

Community FOUNDATION NEWS

The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation
Inspiring Charitable Giving...Investing in Our Communities
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CITIES ENHANCED BY PINEBELT FOUNDATION

NBA PLAYER WITH UTAH JAZZ OPENS A DONOR ADVISED FUND INSTEAD OF PRIVATE FOUNDATION

"The Big Al Jefferson Charitable Fund"

Al Jefferson, an NBA player for the Utah Jazz, opened a Donor Advised Fund to support charitable organizations, schools and churches in Jefferson Davis County and the Hattiesburg area.

Al Jefferson grew up in Prentiss and played basketball for Prentiss High School before entering the NBA draft in 2004. He was the 15th pick and the first high school player drafted by the Boston Celtics. In 2007, he was traded to the Minnesota Timberwolves where he became the team's leading scorer. In 2010, the Timberwolves traded him to the Utah Jazz, where he is currently playing as center.

"Big Al" desires to give back to his community (Prentiss and Jefferson Davis County) and through his financial advisor, he opened a Donor Advised Fund instead of opening a Private Foundation. ▲



THE POWER LUNCH ENHANCING MARION COUNTY

Several leaders in Marion County, including Jay Carney, Kevin Kemp, Jerry Frazier, Ricky Dyess, Jeff Dungan, Robin Sanderson, Grant McArthur, Pat Sanford and Jerron Carney, have coordinated a monthly event named "Power Lunch." The goals of this luncheon are to educate, motivate and help others to better lead their organizations and community and to develop a stronger society of professional Christians. The monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at Woodlawn Church in Columbia. Leaders from all denominations are welcome.

Their partnership with the PineBelt Foundation allows them to receive tax-deductible donations to support their community enhancement efforts. ▲

ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED FOR THE JOSEPH MERCIER CATHOLIC EDUCATION FUND

Supporting Sacred Heart Catholic School



Sacred Heart Catholic School (SHCS), which opened in 1900, is one of the oldest schools in Hattiesburg and the largest in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Biloxi. SHCS has been a cornerstone of the Catholic community, as well as downtown Hattiesburg, for 110 years. The school educates approximately 700 students from preschool through twelfth grade.

Monsignor Joseph C. Mercier, a native of Hattiesburg, graduated from Sacred Heart High School in 1944. "Msgr. Mercier, an ordained priest since 1955, has served the Catholic community in numerous roles for over 55 years," stated Andy Mercier, Monsignor's nephew. "Our family is so proud of Msgr. Mercier for his service to the Catholic Church and the youth of the diocese. To honor him, we decided to create an Endowment Fund in his name."

The Joseph Mercier Catholic Education Fund Endowment was established at the PineBelt Foundation to honor Msgr. Mercier for his dedication to the future of the Catholic faith, to provide financial assistance for students, and for specific Sacred Heart Catholic School projects.

Colleagues of Msgr. Mercier state:

- "Msgr. Mercier has touched the lives of thousands of parishioners and students throughout his years of service to the Catholic community." ~ Brian McCrory, Principal of Sacred Heart Catholic School
- "I am confident in saying, on behalf of all priests in the diocese, that we are proud for Msgr. Mercier – he is a priest who we should emulate for his dedication to the church." ~ Father Ken Landry, Sacred Heart Church
- "I have worked with Msgr. Mercier for 25 years and have seen God work miracles through him. He is an extraordinarily dedicated Christian and priest." ~ Father Tommy Conway, St. Thomas Catholic Church

ENDOWMENT GOAL

The Endowment's short-term goal is to raise \$100,000 by 2012. The long-term goal is to have a \$5,000,000 Endowment that will fund scholarships and special needs of the school.

Anyone can donate to the Joseph Mercier Catholic Education Fund Endowment by making a tax-deductible donation to The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation and marking "Catholic Education Fund" in the memo line or by leaving the Joseph Mercier Catholic Education Endowment in your Will. ▲

PRESIDENT'S *Pen*

I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to assume the role of President of the Greater PineBelt Community Foundation. This organization has benefited greatly from its past leadership and I am confident that our current Officers and Board of Directors will work tirelessly to continue our success in improving the quality of life in our area.



Foundation President,
Hayden Mitchell

Please notice our new Officers and Board Members (listed on the back of this newsletter) and know that they are a very engaged Board and all have quickly assumed the challenges and responsibilities of their various committee assignments. I am indeed fortunate to work with such an outstanding and prestigious group of individuals who so willingly give a great amount of their time and talents to help us build a better community.

I also want to acknowledge and express our appreciation to Dr. Bill Smith for his outstanding volunteer efforts that helped us develop a new and exciting strategic plan. In addition, I am thrilled about our recent collaboration with Hope Manifest headquartered in Birmingham. These accomplishments are very important steps that will lead us to continued success.

We are also very thankful for our 18 new Partners and the 68 existing Partners who have given financial support for our operating budget. We could not do our philanthropic work without their support. If you are not a Partner of the Foundation, please consider joining this prestigious group!

In spite of the worries about the economy, this is an exciting time for philanthropy and nonprofit organizations in the Pine Belt area! Please note the article detailing how Funds at the PineBelt Foundation made a positive impact in our area in 2010 with over \$336,000 distributed to a wide variety of worthwhile causes. These funds are changing and improving the lives of many in the Pine Belt area.

Of course, we all continue to be inspired by the passion of our Executive Director and I urge you to contact her to discuss how you can invest in our community and leave your legacy!

Hayden Mitchell
President ▲

SUCCESS STORIES OF 201

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The PineBelt Community Foundation is one of 700 community foundations across the country. We work to improve the quality of life for all people in the Pine Belt area. The following are some of the ways the PineBelt Foundation has positively impacted communities in 2010:

ANGEL FACE FOUNDATION FUND –

Holleman St. John gave one area school funds to help under-resourced students attend a field trip.



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS TEAM –

Artists from across the country created over 50 stained glass panels for breast cancer survivors. The Breast Cancer Awareness Team also distributed pink ribbons to area businesses helping raise awareness for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



CROSS POINT COMMUNITY CHURCH –

Benefitted from a Donor Advised Fund.



DIG A WELL FUND –

Harrison St. John dug his first water well in Africa. He is ten years old!



THE DUBARD SCHOOL FOR LANGUAGE DISORDERS AT USM –

Received a grant through Jim Yelverton's Donor Designated Fund.



EXTRA TABLE –

Through corporate and individual donations, Robert St. John's Fund, Extra Table, helped supply much-needed food to mission pantries and soup kitchens.

Donors can now give on-line via www.PineBeltFoundation.org

**Support Your Community...
Give to any of our 70 charitable funds**

Also visit us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/PineBeltFoundation

0 – \$336,485 Given Back to Enhance the Pine Belt!



FAMILY YMCA –

Via the Alex Katrishin Endowment, the YMCA received \$23,500 to support their programs.



FORREST-PERRY COMMUNITY FIRST TIME OFFENDERS PROGRAM –

Received \$52,666 for their program which helped nonviolent offenders to attend a structured community corrections program.



HATTIESBURG CIVIC CHORUS & CONCERT ASSOCIATION –

Over \$98,000 was given to support the Hattiesburg Civic Chorus and Concert Association including Festival South, Mississippi's only multi-week, multi-genre music festival.



HEARING MAXIMIZED –

Dr. Peggy Carlin and a mission team assisted the Tegucigalpa's School for the Deaf (CIRE) by building a soundproof suite for hearing tests and cabinets to store hearing equipment.



THE NEIGHBORS PROGRAM FUND –

Started by Ekklesia Church, this Fund provided support personnel, via the America Reads program, for Hawkins Elementary School.



PETAL WATER AND SEWER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM –

Gave \$1,340 to Petal senior citizens to assist them in offsetting water and sewer fees.



THE ROTARY CLUB-SUNRISE –

\$4,000 was given to the Mississippi Military Family Relief Fund by The Sunrise Rotary Club.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL – MOCK TRIAL –

The Don Suber Fund awarded a grant to assist students competing in the Mississippi High School Mock Trial Competition. The Sacred Heart Mock Trial team was the 2009-2010 Mississippi State Champions!



SAFETY IN NUMBERS –

An Area Development Partnership Leadership PineBelt group raised \$3,750 for and attached uniform numbers on homes in the Palmers Crossing Community to assist police, fire and other emergency responders to accurately locate homes.



SOUTHERN PINES ANIMAL SHELTER –

Through the Richard Vreeland Endowment, the Shelter received \$2,300.



SCHOLARSHIPS –

The PineBelt Foundation awarded over \$55,000 in scholarships to schools across the country. Scholarship funds were opened by several community philanthropists.

- Edward J. Langton Scholarship Fund (below)



- Merchants Company Scholarship Fund
- Mississippi Tank Scholarship Fund
- Nordan Smith Scholarship Fund
- Willmut Gas & Oil Scholarship Fund
- The Women's Continuing Education Fund, in honor of Dr. Steve and Ellen Ramp ▲

THE HATTIESBURG CIVIC LIGHT OPERA ENDOWMENT FUND



The Hattiesburg Civic Light Opera (HCLo) Endowment Fund was established to support the programs of the Hattiesburg Civic Light Opera. HCLo produces high quality, live musical theater for Hattiesburg and surrounding communities.

HCLo provides local amateur performers the means to showcase their acting, singing and dancing talents in licensed Broadway musicals performed at the historic Saenger Theater and Jackie Dole Sherrill Community Center in downtown Hattiesburg.

HCLo has been an entertainment staple in the Hattiesburg area since 1976. Past performances include *Annie*, *Cats*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Footloose*, *Grease*, etc.

If you would like to support HCLo, please write your check to The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation, marking HCLo in the memo line. For more information about HCLo, please visit www.hclo.org.

Endowments are created to provide a perpetual source of income for nonprofit organizations. To learn how you can support the nonprofit you are passionate about, please call the PineBelt Foundation at 601.583.6180. ▲

THANK YOU to Our New Partners!

The PineBelt Foundation is truly a service to our community with its mission to inspire charitable giving by investing in our community. We could not meet this objective without the support of our Partners. Recent new Partners include:

- Leigh and Alex Agnew
- Michael J. Axton, CLU, ChFC
- Dr. Stephen and Dawn Beam
- Chancellor Supply, Inc.
- Dr. and Mrs. A. Dean Cromartie
- Dr. Steven & Wendy Farrell
- Dr. Jaime Jiménez
- Allison Neville, New York Life
- Dr. Steve Ramp
- Rodney Richardson, Rare Design
- Wes and Traci Rouse
- Willie B. Sims, Jr., CPA
- Jon Mark and Peggy Weathers ▲

LOCAL MINISTER OPENS FUND TO SUPPORT DISABLED SENIOR CITIZENS

Minister Hannah Hopkins opened a Fund, Community Project Assistant Program (C-PAP), to provide assistance to disabled senior citizens and other needy individuals through minor household repairs and yard work. This is a volunteer community outreach program. Individuals in need must apply and meet certain qualifications to receive assistance. ▲

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Vice PresidentIris Easterling
Treasurer.....Richard Topp
Secretary.....Paul Laughlin
Immediate Past PresidentEdward J. "Ed" Langton

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Dr. Ben Carmichael – Cardiologist, Hattiesburg Clinic (Retired)
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