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COMMUNITY
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Your Community First Newsletter

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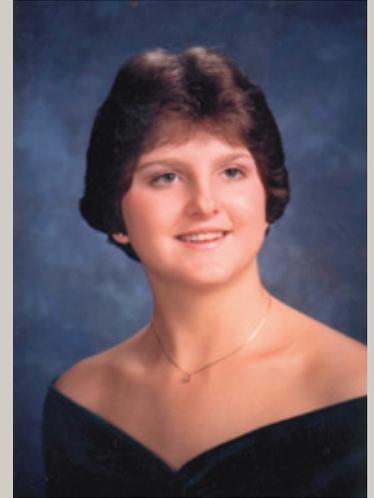
November 2016

Fund Spotlight - Melanie and Todd Edmondson Memorial Scholarship

Scholarship allows students to fulfill dreams

Bobby and Elaine Edmondson of Oxford established this scholarship in 2002 to celebrate and remember the lives of their children, Melanie and Todd. Both children attended Oxford High School and were very bright and athletic. Melanie was a standout in her class as the women's Calhoun County tennis champion representing Oxford High School. Todd was a defensive end for the Yellow Jackets football team and served as president of his class during his sophomore, junior and senior years. Melanie lived to age 29 and Todd age 27.

The Edmondson's created the fund for graduates of Oxford High School in gratitude to the people of Oxford for their friendship, genuine care and support of their family. The scholarship is intended to encourage young people to promote their dreams and to help lessen some of life's challenges. Since inception, eight students have received \$22,500 in scholarship awards to the following colleges and universities: University

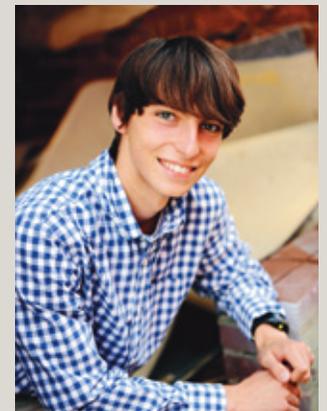


Todd and Melanie Edmondson

of Alabama in Birmingham, University of Alabama, Alabama A & M, Jacksonville State University, Auburn University and Huntingdon College.

Mrs. Edmondson, I want to thank you for providing the funds for this scholarship. Sometimes people can take college for granted, and think about "I have to study" rather than "I get to study." I can sometimes fall into this line of thinking as well, especially during finals week, but writing a thank you note to you reminds me just how lucky I am to have the privilege to study at a university. Scholarships like these can change lives, both for the scholarship recipient, and the people the recipient will impact in the future. I know this scholarship has changed mine, due to the privilege I have to study mechanical engineering at Auburn. I hope to impact others in the same way, using my experience to benefit society through research and development in the nuclear industry. I want you to know that I really do appreciate your donation for this scholarship, because it has provided me the opportunity to learn and grown in a way I never would have without it.

Sincerely, Zack Lee



Zack Lee

New staff gets right to work



Tammy Moreno with the ARC presents Fred Smith a Thank You note.



Heather Lamey with Betty Willoughby, Executive Director of Mental Health America of Etowah County



Mitch Rogers with Danny Coleman meets to create the BEST Robotics Initiative.



Lisa Morales



SamieJo Legg

Fred Smith is the Director of Stringfellow Health Fund Grants. He has quickly jumped into organizing the fall 2016 grants for the Stringfellow Health Fund. Fred has hosted several reviewer and grant applicant trainings sessions.

Heather Lamey is the Director of Donor Grants and Standards for Excellence®. Once settled, Heather immediately began meeting with not-for-profit organizations to assist them in completing the application process for Standards for Excellence® Accreditation and is currently working with the United Way of Etowah County to plan the 2017 training session.

Mitch Rogers is the Director of Scholarships and Initiatives. Mitch quickly assumed responsibility for the Evans Litigation Scholarship Fund which ended April 16, 2016. In addition, he is working with three exciting new initiatives for the region.

Lisa Morales is the Director of Region 2 of the Regional Workforce Council. Lisa has been traveling the region meeting with educators, business leaders and others to address the workforce needs of the future.

SamieJo Legg, JSU Intern – SamieJo Legg is a native of Anniston. She has a Bachelor's degree in political science and history from Jacksonville State University. SamieJo is currently completing her Master's degree in public administration at Jacksonville State University. Over the next few months she will be working with the Community Foundation as an intern. Her work will focus on the grant review process, conducting site visits to not-for-profit organizations which have received grants, and serve as a grant reviewer.

Stringfellow Health Fund Site Visits



Pictured: Dr. Gullede (JSU), Samie Jo Legg (JSU Intern), Dr. Edge (JSU), Fred Smith, Director of Stringfellow Health Fund Grants



Pictured: Volunteer with Alabama Childhood Food Solutions; Samie Jo Legg, JSU Intern; Fred Smith, Director of Stringfellow Health Fund Grants

Recently Fred Smith, Director of Stringfellow Health Fund Grants and Samie Jo Legg, JSU Intern, conducted site visits at Jacksonville State University School of Health Professions and Wellness and Alabama Childhood Food Solutions. The Stringfellow Health Fund Grant assisted Jacksonville State University in the expansion of the simulation center for the continued education of nurses. The Stringfellow Health Fund also assisted Alabama Childhood Food Solutions with the purchase of a commercial size walk-in freezer to provide the weekly and monthly meals to nine county schools. About 1200 meals per month are prepared for children to have food throughout each weekend.

Charitable Gift Annuities GIVE

Jennifer S. Maddox, President & CEO

Charitable Gift Annuities are packed with a double benefit. First, they give now. When you donate cash or appreciated assets to a fund with the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, the Foundation will pay you a fixed income amount quarterly for your lifetime. The payments never change. You even receive a charitable tax deduction the year you make the gift. The income rate is established by the American Council on Gift Annuities based on your age.

Secondly, the Charitable Gift Annuity gives later. The remaining value will eventually go to the Community Foundation to carry out your philanthropic wishes. To learn more, contact, Jennifer S. Maddox, President & CEO, 256-231-5160, ext. 25, or via email: jmaddox@yourcommunityfirst.org.



New Funds

Farley Moody Galbraith Fund – the fund has been established to provide unrestricted charitable grants.

The LYN (Love Your Neighbor) Initiative Etowah County

The LYN Initiative is specific to Etowah County. The mission is to build a movement while building healthy communities for all in brotherly love and to address unmet needs of individuals, groups, and communities.

Best Robotics Initiative

The Best Robotics' mission is to engage, excite, and inspire students to pursue careers in engineering, science, and technology through participation in a sports-like science- and engineering-based robotics competition.

Financial Investment Managers

Mason Investment Advisory Services based in Reston, Virginia has been retained as our investment advisor.



Mason was founded in 1982 and manages over \$4.7 billion for institutional & private clients nationwide. The company was hired effective January 1, 2016 after an extensive and competitive process. Investment reports from our investment managers are published on our website quarterly.



Standards for Excellence® Training 2017 comes to Etowah County

The Community Foundation, along with the United Way of Etowah County and the Alabama Association of Nonprofits, will bring Standards for Excellence® training to Etowah County on February 7, 8 and 9, 2017. The training is free! Make sure your not-for-profit organization is registered to attend. Contact Heather Lamey at hlamey@yourcommunityfirst.org.

Thank You,

Dear Jennifer, I am happy to report The ARC is following your sage advice. Tammy has obtained

a benevolent sponsor to support our transition with a significant donation. The nominating committee has spent time digesting your information and has begun developing new board expectations to guide the selection of two to five new board members. Our August board meeting will have a new direction. We have begun the process of transitioning to a more effective governing board and a stronger organization. Thank you for your wonderful guidance and support. Without you we would still be chasing our tails.

Sincerely,
Becky Fearon





COMMUNITY
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of Northeast Alabama

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Our Mission

To achieve positive change through the generosity of donors, now and for generations to come.



Rainbow Omega is home to adults with intellectual disabilities. Recently Jennifer S. Maddox visited with three of its residents whose families have either established a fund or made a planned gift through the Community Foundation to support the work of Rainbow Omega. Pictured (left to right) Jeff Tarnow, Jennifer S. Maddox, Joy French and Alison Ritch.