

WALKER AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

ONWARD







## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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Friends of the Foundation,

Pam and I had the privilege of moving to Walker County thirteen years ago. When we moved here, it was important to us to be involved and a part of the community, so we made the decision to live downtown. As we learned more about the community, one name was constantly mentioned to us—Walker Area Community Foundation.

We quickly became engaged with both the people and the mission of the Foundation because it is obvious—every philanthropic initiative and organization in our community is impacted by the Foundation. Sometimes the Foundation is the head cheerleader, the organizer or funder, but it is always a catalyst in moving charitable interests and opportunities forward. Behind initiatives like the Bankhead House & Heritage Center, Jasper Main Street, the We Can Do That campaign and the growth of Pre-K was the knowledge, the people, and the power of the Community Foundation.

When you look at the challenges faced by people in Walker County—opioid and drug addiction, mental health, poverty, natural disasters, feeding the hungry—there you will find the Community Foundation partnering with organizations to attack these challenges and help these individuals. Whether it's boots on the ground, financial guidance, or funding, the Walker Area Community Foundation is there to help move our community **ONWARD**.

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KEVIN F. CALLAHAN  
*Chairman, Board of Directors*



## WHY SHOULD THE FOUNDATION BE MY PARTNER IN GIVING?

### EXPERIENCED

The Staff of the Community Foundation understands the changing needs of the community and has a thorough understanding of the nonprofit organizations serving in those areas. The Board of Directors is made up of eleven knowledgeable community leaders and volunteers who serve as policymakers and ambassadors for the community.

### RESPONSIBLE

The Foundation is responsible in how it handles the money entrusted to us and how we invest it for both grant making and sustainability.

### GIVING

Since the Foundation's inception, it has grown from \$6 million to more than \$114 million, all the while giving away \$43 million to more than 250 nonprofit organizations throughout Alabama. We have a sophisticated grant review process to ensure we are investing our grant dollars in nonprofits that are making an impact.

### TAX ADVANTAGES

Community foundations are public charities, and donations qualify for the maximum available deduction for charitable contributions in the year in which the gift is made. (Tax credit can be banked and claimed over a period of years).

### PERSONALIZED SERVICE AND CUSTOMIZATION

Community foundations will meet with you individually or with your financial advisor to discuss your charitable giving interests and needs.

### RESULTS

There will always be community issues, yet here is our promise to you—there will always be a Walker Area Community Foundation to create initiatives around those issues. We will always be here to empower our citizens to create change while encouraging our nonprofits to dream bigger and funding them to do so. Your gift will last more than a lifetime.

## HOW CAN I GIVE TO THE FOUNDATION?

### GIFTS OF CASH

Donors can now deduct up to 60% of their adjusted gross income for contributions of cash. If your cash donations exceed that limit, you can carry forward any unused deductions for five years.

### APPRECIATED STOCK

When you donate stock, you can deduct the full value of the stock at the time you donate it and avoid tax on the appreciated capital gains.

### IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

Individuals 70½ or older may roll over up to \$100,000 from an individual retirement account (IRA) directly to the Foundation without recognizing the assets transferred as income.

### DONOR ADVISED FUND (DAF)

A Donor Advised Fund is set up by a donor and administered by the Foundation. A donor can start a DAF, receive an immediate tax benefit that year, and then provide guidance on distributions from the fund to nonprofits for as long as the fund exists.

### NON-CASH ASSETS

You can also donate other non-cash assets, such as real estate. The charitable deduction will depend on the type of asset and whether it is put into related use.

### THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GIVE TO THE WALKER AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION.

Contact the Foundation or your Financial Planner if you need help choosing the method that is right for you.

### ONLINE GIVING

Venmo: @WalkerArea-CommunityFoundation

BY THE NUMBERS

\$43,836,590	Total amount awarded to nonprofit organizations over the last 28 years
\$114,547,461	Total amount of assets held by the Community Foundation on 12/31/22
\$6,000,000	Amount of original gift, given by Community Health Systems, Inc., to begin the Foundation
3,851	Number of grants made to nonprofit organizations since inception
75,000	Number of people whose quality of life has improved because of the Foundation

WACF FINANCIAL HISTORY

YEAR	GRANTS AWARDED	GIFTS RECEIVED	TOTAL ASSETS
1995	-	6,000,000	6,000,000
1996	-	75,000	6,439,025
1997	289,300	147,250	7,595,028
1998	295,000	51,869	8,192,311
1999	367,300	100,154	8,542,749
2000	311,106	60,425	8,627,833
2001	294,490	179,278	8,226,235
2002	223,377	211,236	7,410,969
Gift and grant totals from this point forward include both our unrestricted Community Fund as well as our Component Funds.			
2003	330,213	359,556	8,770,491
2004	264,158	358,402	9,902,100
2005	308,211	244,765	10,695,867
2006	489,473	552,806	12,018,241
2007	569,170	432,961	12,164,567
2008	705,627	995,255	9,730,123
2009	465,969	776,138	12,143,056
2010	627,450	887,699	13,361,818
2011	1,190,071	10,701,343	22,328,994
2012	3,626,636	2,507,746	23,366,184
2013	3,073,770	1,187,125	23,976,770
2014	1,288,044	632,233	23,971,032
2015	1,015,748	1,317,305	23,697,848
2016	1,245,495	472,913	24,069,051
2017	1,393,391	1,959,290	26,844,697
2018	2,055,904	43,579,423	66,352,747
2019	3,024,560	424,999	72,387,187
2020	2,373,134	7,906,078	83,301,998
2021	3,838,641	5,907,913	94,076,906
2022	14,170,352	43,616,089	114,547,461
TOTALS	\$43,836,590	\$131,645,251	

“IT’S EASY TO GIVE AWAY MONEY. IT’S HARD TO GIVE IT AWAY WELL.”

The Foundation awards grants that address the evolving needs of our community. Twice a year, we accept grant proposals from 501(c)(3) organizations. We support organizations that demonstrate the expertise and experience necessary to accomplish their mission. Once awarded a grant, the recipient is required to sign a contract with the Foundation, which communicates that funds from the Foundation may only be used on the objectives listed in the recipient’s grant proposal. A written report on the

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Alabama Symphony Orchestra  
Bankhead House & Heritage Center  
Birmingham Botanical Gardens  
Birmingham Children's Theatre  
Birmingham Landmarks, Inc.  
Camp McDowell  
Friends of Downtown Jasper  
Main Street Alabama  
UAB Department of Theatre  
Walker County Arts Alliance  
Walker County Christian Chorus  
Winston County Arts Council  
Winston County Schools

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

AMBUCS  
Backyard Blessings  
Beacon House  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Big Oak Ranch  
Boy Scouts of America, Black Warrior Council  
Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Alabama  
Camp COOL  
Childcare Resources  
Free Will Baptist Children's Home  
Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama  
Girls Incorporated of Central Alabama  
Kids Loving Kids / Grace Ministries  
Magic Moments  
Maranatha Baptist Church  
National Child Safety Council  
Nick’s Kids Foundation  
Raising Arrows  
Secret Pantry

Smile-A-Mile

Walker County Children's Advocacy Center  
Walker County Children's Policy Council  
YMCA of Greater Birmingham  
Youth Leadership Walker County

EDUCATION

Alabama Kiwanis Foundation / Jean Dean RIF  
Alabama Possible  
Auburn University Foundation  
Bevill State Community College  
Carbon Hill High School  
Carl Elliott Regional Library  
Curry High School  
Dora High School  
Jalayah Hackman Foundation  
Jasper City Board of Education  
Jasper High School  
Jasper Junior High School  
Jasper Police Explorers  
Literacy Council of Central Alabama  
Maddox Intermediate School  
McWane Science Center  
Oakman High School  
Parrish Elementary School  
Preschool Partners  
Samford University  
Sumiton Middle School  
T. R. Simmons Elementary School  
University of Alabama New College  
Valley Jr. High School  
Walker College Foundation  
Walker County Board of Education  
Walker County Sheriff’s Office

ELDER CARE

Alzheimer's of Central Alabama  
Middle Alabama Area Agency on Aging  
Positive Maturity, Inc.

ENVIRONMENT

Disney Lake Landing Project  
Walker County Lake  
Wild South

HEALTH

Alabama Lions Sight  
American Cancer Society, Inc.  
American Heart Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Boldo Volunteer Fire and Rescue  
Brandi’s Blessings  
Capstone Rural Health Center  
Carbon Hill Fire & Rescue  
Children’s of Alabama  
City of Cordova Fire Department  
Community Grief Support Service  
Empire Volunteer Fire Department  
Glenwood Autism & Behavioral Health Center  
Healthy Eating Active Living, Inc.  
Impact Alabama  
Kid One Transport System, Inc.  
Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center  
Pregnancy Test and Resource Center  
Saragossa Volunteer Fire Department  
Sight Savers America  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing  
Walker County Health Action Partnership

funded project is due in the Foundation's office nine months after funding is received. The report requires financial data, as well as specific information concerning progress toward the stated objectives of the project. Listed below are the nonprofits who received funding from the Community Fund, as well as our Component Funds, over the last five years.

RECREATION

Birmingham Zoo, Inc.  
Camp O'Rear  
C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation  
City of Cordova  
City of Jasper Parks and Recreation  
Indian Creek Youth Camp  
J.H. Ranch  
People First of Walker County  
Sawyer ville Summer Camp  
Smith Lake Civic Association  
Townley Community Center  
Walker County Commission

SOCIAL WELFARE

American Red Cross  
Arc of Walker County  
Arley Women's Club  
Bethel Church Food Bank  
Big Oak Ranch  
Boldo Food Pantry  
Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank  
Carbon Hill Women's Club  
Christian's Place Mission  
Church of Cahaba Bend  
City of Jasper  
City of Lights Dream Center  
ClasTran  
Community Food Bank of Central Alabama  
Community Foundation of East Alabama  
Cordova First Baptist Church  
Daily Mountain Eagle Christmas Shoe Fund  
Daybreak  
Dilworth Church of God  
Equines Assisting Special Individuals

Fellowship House  
FOCUS on Recovery  
Food Bank of East Alabama  
Forgotten Tails  
Foundry Ministries  
Full Life Ahead Foundation  
Gordo First Baptist Church  
Greater Birmingham Humane Society  
Habitat for Humanity, Greater Birmingham  
HARTT  
H.A.L.O.  
Hope for Women, LLC  
Hope House Church  
J.A.M.E.S. Ministries  
Jasper Area Family Services Center, Inc.

Jasper’s First Baptist Church  
Main Street Ministries Inc.  
Mission of Hope  
Mt. Vernon Baptist Church Food Bank  
New Prospect Baptist Church  
Pathways Professional Counseling  
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
Rescuers United for Furbabies  
Ronald McDonald House  
Rotary Club of Jasper  
Salvation Army  
Sanctuary Church of God  
Society of St. Andrew  
Southern Research  
St. Cecilia’s Catholic Church  
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church  
Sumiton Church of God Food Bank Ministry  
Town of Oakman  
Town of Parrish  
Townley Community Center

TriCounty Agency for Intellectual Disabilities  
United Counseling  
United Way of Central Alabama, Inc.  
Victims of Violent Crimes Fountain  
Walker County Amateur Radio Emergency Service  
Walker County Coalition for the Homeless  
Walker County Community Action Agency  
Walker County Department of Human Resources  
Walker County Humane Society  
Wellhouse  
Your Town Alabama  
Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.

COMPONENT FUNDS

Component funds allow families, individuals, or organizations to focus on the charitable needs of our community and leave the administrative tasks to the Foundation. These funds are a permanent source of community capital, which will help the Foundation to continue its work today and far into the future.

**Alabama Free Will Baptist Children's Home Fund** was formed to help support the needs of the Alabama Free Will Baptist Children's home, which provides a loving home to children who are hurting or struggling with life's challenges.

**Andrew and Samantha Byars Family Fund** was established to help meet the needs of children in our community.

**Anonymous Fund**, started by a Walker County family who wishes to remain anonymous, supports general philanthropy.

**Aubrey Lea Gates Fund** was established in memory of Aubrey Lea Gates to support general philanthropy and quality of life improvements within our local community.

**Bankhead Fund** was started by Walter Will Bankhead and has a long history of providing general philanthropic dollars for our nonprofits.

**Bankhead House & Heritage Center Fund** supports the ongoing operations of the Bankhead House & Heritage Center.

**Barbara Drummond Thorne Fund**, given by her estate, offers financial aid to the organizations that were closest to her heart.

**Big Oak Ranch Fund** was established to support Big Oak Ranch in their efforts to meet the needs of abused, neglected, and abandoned children by giving them a solid, Christian home and a chance to realize and fulfill God's plan in their lives.

**Community Fund** is the Foundation's general unrestricted grantmaking fund.

**Cordova Library Fund** was created to support the needs of the Cordova Library.

**Clyde "Sappo" Black Family Fund** supports the general needs of nonprofit organizations in the community.

**Crump Family Fund** supports the education of children and the efforts of those engaged in emergency response.

**Disaster Relief Fund** focuses on meeting the emergency, unmet needs of Walker County residents who have suffered damage due to natural disasters.

**Don Drummond Family Fund** seeks to meet the needs of the residents of Walker County, as well as the community as a whole.

**Dr. Bobby T. and Betty Hooks Underwood Fund** continues the family's tradition of supporting nonprofit organizations in Walker County.

**Dr. Buddy Larry and Rieta Thorne Fund** was created to support general operations and special projects of Jasper's First Baptist Church.

**Dr. Saywer Mullen Memorial Fund** was created to honor the memory of Dr. Sawyer Mullen by supporting the charitable needs of our community.

**Drummond Company, Inc. (DCI) Fund** provided aid to employees of Drummond Company who suffered damage because of the April 27, 2011, tornados and continues to provide safe shelter for our community during storms.

**Drummond Thorne Stukes Fund** works to improve quality of life around Alabama while also addressing emerging needs of the community.

**Engel and Mitnick Family Fund** recognizes the importance of the social services being delivered every day to those with mental illness in Walker County and will award grants to support their efforts.

**Excellence in Education Fund** supports the Jasper City School system and its teachers with opportunities not included in the general budget.

**Friends of Camp O'Rear Fund** supports the physical plant and surrounding environs of Camp O'Rear.

**Haleyville Downtown Project Fund** funds downtown projects that will add life to the Haleyville community while creating an economic impact.

**Healing Network Fund** was established to create a comprehensive Network of prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery resources related to substance use and mental health disorders.

**Health Action Partnership** is a working group of Walker County health-related organizations striving to improve the health and lifestyles of our citizens.

Behind each fund is an abundance of success stories. Each one holds its own purpose and history but gains strength from being managed together. Donations can be made to any fund at any time by anyone.

**Jackson Family Fund** was founded with the belief that orphans and foster children should be afforded the privilege of attending programs like Camp McDowell. It also provides educational enrichment experiences for children without parents and supports the ministry of the Episcopal Church for the same.

**Jasper Main Street Fund** supports the operations of Jasper Main Street and the ongoing revitalization of Jasper's downtown district.

**Jasper Recreational Fund** supports the expansion of recreational opportunities and programs, making Jasper's recreational offerings exceptional for Alabama.

**Joe and Annette Kelley Fund**, started by their daughters to give back to the community that has taken care of them, this fund fosters a spirit of kindness and helpfulness through the nonprofit agencies in our community.

**King's Home Fund** was established to meet the needs of King's Home to serve Christ by serving youth, women, and mothers with children who are at risk.

**KUB Philanthropic Fund** supports the needs of nonprofit organizations in and around Walker County, as well as initiatives that improve the quality of life in our communities.

**Larry Drummond Family Fund** supports the needs of nonprofit organizations in and around Walker County, as well as supports initiatives that improve the quality of life in our community.

**Matthew and Ashley Laird Fund** recognizes the important work of nonprofit organizations and supports their operations and programs.

**Nick's Kids Fund** supports the official charity of the Saban Family, Nick's Kids, which provides general support to children, family, teacher, and student causes.

**Onward Fund** fosters efficient, streamlined, service delivery to people in need, moving them forward into financial stability.

**Patrick and Debbie Drummond Fund** supports the needs of nonprofit organizations in and around Walker County, as well as initiatives that improve the quality of life in our communities.

**Phillip Fraley Memorial Fund** was created in memory of Phillip Fraley. It focuses on educating youth through trade programs and technology in schools.

**Pinnacle Bank Fund** supports the general needs of nonprofit organizations serving our area.

**Rebekah L. Black Fund** assists in addressing issues of obtaining and maintaining sobriety, assistance in transition from rehabilitation back to society, job placement and transportation needs, and hopefully achieve the gift of "one more chance" to become productive members of their community again.

**Reed Family Fund** supports general philanthropy while keeping in mind the importance of serving the basic needs of Walker County families.

**Rotary Club of Jasper Fund** supports the Rotary Club of Jasper.

**Samuel Lee Smith Advised Fund** helps children and youth live their lives to the fullest by making grants to encourage strong health, athletics, scouting, religion, and the arts, especially to those who need financial assistance.

**Sherer Family Foundation Fund** supports the aesthetics of our community and the fine arts of the Walker Area, its facilities, grounds, and environs.

**Steve, Karen and Caitlin Hudson Fund** was established to help people that are in need and provide a source of encouragement and hope by sharing God's love. Acts 20:35

**Steve Byars Fund** was created in the memory of Steve Byars, who saw his role in Jasper as that of a steward and gave selflessly to his community. This fund will continue his legacy and support general philanthropy in Walker County.

**Terri Drummond Lyon Fund** supports the needs of nonprofit organizations in and around Walker County, as well as initiatives that improve the quality of life in our communities.

**Victims of Violent Crime Fund** was organized to create awareness of victims of violent crime in Walker County, Alabama, and to permanently memorialize the victims and their families.

**Winston County Fund** serves as a permanent source of community capital for Winston County by funding nonprofit organizations and community projects.

**Wright Family Fund** supports the needs of nonprofit organizations in and around Walker County, as well as initiatives that improve the quality of life in our community.





## PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Placing a four-year-old in a setting other than his/her own loving home for six hours a day is a difficult decision for any parent, but our community is making it easier for parents to choose to ensure their child is ready for kindergarten. Walker County Schools has 23 First Class Pre-K classrooms and continues to grow their number of available classrooms each year. Jasper City Schools has two pre-K classrooms using curriculum their qualified teachers have created over time. The Jasper Area Family Services Center was recently awarded a federal Head Start grant and has placed 13 classrooms throughout the county.

Dawn Teale has been teaching young children for 40 years and has earned both a BS and an MS in Early Childhood Education. When asked about her classroom, she is quick to respond that Alabama's First Class Pre-K program is by far THE BEST program she has ever been a part of because of the positive impact she sees in the children she teaches. "Alabama's First Class Pre-K classrooms provide developmentally appropriate, play based, and child-centered environments taught by highly qualified teachers. Teachers guide young children to have positive social interactions, to develop self-regulation and curiosity, and to gain cognitive skills for learning while encouraging creativity and exploration. The program provides wonderful support and professional development for the teachers that directly impacts the instruction", says Ms. Teale.

*Ms. Teale had the pleasure of teaching Cooper Gurly (pictured on left) in her pre-K classroom last year. "Cooper was already ahead with academic skills because of what her parents did at home with her, but she grew so much in social, emotional, and cognitive skills through play and interactions with others in pre-K".*

*The future is bright for our little learners, and our community will be a better place because of it.*







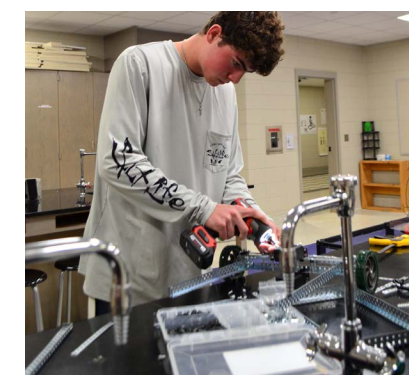
## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs (also known as STEM) are becoming more important than ever as our world becomes more complex. Walker County is strongly positioned to be a leader in this industry. Over the last six years the Walker Area Community Foundation has invested over four-hundred thousand dollars into our local schools and community college to ensure that our students receive the tools that they need to be prepared for an ever-evolving world through STEM education.

The Foundation is invested to guarantee that students receive STEM training beginning in elementary school through higher education. Some of the programs that we have funded in this area include a state-of-the-art STEM lab at Maddox Intermediate school. This grant supports students in learning the following: computer programming, design, construction, robotics, 3D printing, audio engineering, and many other skills. As our world continues to grow technologically, it is imperative that our students have access to these innovative resources. Through partnerships with Beville State Community College, robotics participation and education has expanded to Walker County Schools. Bankhead Middle School and Cordova High School are just two of the schools who are benefitting from this collaboration. Annually, these schools visit Beville State Community College and participate in competitions that lead to the state competition at Auburn University. Most students would not have this opportunity without the collaborations and funding from the Walker Area Community Foundation.

*Education holds the keys to our future. Whether it be through continued higher - education or technical education, The Foundation is determined to ensure that our students have access to innovative learning opportunities. STEM is just one way that we are supporting our local education systems in their efforts to mold the future of our community.*

Ethan Huynh is a Junior STEM student at Jasper High School and is pictured on the left.







## BANKHEAD HOUSE & HERITAGE CENTER

800 7th Street West in Jasper, Alabama, marks one of the Foundation's most significant initiatives. The Bankhead House & Heritage Center invites people from all walks of life to experience a diverse range of exhibits with a focus on art, history, plays, concerts, and, culture. The Heritage Center showcases our community's many talents, important history and thriving future. It is an educational experience for adults and for their children.

At any point in time, you can find many community members volunteering their time to 1. give tours to those who come from both near and far, 2. maintain the beautiful grounds of the Heritage Center, and 3. to operate the Summer Concert Series. A retired educator, Jackie Parker (pictured on left) is one of our volunteers. "I value the importance of volunteers because of the many who gave of their time to volunteer in my classroom. I consider being able to volunteer for the Bankhead House & Heritage Center and for a local non-profit food pantry/clothes closet a pleasure. Volunteering is so important because it is a gift of one's time to those served."

*"The Bankhead House strives to keep the exhibits both interesting and educational for all ages. Mrs. Parker thinks one of the most important exhibits that has been on display was the Smithsonian Water Exhibit. She explained that it was such a natural enhancement to the education that students were already studying. Students were exhibiting strategic-thinking as well as critical-thinking. While I was observing them, the adage came to my mind, seeing is believing. They didn't realize that they were experiencing interactive learning outside of a classroom right inside the doors of the community's house. When teachers are planning field trips, teachers must prove that they are educational, so the Bankhead House Exhibit Committee carefully selects exhibits that coincide with Alabama State Curriculum to ensure that every visit to the Bankhead House is always educational," says Parker.*

The Bankhead House is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. as well as the third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.







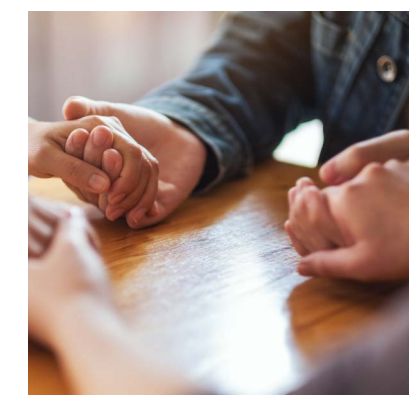
## REHABILITATION

Recovery from addiction can be a lonely process. Oftentimes, individuals in recovery must leave behind those that were a part of their life while in addiction, including family and friends. Alana (pictured on left) Jones recently moved to Walker County to begin her new life in recovery. Clean for a year, she is pregnant and shared her recovery journey with her doctor, Talia Gates. Dr. Gates introduced Alana to the She Recovers program, which engages women in prenatal care and ongoing substance use treatment.

“She Recovers was established in 2021 by a group of advocates and providers serving women in Walker County and adjacent communities. The mission is to engage women in prenatal care and substance use treatment. The Alabama Department of Mental Health provided the initial funding, and the Fellowship House, a local substance use treatment provider (funded by the Walker Area Community Foundation), initiated gender-specific outpatient services for pregnant and parenting mothers with substance use disorder,” says Dr. Gates.

Services include on-site substance use treatment and recovery support groups for women seeking prenatal care at Walker Women’s Specialists. The groups go through a curriculum both independently and together. Through this process, women are finding a safe place to share about their traumatic experiences (i.e., abuse in the family, abuse outside the family, rape, molestation, domestic violence, and losses), learning grounding techniques, and empowering each other on their road to recovery.

*When asked about the program, Alana says, “She Recovers has helped me build a new friend group with women going through the same thing I am going through. I was anti-social before She Recovers, but now I know how to choose my friends wisely and am able to get out more. The program is definitely keeping me on the recovery path.”*





HISTORY AND MILESTONES

In 1995, following a suggestion from John T. Oliver, Jr., Pat Willingham and the Community Health Systems Board set aside \$6 million in proceeds from the sale of the Walker Regional Medical Center to begin an endowment for the Walker Area Community Foundation. This donation has served as the nucleus for funding worthy causes that might otherwise go lacking.

Other community leaders involved in the formation of the Foundation were the late J. George Mitnick and Larry Drummond. Together, Oliver, Willingham, Mitnick, and Drummond created a foundation that will forever serve as a resource for solutions to our community's greatest problems.

Since 1995, the Foundation's endowment has grown not only from the original \$6 million to more than \$114 million due to wise investments and the creation of new Donor Advised Funds, but mostly because of the faithfulness of our donors.

The first two years were a time of growth for the endowment. In 1997, the first seven grants were awarded in the amount of organizations in our area. In addition to awarding grants where warranted, the Foundation staff is dedicated to developing the internal capacity of nonprofit organizations. We provide training sessions to assist with business operations and to further assist in their receipt of out-of-county funds from state, federal, and private sources.

The Foundation made its biggest and most impactful gift yet with the opening of the Bankhead House & Heritage Center. Purchased, renovated, and maintained by the Foundation because of the generosity of a few special donors, the Bankhead House & Heritage Center is here to serve our community as a treasure trove of information, artifacts, cultural events, and varied forms of art that connect our proud past to our optimistic present while inspiring our bright future.

In 2011, disaster struck our county in the form of tornados. From those first days, a different kind of relationship was brokered between the Foundation and Walker County nonprofits involved in disaster relief. We quit being just the funder and became a partner. We forged stronger bonds with local donors as well as regional and national funders. Because of our leadership, we became known throughout the state as the ones to call with questions because we were "getting it done in Walker County."

In 2014, the Foundation created its own strategic plan and began to lead the way in planning for Walker County as a whole with partners, including the Walker County Commission, Chamber of Commerce of Walker County, Jasper Industrial Development Board, Walker County Economic Development Authority, Senator Greg Reed, and all of the municipalities in our county.

The Foundation was fortunate to receive substantial financial gifts in 2018, tripling the size of our endowment. Through all the gifts the Foundation has received over time, we now have the ability to fund the dreams of our community or citizens—expanding their scope of influence—in addition to meeting our nonprofits' operational needs.

We celebrated our 25th Anniversary in 2020, as well as fought a pandemic and dealt with the aftermath of a tornado. The Foundation staff will tell you, it was our strongest year in terms of serving our community and making things happen in Walker County.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Vice-Chairman



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PROVING SCIENCE WRONG

If you do a little research, you will learn it takes a population of at least **100,000** people to build a successful Community Foundation. The area around Walker County has proven the research wrong. Over the last **28 years**, we have received more than **\$131 million** in gifts and granted over **\$43 million** to more than **250 nonprofits** serving our community. Simple math says we should only have **\$88 million** left in assets. Again, reality outperforms the “should be.” Today, the total assets of your Community Foundation exceed **\$114 million**.

Over the last **28 years**, we have received more than **\$131 million** in gifts and granted over **\$43 million** to nonprofits serving our community.

We can shape the future together. That’s the real story of the Foundation.

BY INVESTING IN THIS GENERATION, WE INVEST IN TOMORROW’S PROMISE.



Scan the QR Code  
to give now!

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