

Walker Area Community Foundation is celebrating its 20th year! In September of 1995, the Foundation received its first endowed gift and since then has experienced a 400% growth while investing \$15 million into our local nonprofits and economy.

Such is the realization of a dream that originated with John T. Oliver, Jr., Patrick Willingham, Larry Drummond and George Mitnick. These men had a vision for the future and a passion for giving back. They were told the community was too small to support a community foundation, but they pressed forward proving the 'rule of thumb' wrong. They believed that if they invested well and made smart grantmaking decisions, the people of Walker County would support the foundation.

They were right. The number of people fed, clothed, housed and comforted; advances in social services and education have all been realized as a result of the action these men took 20 years ago as well as the support you continuously give today.

"Generation Walker", the community foundation's strategic plan, will lead us into our third decade. We are looking forward and positioning ourselves and our partners to shape and mold our future in a way that is beneficial to Walker County and its citizens.

- We have the potential to work together to align community leadership around a plan that was created by more than 500 participants in Community Meetings throughout our county.
- We will work with administrators at Beville State, Jasper City and Walker County School Systems to do what we can to ready our students for kindergarten and eventually to have the skills necessary to find a career in Walker County.
- We fully realize the role good health plays into the success of everyone and will diligently work to increase health outcomes in Walker County.
- We honor our commitment to support nonprofit organizations in their quest to fulfill their missions and increase their capacity as an agent of change.

In this our 20th year, we look to the future while taking time to celebrate our accomplishments. Twenty years of giving to nonprofits; twenty years of connecting people with the causes that matter the most to them; and twenty years of strong investments that will enable this foundation to be around for all time, but most importantly, for all people.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul W. Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Paul W. Kennedy
President