate their Senior Center, which brings people downtown where small business owners have come in and are beginning to thrive.

His plans for the future of Oakman include utilizing the assets they have to become a more vibrant and active community. With the help of a grant from the Foundation, Cory and the Oakman City Council recently contracted Cheryl Morgan, a veteran of small town design, to aid in creating new developments and fresh ideas for the future.

"The Foundation has been amazing to me and the community of Oakman since I've been in office. They have been such a resource and hands-on whenever I have come to them for help or advice. Without the Foundation I don't know if we could have accomplished as much as we have in such a short amount of time. I am forever grateful for the leadership of the Walker Area Community Foundation."

Cory Franks

UNIQUE



Shannon and Dustin Beaty are creating energy in downtown Jasper. Lavish, their stylish boutique and specialty coffee bar, anchors the east end of downtown Jasper, giving residents and visitors a place to shop and relax. They believe this unique blend of retail and coffee is a great model for small-town business.

Jasper Main Street, an organization dedicated to the revitalization of downtown Jasper and supported by the Foundation, was the catalyst that Dustin and Shannon needed to expand their business. As committed Main Street supporters, they attended the public meetings and saw the research supporting the notion that a coffee shop would do well in Jasper. "When we travel, we are always looking for new ideas. Across the nation, we have seen bakeries and coffee shops combined with clothing boutiques. That, along with the research, gave us confidence that a coffee bar would work in the space we had available. Two years later, we have a successful business."

The Lavish Coffee Bar is a unique and fun "third space" for people to go — a place that is not home and not the office. Walk in at any given moment, and you will see old friends having coffee on the couch, millennials sitting with their computer and earbuds, small group meetings and students playing on their guitars.

"We love where we live. We exercise, shop, eat and invest in our downtown. We believe in the future of downtown Jasper."

Shannon & Dustin Beaty



EXPERIENCE

Shawna McCullar spends much of her time each day with students debunking myths about the career and technical education field. As the Career Coach for the Walker County Center for Technology and Jasper High School's Career Technical Education programs, she teaches students that technical education offers real-world experience for them to make sure they are in the right field. Through these programs, students can graduate high school almost halfway through their Associate's Degree in career tech fields, and it is free!

Shawna works in all six high schools in Walker County, helping students determine career pathways and scholarship funding for high-demand, high-wage careers. "Two weeks ago, after working with a young man (6'3"/250 lbs) to get all of the paperwork in, he picked me up out of my chair for a bear hug and said 'I can't believe this! A month ago, I didn't think I would ever be college material. Today I'm the first person ever in my family to be accepted, and it's even paid for!' It just doesn't get any better than that."

Shawna says she fell in love with the Walker Area Community Foundation her first year on the job. The Foundation has been instrumental in supporting their mission to help inform students and parents of the career opportunities now available to them in high school.

"I consider the Foundation one of Walker County's greatest gems. I am honored to be back working in my hometown with such wonderful people."

Shawna McCullar



IMPACT

Capstone Rural Health Center is changing the face of healthcare in Walker County by ensuring residents have the ability to access quality physical and mental health care services regardless of their ability to pay. According to Executive Director, Dr. David Jones, detecting and treating illnesses will improve the overall physical, social and mental health status of our community.

While Capstone treats the illnesses presented at each visit, they also focus on many clinical and wellness measures ... 30 of them to be exact. These are items such as tobacco abuse, cancer screenings, immunizations (children and adults), obesity counseling and others that have been established to increase the overall health of our community. With their success in these areas, Capstone is seeing an increase in their patients' quality of life.

David attributes Capstone's success to the passionate individuals who care about our community. "We have been lucky to maintain a wonderful staff and board since we were founded back in 2001. Walker County has embraced us completely, in ways I never thought imaginable."

"Many of Capstone's goals align with the priorities of the Foundation. Directly, they have contributed financially to many of our initiatives, including a large contribution to our new building being constructed in Parrish. Indirectly, they are our friends. I cannot say enough about how the Foundation's Board has empowered Mr. Kennedy and his team to do what needs to be done. They are always on the watch for opportunities that may benefit Capstone and our patients."

F. David Jones

BY THE NUMBERS

\$18,373,999

Total amount of grants directly invested in our community since inception

\$1,393,391

Total amount of grant distributions in 2017

\$26,866,687

Total amount of net assets

644

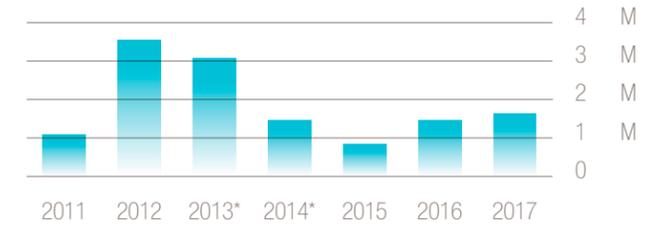
Number of gifts made to the Foundation in 2017

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

GRANT GROWTH OVER TIME

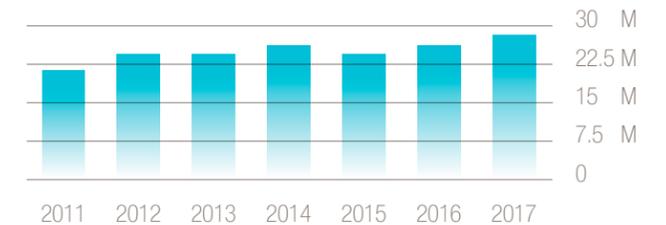
Total Grants Awarded: \$18,373,999

2011	1,190,071
2012	3,626,636
2013	3,073,770
2014	1,288,044
2015	1,015,748
2016	1,245,495
2017	1,393,391



ASSET GROWTH OVER TIME

2011	22,328,994
2012	23,366,184
2013	23,976,770
2014	24,053,247
2015	23,650,638
2016	24,066,137
2017	26,844,697



BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS (as of December 31, 2015)

Cash and Cash Equivalents	465,632
Investments	22,036,427
Other Assets	6,475
Pledges Receivable	
Property & Equipment, net	1,560,517
TOTAL ASSETS	24,069,051

LIABILITIES 2,914

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	18,294,347
Temporarily Restricted	7,034,698

TOTAL NET ASSETS 26,866,687

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS 26,868,093

*Returns are calculated net of fees



2017 Chairman's Letter

Dear donors and friends,

The Walker Area Community Foundation plays a unique role in our community. We create opportunities for greatness, not only for our nonprofits, municipalities and schools, but also for the individuals living, working and playing in Walker County.

Our work is the underlying support system for nonprofit agencies impacting lives in our area. We offer both funding for projects, as well as training sessions for their staff and board members. Our goal is to build capacity in each nonprofit, allowing them to manage their time, clients, resources and business effectively.

We are also helping to systematically turn a vision of a vibrant future for Walker County into reality. The creation of access to natural resources and fresh foods, the campaign to encourage students to look to their future through educational opportunities, the development of our downtowns, and the great work in progress by so many organizations is creating shared excitement and optimism about this time in the life of our community.

"Walker County faces many challenges in the days ahead, but we as a community are ready to act in a way that moves us forward into a place that our children and grandchildren will want to call home. We are indeed poised for greatness."

Beth Thorne Stukes



