



NCCF celebrates 25 years

Launching a legacy to benefit the people of North Carolina

We'll soon celebrate the centennial of community foundations in the United States: the first was created in Cleveland in 1914, and the concept grew, particularly in the midwest and northeast. The first donor advised fund in North Carolina was created in Winston-Salem in the 1930s, but the community foundation structure was slow to take hold in the south. The North Carolina Community Foundation celebrates its 25th anniversary this fiscal year, which began April 1 for us. While relatively "young," it is fitting to look back on how NCCF began and its impact on the sector — not only in our state, but throughout our region and country. We'll profile some of the philanthropists who've had a big impact in an online history section we just introduced at nccommunityfoundation.org, where we'll also post some milestones. The web history will be ever-expanding, so visit often!

Robert Powell Holding, Sr., founder and CEO of First Citizens Bank, was aware of the concept of community foundations, but there weren't many in the southeast in the 1950s. He was intrigued enough to ask his middle son Lewis to travel to South Carolina to learn about the Spartanburg County Foundation, which had been built by Walter S. Montgomery, a businessman who made his wealth in commodities.

Robert was extremely civic-minded and a "generous but unassuming philanthropist" according to a biography included in the North Carolina Collection at the UNC Library. Perhaps he was feeling his mortality and thinking in terms of a legacy that he could create for our state. Sadly, Holding never got a chance to act on the information his son brought back about



community foundations, as he passed away in 1957.

In fact it was three decades before anyone could act on the knowledge that Lewis Holding gathered. When their father died, he and his brothers — all under age 32 — took over man-

agement of First Citizens and built the company into a banking giant, often lauded as one of the safest financial institutions in the United States.

By the mid-1980s, First Citizens was firmly established and on a trajectory that was taking it far beyond its eastern North Carolina roots. The concept of creating a community foundation had never left Holding's mind, and he decided that the time had arrived to develop the organization that he knew would benefit the people and communities of our state — and that he'd been thinking about for 30 years.

The North Carolina Community Foundation was launched in 1988 when leading philanthropists from throughout the state came together to create a pool of endowment funds

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The Chairman's Challenge: Let's support our local communities

One of the highest callings of a community foundation is to build a pool of "unrestricted" assets for local grantmaking. These "community grantmaking funds," to use the current vernacular, enable the foundation to respond to both immediate and future needs of the areas served. The North Carolina Community Foundation is proud of the resources we've introduced in the form of unrestricted funds in communities where we partner with affiliate foundations across the state.

In some cases, these grantmaking funds grew out of seed money raised and invested by NCCF's founders, who then issued a challenge to grow the affiliate endowment through matching gifts from the community. Their thinking was, of course, that a fund created in part by local residents would have more investment and meaning in the community. They were right.

All of our affiliates' community grantmaking funds have continued to grow over the years. Affiliates have employed a number of methods to increase the size of their endowments, including encouraging planned giving, direct appeals and fund-raising events.

This year we've decided to try something new to help affiliates boost endowment totals. It's a method that takes us back to our roots, which is fitting for our 25th anniversary.

The generosity of an anonymous donor has allowed us to apply a challenge match for funds that participating affiliate advisory boards raise for their local unrestricted endowments during the month of June. As of press time, NCCF had \$75,000 to utilize as a match for funds that each affiliate develops. In other words: every gift made to a participating local affiliate's community grantmaking fund between June 1 and June 30 will receive a proportional share of the challenge match grant.

Development Vice President Beth Boney Jenkins is excited about the possibilities of the statewide campaign. "The vision and generosity of one of our donors has made this initiative possible for us," she said. "A challenge campaign can inspire passion in many donors who appreciate the opportunity it offers to stretch their charitable dollars."

The campaign is called the Chairman's Challenge, and we hope you'll look for ways to become involved and support the community grantmaking fund held by the participating affiliate foundation where you live, like to vacation or want to support. (A listing of participating affiliate foundations is posted on our website at nccommunityfoundation.org.)



Our affiliates' community grantmaking funds provide local resources that help support important initiatives, like the "Just Watch it Grow" program of the Brunswick County Smart Start. Julie Wolfe and other advisory board members of the Brunswick County Community Foundation recently visited Smart Start to see the program in action.

How can you support the Chairman's Challenge?

Many residents in areas served by an NCCF affiliate foundation will receive letters or emails about the campaign. Local news and social media may also carry information. Information is also included on our website, where contributors can make an online gift to participating affiliates. Those who want to write a check can send it to NCCF's Chairman's Challenge, 4601 Six Forks Road, Suite 524, Raleigh, NC 27609. Please note the affiliate you are supporting in the memo line.

If you need to be reminded why NCCF affiliates' local grantmaking funds are such important resources in communities throughout the state consider these points:

- Local dollars stay local. All contributions to an affiliate's community grantmak-

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NCCF's 25th marks a milestone that matters in many ways



Time seems to move so very quickly these days. Amid the hustle and bustle and demands of everyday life, it's important to take time to slow down and reflect on both where we've been and where we're going. Our fiscal year began in April, so this is our typical time to take stock.

This year is important to NCCF in many ways. For one, 2013 marks our 25th anniversary. It's a milestone, a benchmark and a time to reflect, plan and express our gratitude for those who have both gone before and also who march beside us now. Reaching the quarter-century mark is a testament to the incredible vision and generosity of our founders, the passion and generosity of our fundholders and the commitment and trust we've built with our affiliate partners across our state.

This year also marks a significant leadership transition. James W. Narron, who served four years as NCCF board chairman, stepped down in March. Stuart Dorsett has just moved into the leadership role. Mr. Narron has been a strong and steady leader, steadily guiding us through a roller coaster ride that included both challenging economic times and also record-setting growth. He also had the foresight to establish the FUTURES Committee to help ensure our ongoing success.

I am happy to report that NCCF's board approved the FUTURES Committee's recommendations this spring, with our first action to commence this summer as we examine our affiliate structure. The Affiliate Impact Committee will be made up of staff and affiliate leaders from each of our eight regions and look at how we can leverage the effectiveness of our statewide network. You will be hearing more about this later.

New NCCF Chairman Dorsett will help to oversee the implementation of the FUTURES Committee. He brings to his role a wealth of experience as a statewide board member and also as advisory board president of two affiliate organizations: the Wake County Community Foundation and the Craven County Community Foundation. We're also looking forward to tapping into his tremendous expertise as a leading estate and trust attorney. His first meeting as chairman was in May, and we were all gratified to see a solid commitment to our affiliate network and passion for our good work.

We have a lot to be grateful for: our founders, early leaders — and for each of you. We thank you all for the many roles you've played in the success of this community foundation, for your generosity and for your passion for North Carolina.

Please take time to read this newsletter and recognize your part in helping the North Carolina Community Foundation create tremendous impact in communities across this state.

Jennifer Tolle Whiteside
President and CEO
NCCF

NCCF receives Charity Navigator's top rating again!

NCCF has achieved Charity Navigator's top, four-star rating for the sixth consecutive year! The latest four-out-of-four rating is based on several criteria, including sound fiscal management and good governance that ensures best practices in nearly all categories of our work. The letter informing NCCF of our four-star rating noted that only three percent of the charities they measure have received the top rating six years in a row, prompting Charity Navigator to develop and name us to a new category — and that is the "exceptional" designation.

"We operate in an environment that demands more accountability, transparency and quantifiable results," said NCCF CEO Jennifer Tolle Whiteside. "Charity Navigator's ranking, along with our National Standards designation, provide assurance of our efficiency and ethical practices." She noted that the entire NCCF team, statewide directors and affiliate board members are to be congratulated on a job well done. "Thank you all for your hard work and dedication," she said.

Charity Navigator draws its financial data from the 990 tax return. Conventional wisdom holds that well-functioning nonprofits should have at least 80% of expenses going towards program expenses. Our most recent 990 had NCCF's program expenses at 91%, which contributed to our high rating. More information about our latest rating can be found at charitynavigator.org.

Dorsett is new chair of statewide board

Stuart B. Dorsett has been appointed chairman of the statewide board of directors of the North Carolina Community Foundation, according to James W. Narron, immediate past chairman.

Dorsett is only the fifth board chairman in NCCF's 25-year history. "This is a key role for the Foundation during a milestone period in the organization's growth and development," according to Narron, whose four years as board chair ended last month. He remains a member of the board.

Dorsett is an estate attorney and leader of the Trusts and Estates Practice Group for Ward and Smith, PA. He has been a member of NCCF's statewide board since 2004 and is a past president of the boards of advisors of the Craven County Community Foundation and the Wake County Community Foundation, both affiliates of NCCF.

NCCF CEO and President Jennifer Tolle Whiteside said that the Foundation would benefit from Dorsett's professional stature as a leading estate and trust attorney and thorough knowledge of North Carolina's communities. "I speak for the entire board and staff when I say we are excited about Stuart's new role as board chair," she said. "His experience, expertise, commitment and energy combine to make him the right leader at the right time."



Stuart B. Dorsett

Dorsett is certified by the North Carolina State Bar in estate planning and probate law and a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. Some of his honors include being named among the "Best Lawyers in America" from 2001 to the present; "Lawyer of the Year" in 2013; and among Business North Carolina's "Legal Elite" from 2002 to 2013. Dorsett received his juris doctorate from the School of Law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his bachelor's degree from Davidson College, where he has served on the board of trustees and as president of the alumni association.

Women's giving programs are making an impact

NCCF's women's giving programs from the statewide to local levels continue to grow.

Grants from our nine women's giving groups totaled more than \$227,000 for our fiscal year ending March 31, 2013, a record level. These contributions are making quite an impact on our state's local communities, focusing particularly on programs that serve women, girls and families.

Two of our women's giving networks held their first grant cycles: the Cary Women's Giving Network and the Women's Impact Network of New Hanover County. Many of these giving groups focus on making impact grants. For example, the aptly named Women's Impact Network awarded one grant: \$20,000 to the Cape Fear Guardian ad Litem Association, which is laudable for its very first giving cycle.

Many giving groups focus on continuing education for members. In March, NCCF's Statewide Women's Fund was proud to help sponsor the Status of Women in North Carolina report, which was unveiled at the NC Women's Roundtable event in Greensboro. Spearheaded by the



US Sen. Kay Hagan videotaped a message of support for the statewide meeting held to present research findings on the status of women in North Carolina.

NC Council for Women, we joined people from throughout the state to hear about the many challenges facing women and girls. (The report can be read at councilforwomen.nc.gov) The Wake County Women's Giving Network also took a leadership role in sponsoring related research, joining Meredith College and other women's organizations to present the Status of Girls Report, which can be found at meredith.edu. The Education Committee of the Wake

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State of Generosity™

A sample of Foundation news about people and events across North Carolina

NCCF CEO named to National Standards board

Jennifer Tolle Whiteside, NCCF CEO and president, has been tapped by the Council on Foundations (COF) to serve on the review board for the National Standards for US Community Foundations Program. The National Standards board is administered by the COF and requires community foundations to document their policies for donor services, resource development, investments, communications, grantmaking, community leadership and administration. The program is designed to provide quality assurance to donors and their legal and financial advisors. The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations Program is the first of its kind for charitable foundations in the United States. NCCF has met the criteria for National Standards for the last two review periods. The National Standards Board compares the distinction to the Good Housekeeping Seal for community foundations. Tolle Whiteside's board service does not coincide with NCCF's review period.



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CLT director conducts strategic planning

NCCF's Community Leadership Director Sally Migliore has been busy in recent months visiting with many of NCCF's affiliate boards. Several have requested that she help them refine focus and establish priorities through strategic planning.



Sally Migliore makes a point about board goals for a recent strategic planning session.

She has led several advisory boards through this formalized process, including Ashe, Craven, Lenoir, New Hanover, Robeson and Yadkin. "I've been so impressed by the initiative and commitment shown by our affiliate boards," she said. "They're being very creative in demonstrating their leadership to inspire local giving and serve as catalysts around community issues." Some of the focus areas that boards are exploring through strategic planning include ways to better leverage community grantmaking, effective board recruitment and increasing donor engagement. Stay tuned for more details as further work unfolds!

AFFILIATES HONOR LOCAL GREATS WITH AWARDS

Moore County

The Moore County Community Foundation annually selects a Man and Woman of the Year and this past fall feted Cos Barnes and Norris Hodgkins Jr., both well-known for decades of local volunteerism and leadership. Barnes is a local writer, church deacon and hand-bell ringer who is currently on the boards of Sunrise Theater and the Arts Council of Moore County, where she also served as president. Selected past board service includes the Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities, the Moore County Historical Society, Southern Pines

Sister Cities, Family Promise, Southern Pines Library and the Arc of Moore County. The list could go on! Hodgkins' service is also impressive, serving on the boards of Moore County Tuberculosis Association, Moore County Historical Association and Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church. He also is a former mayor of Southern Pines, served on the board at Sandhills Community College and FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, to name just some of his local volunteer leadership positions. Hugh Bingham, Moore County Community Foundation's board president, told *The Pilot* that, "As a philanthropic all-volunteer organization, with board members who reflect the entire community, we believe that volunteerism is an important factor in the livelihood of Moore County."

Lee County

The Lee County Community Foundation was inspired by the Moore affiliate and two years ago began their own annual event to honor local leaders, recognizing this as a great way to raise awareness about the affiliate, develop funds for local grantmaking and celebrate outstanding volunteerism. The Lee affiliate held its annual Man and Woman of the Year event this spring, honoring David G. Spivey and Isabel Heins Lawrence. Spivey is a former president of the United Way of Lee County and also headed the Jonesboro Rotary Club. He also is a past chair of the Sanford Chamber and the local Red Cross. Lawrence has taught Sunday school for 50 plus years, is an ambassador at Temple Theatre and was instrumental in helping to build the new Lee County Library, as well as Sanford's "t.l.c. home inc.," for disabled children. Both honorees' achievements could go on. Spivey's philosophy of community involvement was summed up in an interview with the *Sanford Herald*: "The thing is to just go ahead and jump into the area that is appealing to you and that you would like to help out with," he said. "You don't have to know anything ahead of time...just jump in and do it!"



Lee County Community Foundation's Man and Woman of the Year for 2013 are Isabel Lawrence and David Spivey.

Harnett County

Jesse Alphin was named the Harnett County Community Foundation's first Citizen of the Year at their grantee event held at year-end. "No one has ever cast a broader net than Jesse Alphin," said Dal Snipes, Harnett affiliate president in a *Dunn Daily Record* article.

Alphin was instrumental in helping to establish the local community foundation affiliate of the NCCF in Harnett County and helped to get the local grantmaking fund started. He also played a significant leadership role in creating the Gen. William C. Lee Airborne Museum. His many honors include the Order of the Longleaf Pine, NC Industrialist of the Year and NC County Commissioner of the Year. He is a longtime supporter of Campbell University and serves on the school's Presidential

Board of Advisors. He has been active in the local Rotary and Chamber, which also named him their Man of the Year.



Dal Snipes, left, president of the Harnett County Community Foundation (HCCF), presented Jesse Alphin Sr., former HCCF board member, with the affiliate's first annual Citizen of the Year award.

Yadkin County

Annually for the past several years, the Yadkin County Community Foundation has named a Philanthropist of the Year to recognize a person who has generously shared his or her time, talent and resources for the betterment of the Yadkin area. This past fall, the affiliate chose to posthumously honor Susan Steelman. Word got out that this much-loved community leader would be honored, and attendance at the affiliate's annual dinner broke all records. A longtime educator in Yadkin County schools, Steelman led a life devoted to service and her community. She also played an instrumental role in the early years of the Yadkin affiliate and created an endowment fund to support the Deep Creek Friends Church in Yadkinville. (John Francis, NCCF northwest regional associate, wrote a tribute to Steelman in a Nov. 2 blog post, which can be found on our website at nccommunityfoundation.org.)

Tar River Food and Wine Festival another hit

Every two years, the Futrell-Mauldin Community Foundation for Greater Rocky Mount hosts its signature event, the Tar River Food and Wine Festival. Considered one of the preeminent charitable events in eastern North Carolina, the beautiful Rose Hill Plantation evening generally raises about \$35,000, allowing the Futrell-Mauldin Fund to grant approximately \$50,000 to charitable organizations in Nash and Edgecombe counties. April 25th marked the sixth event, which was both a celebration and also bittersweet salute to event founder Bob Mauldin, who had died just the week before. Mauldin was not only the inspiration behind the event, but also the founding president of the Futrell-Mauldin Fund and the Rocky Mount affiliate.

Visit nccommunityfoundation.org/affiliates/RockyMount to see a slide show of the April fund-raiser.



The beautiful Rose Hill Plantation in Nash County was the setting for the Tar River Food and Wine Festival. Photo courtesy of KJ Bradley Photography.

State of Generosity™

A sample of Foundation news about people and events across North Carolina

Fifth annual Duck and Wine Festival is another success

The Duck and Wine Festival is co-hosted every year by the Currituck-Dare Community Foundation and Coastal Provisions, with locations in Southern Shores and Duck. To say this event is popular is an understatement, as it sells out every year – and well in advance of the festival held at the Duck Waterfront Shops. (In fact, if you want to go next year, mark your calendars now for April 26, 2014; tickets will go on sale Feb. 1.)

This is a unique chef/restaurant cook-off featuring duck donated by Maple Leaf Farms, one of the nation's largest growers of premium duck for consumption. Each dish selected by the chef is paired with an appropriate wine. The food and wine are good, but even better is the cause. This year the event netted about \$15,000 for several local charities, including the Currituck-Dare Community Fund and two of its nonprofit endowments. Since this festival began in 2009, it has raised about \$54,000 for the local community.



Tickets for the Duck and Wine Festival sell out every year, so mark your calendars now for April 26, 2014. Tickets will go on sale Feb. 1! Photo courtesy of Bill Birkemeier.

Duplin County Sheriff's Ball raises funds for youth

The Duplin Foundation for Youth Advancement, a program of the Duplin County Community Foundation, held its annual Sheriff's Ball at River Landing Country Club in Wallace in April. The black-tie event sold out, and enthusiastic support for live and silent auctions helped raise valuable resources for youth grant opportunities in the area.



Among those in attendance at the Sheriff's Ball were Debra Morrissey (left), a member of the Duplin affiliate's board of advisors, and Clitondra her daughter.

Pamlico County holds Friend-Raiser

Pamlico County Community Foundation recently hosted a Friend-Raiser at the Pamlico County Museum and Heritage Center. The group heard remarks from three former grant recipients: Jim Ward, Boy Scouts of America, East Carolina Council, Joy Branham of the Coastal Carolina Red Cross and Heidi Artley from PAWS, who each discussed how their grant awards had helped their

causes in Pamlico County. President Flora Moorman shared how to start your own endowment and how giving can grow the affiliate's community grantmaking fund.



Pamlico County advisory board members and NCCF staff: (L-R): Julia Mobley, vice president; Flora Moorman, president; Cindi Mayo, Sally Belangia, Kim Ball, NCCF regional associate, Ann Holton, Pat Prescott and Tim Buck.

Macon's mystery dinner makes money

The Macon County Community Foundation has become famous for its annual mystery dinner theater, staged each year to raise money for the local grantmaking fund. This year's offering, "A Dangerous Night on a Desert Isle," was performed three nights at Fat Buddies restaurant in Franklin and raised about \$8,000 for the affiliate's unrestricted fund. Set design included an elaborate "cave" designed by Larry Stenger, former Macon advisory board member.



Actors front row L-R: Theresa Ramsey, Becky Beasley, Michele Hubbs, Louise Henry and Karen Kenney (all Macon affiliate advisory board members); and back row: Milam Beasley, Jim Breedlove (both board members), Betsy Gooder and Larry Stenger (former board member). Photo courtesy of The Franklin Press/Linda Mathias.



The Eastern Band of Cherokees Community Foundation recently awarded a grant from the George and Della Owl fund for the Kituwah Academy's Preservation and Education Program. Photographed L-R are: Kylie Crowe Shuler, principal for grades K-3 at Kituwah Academy; Allan Oocumma, president of the Eastern Band affiliate; and Martha Ledford, language development supervisor for the Academy's pre-school.



Carteret Community Foundation President Pat Rauhauser, center, checks in golfers for the affiliate's 27th annual Golfing for Grants tournament. The event attracted 72 golfers and raised resources for the affiliate's local grantmaking endowment. "All of the golfers enjoyed a beautiful spring day to support a great charitable effort," Rauhauser said. A complete list of winners and sponsors can be found on NCCF's website on Carteret's page under the Affiliate tab.



NCCF and the Wake County Community Foundation's Professional Advisors Committee co-hosted a breakfast in May. The NCCF development team has held 12 of these gatherings throughout the state over the past year. These ongoing events offer important opportunities to share our message to estate attorneys, financial planners and CPAs.

NCCF creates Green Team at HQs office in Raleigh

Community foundations are all about stewardship, and NCCF is no exception. Our role is to help leverage the very best allocation of resources. Of course that concept extends beyond grantmaking, and members of our headquarters staff have created a Green Team to help further our commitment to environmental issues and take additional steps to integrate sustainable practices into the workplace. The team has met several times and also sponsored a well-attended lunch and learn on local farm-to-table options. "Many on our staff are already recycling, minimizing waste and buying local, so we're now also working together as a team to minimize our collective footprint," said Sandi Matthews, NCCF controller and team leader. Initial steps have been focused on raising awareness among staff and promoting collaboration.



NCCF's new Green Team (L-R): Lori Johnson, Patrick Callahan, Kelly Lee, Sandi Matthews and Mary Anne Howard.

First generation college students are a focus of new NCCF scholarship outreach program

Many of us remember the long list of “to do’s” created to get ourselves or our children ready for college. It probably looked something like this:

- Extra-long twin sheets – ✓
- Shower caddy – ✓
- Bathrobe – ✓
- Microwave and dorm fridge – ✓
- Textbooks and school supplies – ✓

But what may not be checked off of everyone’s list is tuition. Even good grades and a high SAT score can’t ensure admission to our state’s university or community college systems if the resources aren’t there to pay the bills. And sadly, that’s where the checkmarks stop for many of North Carolina’s high school graduates, particularly those from rural areas, where NCCF focuses much of our attention.

NCCF’s scholarship administration has emerged as a niche that attracts many fundholders seeking help with scholarship management. Our largest grant category for 2012 exceeded \$1.8 million for education initiatives, which included nearly \$550,000 in direct scholarships that allowed students to pursue post-secondary educations.

NCCF has been tracking demographic data for several years on recipients of our nearly 200 scholarship endowments. A notable trend is the large percentage of those declaring themselves as first-generation college students. Last year nearly one-third of all of NCCF’s direct scholarship recipients reported being the first in their families to attend an institution of higher learning. It’s a significant percentage, and a metric that caught the attention of Leslie Ann Jackson, NCCF program associate for grants and scholarships.

The Foundation has a lot of pride in the scholarship program we administer for our fundholders. “The scholarships make an exciting collective impact across our state, as well as an individual impact on each student,” Jackson said. “Serving so many students who will be the first in their families to attend college shows the transformational value of many of these scholarships.”

Jackson often says she wants NCCF to do

more than “write the checks,” and has recently introduced a new program to increase the Foundation’s engagement with scholarship recipients. All who receive NCCF scholarships are invited to submit a photo and short bio, which are posted on our website (visit nccommunityfoundation.org/Scholarships). She recently invited all first generation college students to submit short videos so they could share their experiences, challenges and offer advice to other “first-gen” students. (All who entered are eligible for a chance to win a new Apple iPad mini. Stay tuned for the winner!)

“Not every child is born with a dream. Some of us have to learn to dream.”

Timothy Harrell, recipient of the Mary Ferebee Howard Scholarship

Many good “back” stories are emerging from Jackson’s research to learn more about our scholars. This knowledge will help NCCF increase our engagement with these scholarship recipients and help to serve their needs, she said.

One student’s video submission reported that she and her family have never had a North Carolina “team” to root for during football and basket-



Timothy Harrell

ball seasons. With her scholarship and acceptance to UNC-Chapel Hill, her Sanford family members are all now avowed Tar Heel fans.

Another first-year student learned that the chancellor at her new school, UNC-Greensboro, was herself a first-generation college graduate. This discovery helped the NCCF scholarship recipient feel welcomed and supported there.

Some of the feedback from scholarship recipients received over the years has referred to “giving back.” Many have voiced their appreciation for the chance to further their education and aspire to helping expand opportunities for other youth. NCCF CEO Jennifer Tolle Whiteside has called the scholarship program “a great pipeline to the philanthropists of the future.”

Jackson said the next steps will be to explore ways for NCCF’s first-generation scholarship recipients to connect with and support each other, perhaps via social media, events and other outlets. “We want these students to know that we not only honor and celebrate their venture – but also want to support the journey,” she said.

Challenge

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- ing fund support that community’s needs and opportunities.
- These hard-working charitable tools make it easy for donors to have an impact on very specific needs in their communities.
 - The people who know a community best – our affiliate board members – decide how these grants will be allocated, working to best leverage resources to meet local needs.
 - Community endowments help to capture the collective power of local donors working together to address local concerns.
 - Community grantmaking funds also help to ensure that affiliate foundations have a strong voice in their own communities.
 - These funds provide a perfect way for residents to leave legacies in the communities they care about.
 - Helping your community’s local grantmaking capacity grow gives



NCCF’s Affiliate Forum last fall included a panel discussion on the importance of building local funds to meet community needs. (Panel members were L-R: Beth Boney Jenkins, vice president of development; Linda Staunch, Craven County Community Foundation and statewide boards; Steve Wangerin, Onslow Caring Communities Foundation; and Hugh Bingham, Moore County Community Foundation.)

you an opportunity to help build long-term sustainability and to effect real change.

NCCF CEO Jennifer Tolle Whiteside noted that she is looking forward to learning of and sharing successes as we all work together to help increase

the dollars available for local grants in communities across North Carolina. “Our experience has been that our state’s residents will rise to any challenge that supports our state’s needs,” she said. “We truly do live in a ‘State of Generosity!’”

Women’s giving

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Women’s Network also hosted a “lunch and learn” for members and friends in May. Entitled “Through the Eyes of Educators: Behind-the-Scenes Needs of Students and the Impact of School-Community Connections,” the event featured a panel discussion on how educators connect vulnerable kids and families with community programs to meet special needs. A lunch-and-learn on vital health issues also was held this spring by the Women Givers of Nash/Rocky Mount. They’ve got two more planned for later this year.

In addition to the statewide and local groups mentioned above, NCCF also sponsors the Women Givers of Northeast North Carolina, the Currituck-Dare Women’s Fund, the Bertie-Hertford Women’s Fund and the Triangle Art of Giving, the latter in conjunction with the Triangle Community Foundation.

Celebrating 25 years

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that Holding said would “provide for the safety and growth of North Carolina’s charitable nonprofit institutions and organizations in perpetuity.”

A Harvard alumnus, Holding both admired and was also fascinated by the power of that institution’s endowment. This inspired him to establish an operating endowment for NCCF through donations from some of our state’s most prominent banking, corporate and philanthropic leaders. The endowment continues to grow through the board and other generous donors and allows NCCF to support its large network of affiliates.

R.P. Holding’s vision of a place-based community foundation had also evolved into a statewide organization comprised of a network of affiliate foundations established to hold local endowments to meet local needs. The network of affiliate foundations was somewhat unique for its time, and NCCF became one of the first in the country to introduce that structure, which was (and is) supported by a central office of professionals. As NCCF grew, a cadre of regional associates was added to help guide the affiliates. Our affiliate network is among the largest in the US. The very first of our 67 affiliates now serving 60 counties was in Montgomery, where local leaders like Earle Connelly were instrumental in getting the concept for a community foundation off the ground.

Our focus on serving the philanthropic needs of rural North Carolina also differentiated us from some of our more urban counterparts in the state. Holding wanted to create affiliates in counties not being served by other community foundations, and NCCF’s growth strategy followed this plan.

NCCF’s first executive director was Elizabeth Fentress, and she often recalls the early days of “working on a card table with a yellow legal pad.” (Visit our website for an excerpt of an interview with Fentress written by Todd Cohen and a link to a video of their conversation, posted with permission from the *Philanthropy Journal*.) “Lewis Holding started the momentum that took us from zero dollars in assets to more than \$100 million in just 20 years,” she said. “To say he was inspiring is an understatement.”

Fentress noted that First Citizens’ emphasis on sound financial management, fiscal conservatism and a focus on the long-term would also become a hallmark of the NCCF. “That philosophy has gotten the Foundation through some challenging economic times,” she said.

Jennifer Tolle Whiteside, NCCF’s current CEO and president, frequently marvels at Holding’s genius. “We are celebrating our 25th anniversary this year, and so many of the concepts, strategies and practices that Mr. Holding put into place are still followed or closely followed to this day,” she said. “There aren’t many visions that survive the decades intact.”

Visit nccommunityfoundation.org for a series of interviews and profiles about NCCF.



NCCF’s first-ever team: (L-R) Cherry Ballard, who is still with the Foundation; Elizabeth Fentress, founding president; and Lewis R. Holding, founding board chairman.

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