



No One Steps Up To The Plate During Times Of Adversity Like The Citizens Of Walker County.

While 2020 provided many challenges for our community, there were many positive things that happened. During this time Brylee Smith and Cody Gilbert asked for a meeting with the Foundation staff in hopes of forming an organization of young Walker Countians with the simple focus of helping others. After only two meetings with Brylee and Cody, the group Nexus was formed and has since met monthly. *Webster's Dictionary* defines "nexus" as "a connection or link between a group or series." It is the Foundation's goal that the next level of leadership has every opportunity to be equipped with the knowledge and connections in order to ensure that Walker County thrives forever.

Since its inception, Nexus has grown from two individuals to seven. Members of the group include Brylee Smith, Cody Gilbert, Morgan Curry, Hunter Poe, Alex Fayet, Maddy Barker, and Blake Sims. Anyone who is interested in joining Nexus can contact Jim Trotter for more information at jtrotter@wacf.org



"My wish for Walker County is to strengthen our community to where we are all working as one to do the greater good for people of the past, present, and future. Nexus is an outlet for me and was something that I was looking for when I moved back to this community. It has given me a new group of individuals from different walks of life with similar goals which is so refreshing. My goal for Nexus is to gather

and act with like-minded individuals who are from and love Walker County and for our work to influence others to get involved to make Walker County a better place."

Morgan Curry



"Cody Gilbert and I discussed for a long time about how much we loved our community and wished that we were more involved. I have been involved with the Foundation for a very long time through my father's fund, the Samuel Lee Smith fund. We are blessed by the fact that, we as community members, may request a meeting and within a week have a newly-formed group. We told the Foundation that we wanted to see a change — and to be a part of the change. And the Foundation made it happen. I don't think this opportunity would have been possible in a larger community."

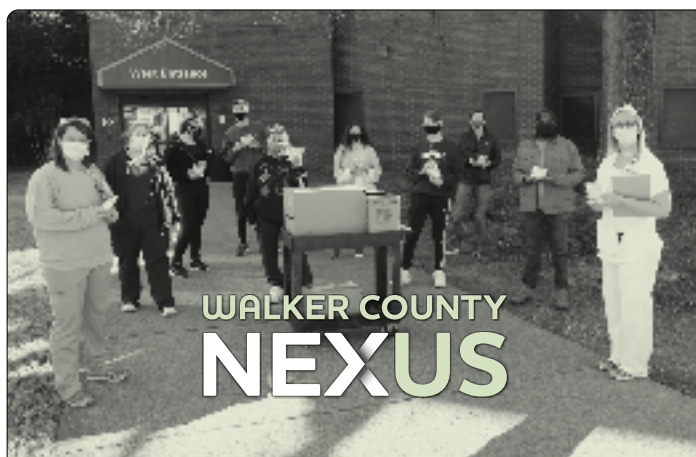
Brylee Buchanan Smith



"My goal is to get more people involved in our community. My favorite thing about Walker County is everyone knows everyone. You can go anywhere and see people that you know, and they will talk to you and interact with you unlike in a big city. When Brylee and I started Nexus, I saw a gap between our age and the age of folks fresh out of college and wanted to fill it. I love how the Foundation brings people together in order to help others. I would

love to see downtown continue to develop in order to keep the younger generation here and invested."

Cody Gilbert



Care packages being delivered to Frontline Workers

The Passion Behind Grant Review



Rachael P. Winston

"I was brought onto the grant review team in 2020, and it was a new experience for me!

I loved the fact that I had the ability to use my personal expertise and background in order to make an educated recommendation to the Foundation and its funders. My favorite grant that I have reviewed since being on the Grant Review Team was Smile-A-Mile. I was able to really dig in and find out more about the background because of the field I am in.

The Foundation in one word is 'amazing.' Before being involved in the grant review team, I knew somewhat about what the Foundation does and had seen things throughout the city. But I didn't know the full capacity of what it does. I cannot put into words how great it is to see growth in Walker County. I see new economic development, people taking care of people, unity occurring, and it is great! The Foundation does a great job of helping others. If you are not doing something in your life to help others, what is your purpose?"



Josh Gates

"The opportunity to serve as a grant reviewer has enriched my experience as a transplant to Walker County. Witnessing the passion and sincerity and hard work of so many local nonprofits and individuals to provide resources, funding and encouragement has had a galvanizing effect on me.

I believe the uniqueness of our community is found not in the issues we face but rather in our collective engagement to address these issues. I see the WACF as a conduit for bringing local leadership, nonprofits, and community-minded citizens together to realize the tremendous potential of our area. I am consistently humbled by the generosity of the WACF and inspired by its heart.

My favorite part of being on the grant review team is getting to see the best of us. The men and women of the WACF, and the nonprofits they serve, are truly exceptional. I am proud to be associated with such an impactful organization and motivated to be engaged in our community.

I see the WACF as a foundational organization for philanthropy, disaster relief, and forward planning. Their ability to marshal resources to meet critical needs, while simultaneously developing pathways for new and expanded industry, is transformative."



Allison Jones

"When I was asked to be on the Grant Review Team, I didn't realize all it entailed. The biggest thing you learn while being on the Grant Review Team is how our community steps up to the plate and gives back. Whenever I research a grant, I want to be able to get a feel for the project and know deep down that this is where the Foundation's money needs to go. I would never want to make a case on behalf of an organization that wasn't legitimate.

Being on the Grant Review Team is my favorite thing I'm involved in. I really enjoy learning about the great work being accomplished and reporting back to the Foundation. It is refreshing to see the people who have the funds to help — and want to help. It gives you hope for our future.

Hands down the Foundation does a great job of helping people through the nonprofits they serve."



Matthew Woods

"The Grant Review Team does a great job of making sure that the Community Foundation's funds are used in the best and most needed way possible.

Back in 2016, I was assigned to review a grant for Backyard Blessings, one of my favorite grants. Backyard Blessings makes sure that students have food for the weekend. This particular grant really hit home with me when I was at my daughter's elementary school one day and saw Backyard Blessings being delivered at the school. It touched me at that moment, because the kids being helped were my daughter's classmates and friends. It brought me a lot of joy knowing that, through the Foundation, I had a small part at making sure that hundreds of kids in Walker County were going to have food on the weekend.

For me, The Foundation provides stability. The Foundation, especially over the last year, has allowed organizations to continue their operations which affect thousands and thousands thousands and thousands of people. The Community Foundation is making a tremendous impact, and I would be scared to know where Walker County would be without it."

Onward Soldiers Hard At Work



Danielle Goins

“Growing up, my family was always the first to volunteer for something at our church or in our community. I’ve seen firsthand that when Walker County sees a problem, there is nothing that is going to stop it from finding a solution.

As soon as the Easter Sunday tornadoes came through in 2020, I reached out to the Foundation to ask what was needed and what the steps were to get involved. The Foundation immediately set me up with Walker County Emergency Management Agency. We assessed needs and realized that we did not qualify for FEMA assistance. The Foundation stepped in and reopened the Long-term Recovery Committee. We began meeting each week to help our affected citizens become safe, sanitary, and secure again.

Any time that you contact anyone from the Foundation, the answer is never, ‘No.’ It is, ‘Let me find out how to find a solution.’ It may not be a typical answer, but all of the different people and resources that the Foundation brings together make things happen.”



Reed Jackson has been a dedicated member of both the Longterm Recovery Committee and the Onward Fund for the last two years. The Onward Fund considers cases in which clients have issues that are outside the bounds of normal nonprofit funding and therefore stop forward progress for families; clients whose income has been stable but an emergent situation has created a single need that nonprofits cannot support (i.e., broken car part); deferred maintenance on homes that are owned by the client that create an environment that is not safe, sanitary or secure; and foster families in support of preparing their home for foster children, as well as to meet the needs of children once placed.

Reed decided to get involved with the Foundation when he and his family moved back to Jasper and saw first-hand what the Foundation was doing and the positive direction in which it was propelling Walker County forward. Reed believes the most rewarding part of being involved with the Foundation is giving people a chance. Not just help, but a chance. Reed Currently serves on the review team for our Onward Fund as well as the Long-term Recovery Committee and is instrumental in keeping our momentum going. According to Reed, “The Foundation is great at developing a plan of action and is committed to the success of that plan.”



Reed Jackson

How Transportation Gets Moving



Deidre Tatum

Deidre Tatum is the Executive Director of the Walker County Community Action Agency which assists with multiple programs that help low-income families and community members reach self-sufficiency. Deidre states, “Transportation is one of the biggest needs in our community. Every 2 to 3 years our organization does a community needs assessment, and since 2008, transportation has been one of the most pressing needs.”

Recently, the Community Action Agency has taken on the challenge and by creating the Walker County Transportation System through partnerships with the Walker County Commission, Federal Transit Administration, Alabama Department of Transportation, City of Jasper, City of Cordova, City of Sumiton, and the Walker Area Community Foundation. These organizations are working towards the goal of providing affordable transportation throughout the entirety of Walker County.

The Walker County Transportation System is working to overcome the route system and has developed what is called the demand response system. Clients now have the ability to request a ride 24 hours in advance by simply calling 205-265-3989 on Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The fee is \$2.00 for every 5 miles per one-way trip, and buses are handicap accessible.

Transportation System buses run Monday through Friday 6 a.m.– 6 p.m. and Saturday 6 a.m. – 12 p.m. Contract services are available for companies and organizations with specific transit needs.

“The Foundation has been very supportive both in funding and through developing programs, some that don’t even exist yet. The Foundation’s Onward Fund has helped so many people, and I get to see first-hand how it helps. I do what I do because it is my heart. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. If you see a person or community that is in need, it is natural to reach out and help solve some of the problems in our community.”

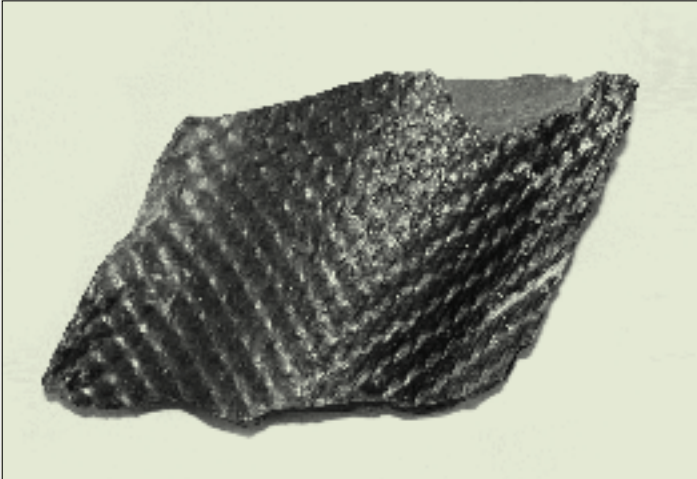
WACF Financial History-Last Five Years

YEAR	GRANTS AWARDED	GIFTS RECEIVED	TOTAL ASSETS
2016	1,245,595	472,913	24,069,051
2017	1,393,391	1,959,290	26,844,697
2018	2,055,904	45,579,423	66,352,747
2019	3,024,560	424,999	72,387,187
2020	2,373,134	7,906,078	83,301,999
TOTAL	10,092,584	56,342,703	

Bankhead House & Heritage Center

Archives from the Attic

We have thousands of items in our archives, so most items are not part of our semi-permanent exhibits. Here are a couple of the artifacts you may not get to see the next time you visit the Heritage Center.



Fossils from Walker County

This fossil offers a glimpse into a part of our area from millions of years in the past when part of present-day Walker County was covered in water. We have a set of fossils on display in the Walker County Room; however, this fossil has never been viewed by the public.

LYCOPODIOPHYTA (sometimes called Lycophyta or Lycopods) *is the oldest living vascular plant division at around 410 million years old. The swamp forests of the Minkin site represented a well-established ecosystem. Carboniferous forests contained lycopod “pole (or scale) trees” up to about 132 feet tall, and understory plants that subsisted on sunlight that made it through the open lycopod canopy.*

Union Chapel Mine Trackway Bed

Please Note: This area is NOT open to the public

In 1999, Alabama Paleontological Society (APS) member Ashley Allen scouted a surface coal mine in Walker County, Alabama, and discovered a treasure trove of vertebrate trackways and other trace fossils that had been imprinted on a tidal mud flat 310 million years before.

The mine, known as the Union Chapel Mine, was owned by New Acton Coal Co. It was recently named the Steven C. Minkin Paleozoic Footprint Site after Mr. Robert Reed, Sr. donated the land to the State of Alabama. Today the property is managed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources with input from the APS.

This site is recognized as the most prolific Carboniferous track site in the world. Now, that is a significant recognition that makes us proud of Walker County!



Bankhead House & Heritage Center Exhibit Committee

As you visit a heritage center or museum, do you ever wonder what it takes to make the exhibit you are viewing possible?

The responsibility for the content of an exhibition varies from place to place, but at the Bankhead House & Heritage Center we review ideas, decide on a concept, figure out how we will get the items to display (if we do not have them in our collection), and consider the overall story we want to tell. We are very fortunate to have a group of dedicated volunteers on our Exhibit Committee working diligently to preserve the history of Walker County and the surrounding area, while honoring our present and inspiring the future of our communities.

A special thank you goes to our Exhibit Committee of Brenda Beard-Chairman, Carl Goforth, Helen Morrison, and Pat Morrison. Brenda, Helen, and Pat started working together in 2010 when the concept for our Heritage Center first began. Carl joined the committee in 2019. Along with coordinating exhibits, they also conduct tours for schools and groups, collect artifacts, and host events. It could be considered a full-time job, and they give graciously of their time. Without their hard work, creativity, and vision our exhibits would not be possible. Thank you for giving back to your community!



HONORARIUMS: DECEMBER 1 – FEBRUARY 28

Anne and Jack Allen Morgan and Matt Allen	Jean Byars Kay Byars	Scott Crump Lisa and John Crump	Joe Drummond Beth and Rick Stukes
Robbin Reed Allen Betsy and Al Simmons	Kay Byars Robbin Reed Allen Gene Birdsong Jane Pounds Jeanette Smith Betty Underwood	Sylvia and John Crump Brenda and Al McAdams Beth and Rick Stukes Betty Underwood	Peggy Drummond Beth and Rick Stukes
Robbin and Anthony Allen Sylvia and John Crump Betty Underwood	Kevin Callahan Mimi Hudson	Ron Damron Beth and Rick Stukes	Sylvia Drummond Beth and Rick Stukes
Amanda and James Barton Jeanette Smith	Lenora Cannon Anne Stanfield	Josephine Davis Kay Byars Jane Pounds	Toni* and John Drummond Gene Birdsong Beth and Rick Stukes
Brenda Beard Anne Stanfield	Carolyn Childers Beth and Rick Stukes	Ken Dortch Beth and Rick Stukes	Vicki Drummond Lucy and Bill Richardson Anne Stanfield
Lori and Alan Beasley Jeanette Smith	Sara Cook Beth and Rick Stukes	Abbie Drummond Tina and Scott Aaron Anonymous Gene Birdsong Sylvia and John Crump Brenda and Al McAdams Jimmie Carol Sherer Betsy and Al Simmons Jeanette Smith Beth and Rick Stukes Betty Underwood	Vicki and Mike Drummond Jeanette Smith Beth and Rick Stukes
Gene Birdsong Kay Byars	Maxine Cordle Anne Stanfield	Beverly Drummond Beth and Rick Stukes	Karen Duke Jeanette Smith
Margery Birdsong Jeanette Smith Beth and Rick Stukes	Mike Cordle Anne Stanfield	Billie Ruth Drummond Kay Byars Euna Mae Gambrell Beth and Rick Stukes Betty Underwood	Lee and Stan Eggers Brenda and Al McAdams
Miss Jayla Black Missy Black	Helen and Reaves Crabtree Kay Byars	Edith Ann Crump Kim and John DeShazo	Pat and George Ellis Tracy and Andrew Ellis
Missy Black Cindy and David McDonald	Karen and Bubba Crump Jeanette Smith		Regina and Tex* Ergle Jeanette Smith
Jeannie Brandon Anne Stanfield			Lou Faught Beth and Rick Stukes
Kris Bureson Beth and Paul Kennedy			Alex Felts Lisa and Eddie Miller

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Mary Breck and Clay Graves Kay Byars	Jasper HS Faculty and Staff Beth and Paul Kennedy	Mitzi McDaniel Mimi Hudson	Carol Poynor Kay Byars
Mallory Gray Brenda and Al McAdams Lisa and Eddie Miller	Johanna and Alan Johnson Jeanette Smith Betty Underwood	Barbara Medders Beth and Rick Stukes	Pat and Mike Putman Mary Neal Hendrix
Margaret and Jerry Guthrie Beth and Rick Stukes	Sabrina Keating Margaret and Jerry Guthrie	Lisa and Eddie Miller Brenda and Al McAdams Betty Underwood	Sudie and Robert Reed Sylvia and John Crump Betty Underwood
Melissa Guthrie Sara Cook Corky Hagen Kay Byars Jeanette Smith Betty Underwood	Annette and Joe Kelley Brenda and Al McAdams	Jeff Mobley Ronnie Mobley	Cliff Rhodes on his Birthday Rebecca and Matt Franklin
Judy and Steve Hager Brenda and Al McAdams Lisa and Eddie Miller Jeanette Smith	Beth and Paul Kennedy Mary Neal Hendrix Barbara Medders	Cristy Moody Angie and George Lum Beth and Rick Stukes	Harris Rhodes Rebecca and Matthew Franklin Beth and Rick Stukes
Debbie and Bert Hendrix Mary Neal Hendrix	Paul Kennedy Alabama Partnership for Children Mimi Hudson Beth and Rick Stukes	Cristy and Lincoln Moody Kim and John DeShazo	Gordon Roell Euna Mae Gambrell
Brandy Hill Anonymous	Ladies Sunday School Class FUMC Jeanette Smith	Pat Morrison Deb and Tab Hudson	Sandra Saddler Belle and Sandy Saddler Anne Stanfield
Kristine and Joe Holley Jeanette Smith	Nancy Laird Anne Stanfield	Lynn and Jerry Mosley Brenda and Al McAdams	Debbie Sanders on her Birthday Kay Byars
Bill Hudson on his Birthday Mimi Hudson	Adam Lang Beth and Rick Stukes	Cheryl and Richard Mullen Beth and Rick Stukes	Debbie and Joey Sanders Kay Byars
June and Bill Hudson Missie Hudson	Jimmy Lee Kay Byars	Betty and Jimmy Nunis Kay Byars	Sandy and Charles Sanders Francis and Max Judy
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	Phyllis Long Jeanette Smith		
	Susan and Bud Long Jeanette Smith		

HONORARIUMS: DECEMBER 1 – FEBRUARY 28

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Jeanette Smith on her Birthday Anonymous Margery Birdsong Kay Byars Ladies Sunday School Class FUMC Brenda and Al McAdams Anne Stanfield Beth and Rick Stukes Betty Underwood	Beth Stukes Kay Byars Betsy and Al Simmons Bruce Webster Sheila and Bruce Windham	Jim Trotter Angie and George Lum Beth and Rick Stukes	Sheila and Bruce Windham Beth and Rick Stukes
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Wayne Smith Beth and Rick Stukes	Rieta and Buddy Thorne Beth and Rick Stukes	Linda and John Word Lisa and Eddie Miller	Youth Advocate Programs Staff Tina Aaron
			* Deceased

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Segal Drummond
Kathern Hyche

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Romana and John T. Simmons
Anna and Hugh Gainer

Terry Simmons
Judy and Steve Hager
Lynda and George Hiller
Judy and Gerson May
Margaret Parsons
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Jeanette Smith
Beth and Rick Stukes
Elizabeth and Shane Weber

Tommy Simmons
Kay Byars
Brenda Kirkpatrick
Rene and John Simmons

Judith Smith
William Smith

Mabry Smith
Becky Smith

Pete Smith
Daisy and Billy Aldridge
Kay Byars
Brenda Kirkpatrick
Pam and Cliff Rhodes
Carol Savage
Rene and John Simmons
Jeanette Smith
Beth and Rick Stukes

Samuel Lee Smith on his Birthday
Patsy and Dan Johnson
Renee Miller
Amy Sherer
Jeanette Smith
Patsy Stricklin

Sergeant Major James Snow
Pam Fikes

Bill Songer
Robbin Allen
Barbara Medders

Grady Sparks
Gene Birdsong
Missy Black
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Brenda and Al McAdams
Cristy and Lincoln Moody
Katie and Harris Rhodes
Jeanette Smith
Beth and Rick Stukes

Dickie Stukes
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