

Community FOUNDATION NEWS

The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation

Giving Way To A Greater Community

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<http://www.PineBeltFoundation.org>

April 2010

100 IN 2010 PARTNER CAMPAIGN WELL ON THE WAY

Twelve community leaders recently joined The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation's "Partners of the Foundation" program! We have now reached 70% of the goal for 100 Partners in 2010.

Partners of the Foundation help support the PineBelt Foundation annual operating budget. This support allows The Foundation to promote philanthropy by working with individuals, families and organizations to develop tailored giving plans that effectively meet their charitable goals.

In 2009 The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation returned over \$345,000 in grants to the Pine Belt area. Through generous donors and their fund representatives, these grants supported nonprofit organizations, educational scholarships and community enhancement projects. *Partners of the Foundation* are a critical part of this success.

New Partner Comment on the PineBelt Foundation

Drew Foxworth, Attorney at Law with Foxworth & Shephard, P.A. and resident in Columbia, MS had the following to say about The PineBelt Foundation.

When I first heard about The Foundation I knew immediately how useful it could be for people in our community. I have had numerous instances where clients could have taken advantage of what The PineBelt Foundation has to offer had I known of its existence.



Drew Foxworth

Becoming a 501(c)(3) and obtaining tax exempt status is a long, expensive and arduous process. By using the Foundation, individuals and community organizations, as philanthropists, can give to charitable projects they are passionate about without having to be a tax expert or having to go through that process.

There are many people and businesses who desire to take on philanthropic projects like providing for community needs or establishing educational scholarships. Oftentimes the cost of doing so will absorb much of the funds that should be going toward the need. Most people cannot fully endow a scholarship at universities or create their own foundation like Bill Gates; the costs are simply too high. But, I find that there are many people who would like to do similar

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NEW ENDOWED FUND SUPPORTS THE DuBARD SCHOOL FOR LANGUAGE DISORDERS

James N. Yelverton, a member of the DuBard School Advisory Board, worked with The PineBelt Foundation to create a Donor Designated Fund supporting the DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi.

DuBard School is a clinical division of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences and serves children with severe language-speech and hearing disorders. Approximately 70 percent of the cost per enrolled student is funded by the Mississippi Department of Education. The additional funding must be received from other sources. Yelverton began volunteering with the DuBard School in 1999, after his membership with the Hattiesburg Lions Club introduced him to the school and its children.

"DuBard School is a special jewel in our education system," said Yelverton. "Community support is essential to help these young students return to their home school districts prepared to reach life's playing field."

Yelverton said he hopes the new fund will encourage donors to support the DuBard School and ensure the school's long-term success. Additional donors, wishing to provide support for the DuBard School, are encouraged to make contributions to this fund any time. Grants from The Foundation will be used to support school programs selected at the discretion of Dr. Maureen Martin, Director of the DuBard School.

Additional information about the DuBard School can be found at www.usm.edu/dubard and information about The PineBelt Foundation can be found at www.PineBeltFoundation.org. ▲



"You're the happiest while you're making the greatest contribution."

~ Robert F. Kennedy

PRESIDENT'S *Pen*

To say that we have great momentum would be an understatement! Each year our new directors add tremendous energy to the board. They show their passion and dedication, as well as current and prior board members, toward growing The Greater Pine Belt Community Foundation!



Foundation President, Ed Langton

One of our new directors, attorney Drew Foxworth, of Columbia, made a poignant statement when he said, "I have no problem telling others of the tremendous benefits The PineBelt Foundation offers as I am not promoting my charitable interest but the charitable interest of which they are passionate and choose to support!" We had an excellent turnout at a Columbia informational meeting with 27 community leaders in attendance to hear about The Foundation. New partners joined and others have laid plans to establish funds. It was terrific!

Then, add to that, the tremendous energy and expertise of our new Executive Director, Theresa Erickson. My favorite saying is, "It is better to have one foot in the door than two on the desk." Theresa has that unique ability to both be organizationally efficient yet know full well that personal contacts are of the utmost importance. She has been the "Energizer Bunny" and has made numerous contacts and speaking engagements to tell our story. We are so blessed to have her – it was truly a calling on her part to join us.

We continue to open Funds at a tremendous pace – 24 funds since Theresa joined us. We now have 64 funds. Emphasis is now being placed on increasing endowments and adding Partners of the Foundation.

We are currently working on our 5 year strategic and business plan with assistance from both Ted Alexander, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of the Lower Pearl River Valley Foundation and William Smith, Ph.D., USM professor. In addition, Partners of the Foundation continue to increase – they provide the critical support we need for growth and stability.

The PineBelt is truly one of the greatest communities in the nation...there are so many who truly care about giving and caring about the quality of life we share. God bless each and every one of you and many thanks for all you do! ▲

100 IN 2010

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things on a smaller scale. The PineBelt Foundation is perfect for those people.

I am excited that The Foundation is beginning to have a presence in our community (Columbia). As people learn more about it I think the possibilities to leverage The Foundation for the betterment of our community will become almost limitless.

Partner Support Levels

Partners of the Foundation commit to \$750 (Individual / Family) and \$1,500 (Corporate). All contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

How to Become a Partner

Print and mail the Partner brochure from our website at PineBeltFoundation.org or contact our office by calling 601.583.6180. Checks should be payable to The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation.

New Partners

Thank you to all of our new "Partners of the Foundation" – you allow us to make a difference!

Individuals:

- **Ward & Mary Moore Conville**
- **Forest & Mary Dantin**
- **Allison & Drew Foxworth**
- **Lucy & Charlie Parkman**
- **Larry & Elizabeth Payne**
- **Ralph Simmons**
- **Mr. Joe F. & Virginia A. Tatum**
- **Lt. Col. (Retired) Frederick and Col. (Retired) Sheila Varnado**

Corporate:

- **Blendco, Inc., Charlie McCaffrey**
- **Griner Drilling Service, Inc.**
- **Horne LLP (rejoined)**
- **Jones Companies**
- **Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association ▲**

2010 NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The PineBelt Foundation recently added eight new Pine Belt community leaders to the Board of Directors. The thirty-four member Board is a volunteer group of community leaders, chosen for their expertise and ability to broadly represent the Pine Belt area needs.

These Board members recently participated in a New Board Orientation program and learned that Community Foundations truly enhance communities. From digging water wells in Africa, to providing scholarships, to supporting non-profit organizations, The PineBelt Community Foundation serves as a vehicle for a variety of charitable endeavors.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

- **Andrew "Drew" Foxworth**, Attorney at Law, Foxworth & Shephard, P.A.
- **William P. "Phil" Hanberry**, President, Hanco Corp.
- **Dan Kibodeaux**, Executive Director, United Way of Southeast Mississippi
- **Morgan McCarty**, President & COO, Regions Mortgage
- **Lucy Parkman**, Community Leader
- **Ralph Simmons**, Retired, Sunbeam-Oster Corporation
- **Richard Topp**, Partner, Nicholson and Company, PLLC
- **Retired Col. Sheila Varnado**, Executive Director, R³SM, Inc.

2010 PINEBELT FOUNDATION COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The PineBelt Foundation Board of Directors acts as governing trustees of the organization on behalf of the community at large and are responsible for carrying out the organization's mission and goals. Each Board member serves on one or more committees that provide oversight for all aspects of The PineBelt Foundation.

We appreciate the dedication of all Board members including the Committee Chairs:

- **Executive** – Ed Langton, President & Chair
- **Finance** – James Yelverton, Treasurer & Chair
- **Investment** – Andy Leslie, Chair
- **Development & Planned Giving** – David Fortenberry, Chair
- **Marketing & Public Relations** – Bob Pierce & Bernard Green, Co-Chairs
- **Bylaws & Nomination Committee** – Lou Ann Poynter, Chair
- **Strategic Planning** – Andy Mercier, Chair and Immediate Past President
- **Event Planning** – Lucy Parkman
- **Communication** – Samantha McCain ▲

NEW PINEBELT FOUNDATION FUNDS

In 2009, The PineBelt Foundation awarded over \$345,000 grants from the funds established by donors or donor representatives. Grants support many areas of community enhancement and support numerous charitable endeavors.

Donors or Donor Representatives established various funds with The PineBelt Foundation. There are a number of fund formats to meet specific donor needs. Minimum contributions to open a fund vary, depending on the fund type. For example, the minimum initial contribution for a Donor Advised Fund is \$1,000 with the commitment to contribute a total of \$10,000 within 10 years. An important feature of the Donor Advised Fund, is the ability of family members or affinity groups to join resources in support of the fund and jointly recommend charitable grants. This is a great way to involve extended family members, to include friends, and to teach philanthropy to children.

The following funds have recently been opened at The PineBelt Community Foundation:

DONOR DESIGNATED FUNDS

Donor Designated Funds allow the donor the opportunity to direct their gift to a specific charity or purpose.

- **The DuBard School for Language Disorders**

- **Spay/Neuter in PineBelt – Southern Pines Animal Shelter Fund**

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Donor Advised Funds are a convenient and flexible tool for individuals, families, businesses, or groups who want to be personally involved in recommending grants made possible by their fund.

- **J & L Donor Advised Fund**

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

These funds allow our donors to invest in the future by helping deserving students pursue higher education. They can be established to benefit students from particular geographic areas or schools, attending certain post-secondary institutions, or entering certain fields of study.

- **Kappa Alpha Kappa Alpha Psi Scholarship Fund**
- **Kee-Kee-B Scholarship Fund**
- **The Edward J. "Ed" Langton Scholarship Fund**
- **The Merchants Company Scholarship Fund**
- **The Mississippi Tank Scholarship Fund**
- **Nordan Smith Scholarship Fund**
- **The Willmut Gas & Oil Scholarship Fund**
- **Women's Continuing Education Fund (in Starkville, MS)**

Mahnaz Wahidi was the first to re-

ceive this scholarship. Wahidi is a native of Kuwait and mother of small children. With this grant, she will learn English as a second language and plans to pursue her GED and continue schooling at MS State University.

Alison Buehler, the Fund Representative, stated "our goal is to help women who could not pursue their dream any other way and The PineBelt Foundation made it easy for us."

ORGANIZATIONAL FUNDS

Organizations may establish a permanent fund to support a charitable cause as designated by the organization. The charitable intent may change from year to year as recommended by the organization.

- **Rotary Club of Hattiesburg – Sunrise Charitable Fund**

PASS THROUGH FUNDS

These funds are established for a specific project with a charitable intent. Typically, multiple donors contribute to these funds.

- **Gaining Ground Sustainability Institute of Mississippi (in Starkville, MS)**
- **Hattiesburg Coalition for Early Childhood Education Fund**
- **JC Killingsworth Freedom Corner Fund**
- **Mayor's Community Activity Fund**
- **Neighbors Program Fund**
- **ShareCare Program Fund** ▲

DIRECTOR'S *report*

ASTONISHING GROWTH, INSPIRED TIMES

What an incredible six months this has been! Every day I have the opportunity to meet wonderful people who are making a difference in their community. These contacts vary from an 8 year old who is selling one water bottle at a time to dig water wells in Africa, to a 70 year old who will leave a legacy by helping the DuBard School.

I believe what is happening is a revolution – during hard economic times people stop to think about what is truly important. Maybe we don't need that big new car or house, maybe the most important thing is to help others and to leave a legacy with our daily inspired actions.

Without sounding trite, I would like to wrap my hands around this "revolution" with a quote from Steven Covey. He states that, "There are certain things that are fundamental to human fulfillment. The essence of



Executive Director,
Theresa Erickson

these needs is captured in the phrase 'to live, to love, to learn, to leave a legacy.' The need to **live** is our physical need for such things as food, clothing, shelter, economical well-being and health. The need to **love** is our social need to relate to other people, to belong, to love and to be loved. The need to **learn** is our mental need to develop and to grow. And the need to **leave a legacy** is our spiritual need to have a sense of meaning, purpose, personal congruence and contribution."

Even in these hard economic times, I meet people daily who are passionate about making a difference, having a purpose...and they inspire me. Each Foundation grant has an impact on the daily lives of those in need. During my short time with The Foundation, I have had the honor of opening 24 funds – that's a sixty percent increase in six months!

We invite you to join those who are making a difference throughout the Pine Belt. As a donor, YOU recommend how and when to make a charitable gift, where it will go and how involved you want to be in its distribution.

Dream big,
Live inspired,
Take responsibility, and
Leave a Legacy.

For more information, please visit our website at www.PineBeltFoundation.org or call us at 601.583.6180. ▲

OPENING A SCHOLARSHIP FUND PROMOTES HEALING

Kim Rogers of Lumberton did not know where to turn after losing her daughter, Kewaii “Kee-Kee-B” Nevas Rogers-Buckner, to murder during an act of domestic violence. Her estranged husband has been charged with her slaying.

“Kee-Kee-B” was raised in Lumberton and was attending Wilkes University in PA, pursuing a nursing degree, at the time of her death. Rogers said that her daughter was very passionate about nursing and was committed to helping others. She left behind three children, who have now become Kim Rogers’ responsibility, and at times, her lifeline.

“Nursing was the world to our daughter, and our daughter was the world to us,” stated Rogers. “Because of her passion we knew we had to do something to honor Kee-Kee-B’s memory.”

To help with the healing process, the Rogers opened the Kee-Kee-B Scholarship fund. Scholarships will be awarded once a year to a deserving high school senior who commits to pursuing a degree in nursing.

“The pain of losing our daughter will never go away, but we find strength in knowing that her name will live on and that someone with the same heart as Kee-Kee-B will have an opportunity to go to school,” said Rogers.

For more information about establishing a scholarship fund, contact The PineBelt Foundation. ▲

CONTACT THE FOUNDATION

The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation
 1507 Hardy Street, Suite 208
 Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401
 Phone: 601.583.6180 • Fax: 601.583.6188
<http://www.PineBeltFoundation.org>
 e-mail: contact@PineBeltFoundation.org

The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation
 1507 Hardy Street, Suite 208
 Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

STAFF

Theresa Erickson
Executive Director
Editor

Eliska Schilling
Administrative Assistant

Samantha McCain
Intern

2010 OFFICERS

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