Celebrating 21 Years of Gathering, Growing and Giving

Winter 2016

## STEVE BYARS FUND

It is with great pleasure that we announce the creation of the Steve Byars Fund. Steve saw his role in Jasper as that of a steward and gave selflessly to his community. He was involved in numerous civic organizations in Walker County. Through the Steve Byars Fund, his family will honor him forever by supporting nonprofit organizations in the place he called home.

John T. Oliver, Jr., founding board member and past chairman of Walker Area Community Foundation commented, "Steve continued and expanded the Byars family role of community service begun by the late G. L. Byars. Few families have the positive impact on our community as have the Byars family. He is and will continue to be missed by all of us."

Steve was president of Byars Insurance for 30 years and was instrumental in growing the company from two employees to Byars|Wright Insurance with 34 employees across two branches. He believed in people, had a



STEVE BYARS

deep love for his employees and had customers who were loyal to him because that loyalty was always reciprocated.

A devoted family man, Steve poured his life into the lives of his children and grandchildren. Known affectionately as "Poppie" by his grandchildren, he went out of his way to attend their events. Steve and his wife, Emily, shared a 44-year marriage with wonderful years traveling to many beautiful places and experiencing a wide variety of adventures together. Their family is his legacy.

Emily summarized all when she said, "Although Steve (Dad & Poppie) was a brilliant man, his humility and courage will always be remembered. He lived knowing

that being humble means that we are not on this earth to see how important we can become, but to see how much difference we can make in the lives of others. He was always humble with his confidence yet courageous in his character."

# J. George Mitnick Legacy lives on with new family fund

The legacy of J. George Mitnick, one of our original board members, is ever present in the thoughts and ideas flowing through the community foundation today. His compassion for our public servants and his passion for education are as relevant now as they were when he served on our board many years ago. His family agrees.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the creation of the Engel and Mitnick Family Fund. The Engel family and its descendants had a presence in Jasper for over 100 years. Siblings Joe, Lillie and Willine Engel brought Reva Levy Engel and George Mitnick to Jasper and what an important addition they were. They were all generous donors to many charitable causes in Walker County and were instrumental in the creation of several programs serving our community. Through this fund, as well as their many contributions throughout the world, their children continue to carry on the tradition. The Engel and Mitnick Family Fund recognizes the importance of the social services being delivered every day to our friends and neighbors in Walker County and will award grants to support their efforts. They will also consider grant applications that impact education, preparing future generations.

John T Oliver, Jr. has fond memories of Engel and Mitnick and much respect for their dedication to philanthropy. "In 1996, George and Joe were two of the first contributors to the Walker Area Community Foundation, and it is fitting that the families are memorializing the philanthropy of those who helped us begin this journey" said Oliver.

The generations of Engels are now a memory in Walker County. May their memories be a blessing to the benefit of Walker County as Walker County provided for them.

### THANKS, HAIG!

Long time board member Haig Wright's term of service, (maximum of 10 years), has come to an end. Haig, we will miss your insight, your humor, and your passion for giving back. Although you may not be attending our board meetings, we have no doubt that you will continue to carry a torch for this foundation and will answer the call when we need you. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!



Haig Wright

### WELCOME, SCOTT

We are pleased to announce our newest board member, Scott Thornley! Thornley's passion for this Community Foundation has been evident during his time on our Grant Review Committee, his participation in Project Community, his service on our President's Cabinet and his general availability when called upon.



Scott Thornley

Thornley attended the University of Alabama and then the University of Alabama School of

Law. Scott is currently a partner with Maddox, Thornley & Sanders.

He is the current President of the ARC of Walker County Board of Directors and serves on the Jasper City Schools Board of Directors and the Economic Vitality Committee for Jasper's MainStreet program. He is District Vice President of the University of Alabama Alumni Association.

Scott is married to Bess and they have two daughters - Margaret (4) and Elizabeth (18 months). Scott, we welcome you to the board and know we will accomplish great things in your tenure.

### **Reflections on Celebrating 20 Years**

If you do a little research, you will learn it takes a population of about a 100,000 people to build a successful community foundation. Never let someone else tell you it can't be done. The Walker Area Community Foundation is a testament to the fact that a small community with leadership, heart, and generous donors can have a lasting impact. A community of like-minded people can accomplish great things. Here are a few thoughts from the leaders who, with your help, have made it happen.

We have the opportunity to influence lives today and the quality of life in the future for our families, our community and our state. This community foundation allows us to do that. For all time. For all people.



Walker Area Community Foundation has a 20 year "track record" of helping nonprofit organizations that help people. We do not know what challenges the next 20 years will bring but this foundation will still be here because of the vision of its founders to establish an endowment for the common good of the Walker Area FOREVER. --- Carol Savage, First WACF Executive Director



There are few towns or counties our size that have a fund of over \$25 Million devoted exclusively to philanthropy such as ours. It is as it should be....a matter of great pride to all of us. --- John T. Oliver, Jr., Founding Board Member



The past 20 years have seen the foundation grow in so many ways. Our role as an agent of change for the community is exciting for me. Having the financial resources to invest in a better tomorrow for Walker County is impactful and being a partner in developing our community for the next 20 years is inspiring, challenging, and rewarding. I cannot wait to see in 2035 what we have accomplished in moving our community forward to a brighter future. --- Paul Kennedy, President

WACF FINANCIAL SUMMARY			
Year	Grants Awarded	Gifts Received	Total Assets
2015	\$1,015,748	\$ 1,317,305	\$23,697,848
2014	\$1,288,045	\$ 632,234	\$23,971,032
2013	\$3,073,770	\$ 1,187,126	\$23,900,784
2012	\$3,626,636	\$ 2,868,415	\$23,366,184
2011	\$1,190,071	\$10,701,343	\$22,241,646
Total	\$10,194,270	\$16,706,423	
5-yr Average	\$ 2,038,854	\$ 3,341,285	

# Bankhead House & Heritage Center

Open to the public Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. • Third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. • Admission is free.

### Helen Keller Art Show

We were honored to be one of the sites in the state of Alabama selected to exhibit the Helen Keller Art Show of Alabama, a state-wide exhibit of artwork by children & youth with visual impairments. It was a beautiful, unique collection of art with emphasis on creativity, color & tactile media.

Our collection featured Walker County past award winners, Jersey Morrison and Anna Marie Sides.

Jersey attends Curry Elementary School and won the statewide grand prize that is on permanent display at the Helen Keller Museum in Tuscumbia. Her work was featured on the Christmas cards for the Alabama Eye Foundation. Jersey has been blind since birth.

Anna Marie Sides, a blind artist, attended Memorial Park Elementary School. She was an award winner the first year she entered the Helen Keller Art contest in 2010.



### YOUR IDEAS...

The mission of the Bankhead House & Heritage Center is to be a place where people from all walks of life - residents to artists to historians to tourists - gather to experience a diverse range of exhibits and events with a focus on art, history, music, and culture that showcase our community's talents and future.

We are always looking for new suggestions and ideas for exhibits in our Heritage Center and events in our amphitheater.







#### **JANUARY 19 - JUNE 3**

A Walk through Walker County featuring the collection of local historian, Pat Morrison

Come see culturally significant artifacts representing our rich history from across Walker County.

#### **JUNE 21 - SEPTEMBER 30**

Call of the Wild: Presenting the collection of Dennis Campbell

Opening Reception: June 21, 5-7 p.m.

A Sipsey native and life long resident of Sumiton,
Campbell is a world renowned and award winning big
game hunter. The exhibit features animals from North
America and all over the world.

### JULY 3 - JULY 10 TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS FOR WALKER 24/7:

A Day in the Life of Walker County
"Summer" Photography Contest

Take part in capturing a moment in time of Walker County residents, activities, work, and events in daily life. Photographs will be on display in October-December. For details go to www.wacf.org/Bankhead House & Heritage Center/Walker 24/7 Photography Contest.

### OCTOBER 18 - DECEMBER 30

**WALKER 24/7:** 

A Day in the Life of Walker County "Summer" Photography Contest Exhibit

Opening Reception: October 18, 5-7 p.m.

A time capsule in photographs depicting a day in the life of Walker County residents during the month of July. The exhibit will feature winners and selected photographs from six categories.

### DECEMBER 16 - JANUARY 3 TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS FOR WALKER 24/7:

A Day in the Life of Walker County
"Holiday" Photography Contest

Take part in capturing a moment in time of Walker
County residents, activities, work, and events in daily life.
Photographs will be on display in 2017. For details go to
www.wacf.org/Bankhead House & Heritage
Center/Walker 24/7 Photography Contest.

Group tours are available upon request. For more information, call (205) 302-0001



#### **Prima Sherer Adams**

Alice Short Beth and Rick Stukes

Margaret Ann Edger Addington Beth and Rick Stukes

Victor Gladstone Addington Beth and Rick Stukes

Jeannette McPhail Argo Mary Gray Millsap

Murry Chesley Argo II

Lee and Stan Eggers Judy and Steve Hager Brenda and Al McAdams Linda and Lawson Murphy

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Judy and Gerson May

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Mary L. Campbell Jeanette and Pete Smith

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Joe S. Deavours

Abbie Drummond Becky May

Talma Temple DeLong

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Segal Drummond

Silvia Drummond Hoehn

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Sylvia and John Crump Alice Short

Robert Franklin Fields

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Abbie Drummond Mimi Hudson

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June and Bill Hudson

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Elyse Peters

Jimmie Carol Sherer Beth and Rick Stukes

Holly Trawick

Hazel Smith Kitchens Jenny and Mike Short

Hazel and Charles Kitchens

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B.V. "Bud" Ledbetter

Lucy Richardson

Nell Lee

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Silvia Drummond Hoehn Mimi Hudson

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Kevin Callahan - Birthday

Holly Trawick

Ben Chappell

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Hal Lindley

Josephine Dudley Davis

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Abbie Sue Drummond

Sylvia and John Crump Brenda and Al McAdams

Elizabeth and Al Simmons Jeanette and Pete Smith

Billie Ruth Drummond

Kay Byars

Hazel Marlow

Elizabeth Drummond

Corky Hagen

Toni and John Drummond

Gene Birdsona

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Jeanette and Pete Smith

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Beth and Paul Kennedy

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Jeanette and Pete Smith

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Jeanette Smith

Jane and Alec Grant

Elizabeth and Al Simmons

Mary Breck and Clay Graves

Kay Byars

Corky Hagen

Kay Byars

Jeanette and Pete Smith

Judy Hager

Jeanette Smith

Judy and Steve Hager

Lisa and Eddie Miller

Jeanette and Pete Smith

Vicki Gardner Hagood\*

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Kay Byars

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Carla Simmons - Birthday

Elizabeth and Al Simmons

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Pete Smith Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Jeanette Smith - Birthday Kay Byars

Jeanette and Pete Smith Kay Byars

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Becki and John Stallsmith Jeanette and Pete Smith

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Jamie Tisch

Eddie Miller

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Jeanette Smith

Betty and Bobby Underwood

Kay Byars Beth and Paul Kennedy

Hazel Marlow Lisa and Eddie Miller

Jeanette and Pete Smith Sally Walker Williamson

Sylvia and John Crump Brenda and Al McAdams

Sudie and Bob Reed

Beth and Rick Stukes

Jim Wilson, Jr. Hal Lindley

Haig Wright II

\* - Deceased

P.O. Box 171 • Jasper, AL 35502

Paul Kennedy - President pkennedy@wacf.org

Cristy Moody - Operations cmoody@wacf.org

Mimi Hudson - Community Relations mhudson@wacf.org

Alaina Hallmark - Administrative Coordinator ahallmark@wacf.org

Sue Lett - Accounting sclett@aol.com

Barbara Brown Medders - BHHC Coordinator

bmedders@wacf.org

#### **Board of Directors**

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# VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.wacf.org

# **HOW TO GIVE**

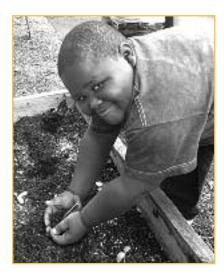
How can you help make your community a better place? By giving to the Walker Area Community Foundation.

There are many ways to give to the Walker Area Community Foundation:

- Cash
- Stocks
- Bequests
- Individual Retirement Accounts & Other Retirement Plans
- Life Insurance Designation
- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Real Estate
- Build Your Own Plan
- Online Purchases: When you purchase online from Amazon, go to www.amazon.com/smile. Choose the Walker Area Community Foundation as your charity and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Foundation.

Contributions to the Foundation may also be made through honorariums and memorials. The Foundation will acknowledge the gift on your behalf.

For online giving or information about our funds, visit www.wacf.org. Contact the Foundation or your Financial Planner to choose the method that is right for you!



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Join the Walker Area Community Foundation Group and the Bankhead House & Heritage Center Group on **Facebook** for the latest news on upcoming

**Housekeeping:** If you would rather not receive the newsletter, please contact the Foundation.

**Question:** Would you be interested in receiving an electronic newsletter? If so, please email us at info@wacf.org.

