

Community FOUNDATION NEWS

The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation

Giving Way To A Greater Community

<http://www.PineBeltFoundation.org>

Vol. 2 No. 2

June 2009

PRESIDENT'S *Pen*

We are off and running for 2009! The Strategic Plan is in force and we are beginning to feel the fruition of the positive energy being exhibited by our board! The following news excites me and I trust it does you too:



Foundation President, Ed Langton

- **Numerous contacts and meetings** – No better testament can be made to the progress of the Greater PineBelt Community Foundation than the actual activity that has occurred during the first part of 2009. Our progress has been only possible due to the tremendous team effort of our board of directors and staff. They have been proactive in spreading the word and meeting with other individuals and community organizations to extol the benefits provided by the Community Foundation!
- **Partners** – We currently have 59 Partners and plans are to grow it to 100. Their support is critical toward our ability to accomplish our mission. We continue to profusely thank each and every Partner for their abiding support!
- **Mississippi International Music Festival** – a Donor Designated Fund to establish a premier event for the State of Mississippi based here in Hattiesburg with the vision and leadership of Jay Dean, Southern Miss Symphony Director.
- **Executive Director Search** – Andy Mercier, our past president chairs the search committee to find a full time Executive Director for the Foundation. We welcome and encourage any recommendations you may have. Bill Pace agreed to serve as a part time Director until we could find a full time replacement. He has been instrumental in leading the Foundation to new heights. His leadership has been profound and we will sorely miss him as Director but trust he will serve on our board. The Foundation wishes to especially thank Bud Kirkpatrick for the countless hours he has spent assisting the Foundation with its publications and marketing efforts. He will be passing the baton to the Marketing and Public Relations committee and we appreciate all of the wonderful expertise he has given us!

Keep spreading the word...it is what enables us to grow to new heights! ▲

AREA YOUTH BENEFIT FROM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Youth in the Pine Belt have an almost unknown benefactor, the Greater PineBelt Community Foundation. The Foundation, begun 12 years ago as a project of a Leader's for a New Century Class, (now Leadership PineBelt) receives all types of funds; endowments, pass-through accounts, from known and unknown benefactors, all aimed at making life better, more fun, and serving those with special needs.



Representatives of the ADP, Mayor's Office, Bridging The Gap, Thames Elementary School, Hattiesburg Public Schools and Leadership PineBelt celebrate the ribbon cutting for Bridging The Gap for Inclusive Play, a universally accessible playground for children, at Thames Elementary School.

Education is the greatest commodity that a young person can possess. Benefactors of the Foundation realize this. The Tatum Development Corp. awards 40 scholarships annually to dependents of employees to attend the college of their choice. An endowment in the name of Eloise Hopson provides a scholarship for a student majoring in English to attend a college or university. Eloise was a beloved English teacher at Rowan High School, for many years. She not only taught English she influenced the personal lives of her students. Many of her students have made contributions to this fund, remembering their association with her while in school, both in and out of the classroom.

Leadership PineBelt, of the Area Development Partnership, has focused repeatedly on the needs of youth. The Foundation manages or has managed accounts that have provided a unique playground for special needs children, at Kamper Park, Adam's Place. A Leader's Class built a playground in a low to moderate income area of Hattiesburg; and another constructed an interactive Learning Trail to be used by Hattiesburg area children at Town Square Park. On the campus adjacent to Thames Elementary School, one Class provided equipment and developed a universally acceptable playground. When the cold winter winds blow, a number of disadvantaged children will be warm and snug, because another Leader's class project provided coats.

Almost unheard of is artificial turf for a high school. Not at Oak Grove High School. An enthusiastic supporter of the Oak Grove athletic program wanted the best for the school and began a program to seek donations for the artificial turf project in the new stadium. Again, he came to the Foundation and set up an account to receive donated funds, which would be tax deductible, for the donor. In like manner at Richton High School, a benefactor spearheaded a project, with funds passing through the Foundation that benefits the Richton High School Baseball Building Fund in a variety of ways.

One of the great things about the Foundation, you can have that good feeling about helping these and other youth. You can give to any of these projects, or establish your own account. Youth of the area, are just some of the benefactors of the opportunities available in the area through the services of the Greater PineBelt Community Foundation. These accounts are not closed; there is still time to help area youth, and so many others via the Community Foundation. ▲

INSIDE.....

- Director's Report
- Active Accounts Benefit Many
- Many Leader's Projects Supported Through Foundation

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: CREATING A LASTING LEGACY



Executive Director,
Bill Pace

In the summer of 2006, Dr. Aubrey Lucas asked if I would meet him at Java Works for coffee. We discussed the Community Foundation and the need to move it forward. The Board of Directors offered me a position as Executive Director on a half time basis, which I accepted.

The volunteer leadership had accomplished much since the Foundation was approved as a 501(c)(3) in 1997. As the first paid staff member, my job was to build on their good work.

Our first office was at Trustmark National Bank (a special thank you to Trustmark for providing the office space). We expanded our Board of Directors from ten to thirty. We changed our name from the Greater Hattiesburg

Community Foundation to the Greater PineBelt Community Foundation.

To support our operating budget we started Partners with over 50 Charter Partners and host an annual Partner Appreciation Luncheon. Thanks to John Fairchild, new office space was secured. A part time Administrative Assistant was hired, thanks to Partner support. Eliska Schilling is a fantastic asset to this position.

With the expertise of Bud Kirkpatrick, we started a newsletter. With over 2000 on the mailing list, the newsletter is mailed four times a year. New literature was developed to promote the Foundation. Numerous civic and professional organization presentations were made.

The Foundation manages both Endowed and Pass-Through funds. Many non-profits have been the beneficiary of the managed funds. Donors have and continue to support their charitable interests through the Foundation. A top priority is to build our endowment and I know that will happen.

Thanks to a grant, funds have become available to hire a full time Executive Director (a goal I have had since joining the Foundation). I will be leaving as Executive Director but will continue to do what I can to support the Foundation.

Our legacy is one of philanthropy...of opportunity...of providing a better quality of life for untold numbers of residents in our communities. The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation will help to make this happen. ▲

MANY LEADERS PROJECTS SUPPORTED THROUGH FOUNDATION

THE GREATER PINEBELT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – This Leaders Project formed a not-for-profit organization designed to support charitable activities in Forrest, Lamar, and Perry Counties. The Foundation promotes philanthropy to support deserving projects. The Foundation was established; housed at Trustmark Bank, as a one year project. This project has grown to the current Greater PineBelt Community Foundation, serving the entire Pine Belt, with over one-million dollars in assets. **Winner of State Leadership Projects in 1998**

OPERATION FALLEN SOLDIER – Established a memorial honoring fallen soldiers mobilized during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom who trained at Camp Shelby and raised public awareness of the Armed Forces Museum and the memorial. (two-year project)

FREEDOM SUMMER TRAIL – Developed the Freedom Summer Trail in Historic Downtown Hattiesburg. This was a walking trail, developed beginning with a memorial at the Eureka School and following the path of the original 1963 march through Hattiesburg. Markers indicate important leaders, activists and facts associated with the Civil Rights Movement and the Freedom Summer March. (two-year project) **Winner of State Leadership Projects in 2004**

HATTIESBURG TRAIN DEPOT – Paving The Way to the Future – Members of the Leader's Class worked with City of Hattiesburg officials to raise funds to restore the train depot in the

Hattiesburg downtown area. The depot restoration project is complete, and fund raising is on-going.

ADAM'S PLACE – A Special Needs Accessible Playground for Hattiesburg Area Children – In a two-year project, the Leader's Class created a first-class playground that is accessible to all children, regardless of their physical limitations, for Hattiesburg and South Mississippi. Adam's Place is located at Kamper Park. (two-year project) **Winner of State Leadership Projects in 2003**

FOSTERING THE FUTURE – Enhancing the Lives of Foster Children – With the welfare of foster children in mind, this Leader's Class developed a public service campaign to promote awareness of foster parenting and upgraded the lobby and visitation room at Forrest County Department of Human Services. (one-year project)

COMMUNITY PLAY – A playground in a low to moderate income area of Hattiesburg is the result of this Leader's project. (one-year project)

CANVASSING THE CITY – A Downtown Mural Series – Facilitated business owners and local artists partnerships in placing quality murals in appropriate public places in Historic Downtown Hattiesburg. (one-year project)

OPERATION RENOVATION – Domestic Abuse Center – The aesthetic and physical condition of the Domestic Abuse Center was extremely enhanced by the labor and

materials provided through this Leader's project. (one-year project)

BORN LEARNING TRAIL – In partnership with the City of Hattiesburg, this Leader's project is designed to construct an interactive learning trail to be used by Hattiesburg area children at Town Square Park Project. The trail will include an area with green space for local families and learning stations about nature along the trail. (project on-going)

BRIDGING THE GAP – Through Inclusive Play – This on-going Leader's project proposes to develop a universally accessible playground with equipment adjacent to Thames Elementary School. The plan also includes the implementation of a city play day to help integrate the lives of all children regardless of ability. (project on-going)

DAY OF SNOW – Although snow is a rare element in Hattiesburg, there are many disadvantaged children in the area who lack the warmth of warm wraps. This Leader's project endeavors to purchase coats for disadvantaged children. (project on-going)

TODAY'S GOOD SAMARITAN – This on-going project is to facilitate a "Samaritan Culture" to local entities with volunteer needs. The project is on-going, as are Samaritan needs in the community. (project on-going)

OPERATION CELEBRATION – Funds to benefit the activities of the Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association. ▲

ACTIVE ACCOUNTS BENEFIT MANY

The variety and diversity of funds in the Greater PineBelt Community Foundation are exemplary of the many project funding needs in the Pine Belt. These funds are listed here so that the public may determine the charity which they wish to support.

- **Born Learning Trail (LPB)**
Provide interactive learning trail for area children
- **Breast Cancer Awareness Team**
Promote breast cancer awareness education
- **Bridging the Gap through Inclusive Play (LPB)**
Develop universally accessible playground for children
- **Camp BlueBird Endowment**
Benefits Camp BlueBird for Cancer Survivors
- **Canvas the City (LPB)**
Paints murals on downtown building walls
- **Christian Women's Job Corps**
Mentor women in life and career skills
- **Day of Snow (LPB)**
Coats for disadvantaged youth
- **Donnell Family Fund**
Christian Women's Job Corp
- **Forrest/Perry County Community Services**
Community Service Funds, DA's Office
- **Partners for a Healthier Petal**
Benefits K-6 Physical Ed, Petal



The door prize for the Partner's Luncheon was a quilt handcrafted by Ella Lucas. Ella talks about the quilt with door prize winner Glen Gale of SouthGroup Insurance Services, a Foundation Partner.

- **Hattiesburg Gala Foundation**
Aids Services Coalition
- **Hearing Maximized**
Hearing Impaired – Evaluation and Rehabilitation
- **Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association**
Benefits restoration of Downtown
- **GPCF Homes of Hope for Children**
Long term care for children in need
- **Eloise Hopson Endowment**
Benefits scholarship funds for English majors
- **Robert and Sandy Jackson, Sr. (DAF)**
- **Bob James Memorial Endowment**
Benefits day-to-day United Way Operations
- **Alex Katrishin Endowment**
Benefits Pine Belt Family Y
- **Bill & Joann Kerley Memorial (DAF)**
- **Knights of Columbus, Council 1908**
Charitable Purposes in the Pine Belt
- **Lamar County K-9**
Police dogs for Lamar County Sheriff's Dept.
- **Leaders Brick (LPB)**
Sell bricks at Train Depot to support project
- **Aubrey K. & Ella G. Lucas Fund (DAF)**
- **Mississippi International Music Festival**
Funds to benefit the International Music Festival
- **Oh Baby Calendar Contest**
Benefits Newspapers in Education
- **Operation Celebration (LPB)**
Supports Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association
- **Operation: Kover Our K-9's**
Provide K-9 body armor to Hattiesburg Police, Lamar County Sheriff and Forrest County Sheriff

- **David Ott Charitable Fund**
Support for Non-Profits in the Pine Belt
- **Petal Water & Sewer Assistance Program**
Assists senior citizens with utility bills
- **Raanes Family (DAF)**
- **Richton Baseball Building Fund**
Support of Richton High baseball facilities
- **William F. & Rosalie B. Schoell, III (DAF)**
- **Harvel Smith Memorial**
Scholarships for EMT Training
- **Supporters of State Line School**
Benefits project to reopen old State Line School
- **Ben M. Stevens, Jr. Memorial**
Donor Designated – To Be Determined
- **Don Suber Fund**
Various Charities in the Pine Belt
- **Tatum Development Corp. Scholarship**
Scholarships benefiting children of Tatum Development Corp.'s employees
- **Today's Good Samaritan (LPB)**
Connects volunteers with projects with needs
- **GPCF Unrestricted Endowment**
As designated by the Board of Directors
- **USM Metro Crime Scene & Identification Unit**
Support Group for the ID Unit
- **Richard C. Vreeland Endowment**
Benefits The Southern Pines Animal Shelter

(LPB) Project of Leadership PineBelt (Formerly ADP Leaders for a New Century)

(DAF) Donor Advised Fund – Donor determines each year the project to which interest on these funds will be given.

The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation began over 10 years ago as a project of the ADP Leadership PineBelt, formerly Leaders for a New Century.

You may contribute to one of these funds benefiting a charity or other not-for-profit project in the Pine Belt, or you may establish your own personal or family account.

Many funds are named for individuals, and noted as (DAF) Donor Advised Fund. These are established by an individual or family (donor) and each year the donor advises the Foundation the project(s) or charity(ies) to which the interest on the investment will support. Contributions may be made to these funds, as well.

Anyone wishing to contribute to one of the active accounts honoring someone or in memory of someone can do so by sending a check payable to The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation and state it is designated for one of the above named accounts. The donor will receive a receipt for the gift and the Community Foundation will send an acknowledgment to the donor or donor representative informing them a gift has been made to the account. The amount of the gift will not be stated in the acknowledgment. Mail checks to The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation, 1507 Hardy Street, Suite 208, Hattiesburg, MS 39401. ▲



Gwen James briefs the Partners on the fund she established in memory of Bob James. The proceeds of this fund will benefit the day-to-day operations of the United Way.

PARTNERS SUPPORT IS VALUABLE TO FOUNDATION

In the fall of 2007, the Board of Directors of the Foundation established a new prestigious giving opportunity of "Partners." This giving level was established to meet the annual needs of the Foundation's day-to-day operating budget.

The productivity of the Partners Program is already evident with the securing of new and larger office space, and the employment of an administrative assistant.

Current Partners are as follows:

<i>Albert & Associates Architects, P.A.</i>	<i>London and Stetelman</i>
<i>Dr. Ted and Barbara Alexander</i>	<i>Aubrey and Ella Lucas</i>
<i>Anderson Retail, Inc.</i>	<i>Andy and Stace Mercier</i>
<i>AT&T – Mississippi</i>	<i>Mississippi Power Foundation</i>
<i>BancorpSouth</i>	<i>Bryan Nelson, P.A.</i>
<i>Dr. Ben & Kathy Carmichael</i>	<i>Nicholson & Company, PLLC</i>
Cellular South	<i>Owens Business Machines</i>
<i>Chain Companies</i>	<i>Bill and Sue Pace</i>
<i>The Citizens Bank</i>	<i>Bob and Kristi Pierce</i>
<i>Citizens National Bank</i>	<i>Lou Ann and Louis Poynter</i>
<i>Jere & Richard Clark</i>	<i>Regions Bank</i>
<i>Iris Easterling</i>	<i>Betty Reuben</i>
<i>John Fairchild – Fairchild Management, LLC</i>	<i>Ms. Susan Thomson-Rutland</i>
<i>Charles Finnegan</i>	Sanderson Farms, Inc.
<i>Forrest General Hospital</i>	<i>Marvin Shemper</i>
<i>The Godwin Family</i>	<i>Michael and Gypsy Shemper</i>
Bernard Green	<i>Wanda Simpson</i>
<i>"Skippy" Haik</i>	<i>Southern Wood Preserving</i>
<i>William and Melissa Hanberry</i>	<i>SouthGroup Insurance Services</i>
<i>Hancock Bank</i>	<i>Stewart Sneed Hewes</i>
<i>Hattiesburg Clinic</i>	<i>Tatum Development Corporation</i>
<i>Hattiesburg Coca-Cola Bottling Company</i>	<i>Dr. Fred and Mrs. Mary Margaret Tatum</i>
<i>Hood Companies, Warren and Carolyn Hood, Jr.</i>	<i>Drs. Christy and Jon Thornton</i>
<i>Robert and Sandy M. Jackson, Sr.</i>	<i>Trustmark National Bank</i>
<i>Gwen James</i>	<i>The University of Southern Mississippi</i>
<i>Bud and Virginia Kirkpatrick</i>	<i>Chris and Holly Wilson</i>
<i>Grand Bank – Edward J. "Ed" and Lynda Langton</i>	<i>Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway, P. A.</i>
<i>Paul and Cheryl Laughlin</i>	<i>Wright CPA Group, PLLC</i>
<i>Andy and Michelle Leslie</i>	<i>James N. Yelverton</i>

Bold Face: Partners added since last newsletter.

2009 OFFICERS

President	Edward J. "Ed" Langton
Vice President	Hayden Mitchell
Treasurer	James N. Yelverton
Secretary	Robert Jackson, Sr.
Executive Director	Bill Pace
Administrative Assistant	Eliska Schilling

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Ben Carmichael – <i>Cardiologist, Hattiesburg Clinic (Retired)</i>
Dr. Richard Clark – <i>Retired MD</i>
Mike Collins – <i>Division Manager, Mississippi Power</i>
Iris Easterling – <i>English Department, William Carey University</i>
David Fortenberry – <i>Producer, Stewart Sneed and Hewes</i>
Greg Garraway – <i>Area Executive, South Mississippi Regions Bank</i>
Dr. Angie Godwin – <i>President, Area Development Partnership</i>
Bernard Green – <i>Agency Owner, Bernard Green Insurance, Inc.</i>
Skippy Haik – <i>Publisher, Laurel-Leader Call</i>
Robert T. Jackson, Sr. – <i>Attorney & Partner, Jackson, Bowman & Blumentritt, PLLC</i>
Gwen James – <i>President, Residential Division, Coldwell Banker Realty</i>
Richard Jones – <i>Owner, R. Jones & Associates</i>
Edward J. "Ed" Langton – <i>Chairman & CEO, Grand Bank</i>
Andy Leslie – <i>Vice President Investments, Trustmark Wealth Management</i>
Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas – <i>President Emeritus, University of Southern Mississippi</i>
Andy Mercier – <i>President, Merchants Food Services</i>
Stace Mercier – <i>Former CFO – USM Foundation</i>
Hayden Mitchell – <i>Executive Vice President, Citizens National Bank</i>
Gene Owens , <i>President – Owens Business Machines, Inc.</i>
Bob Pierce – <i>Executive Director, Southern Miss Alumni Association</i>
Moran M. "Randy" Pope, III – <i>Attorney at Law, Pope and Pope</i>
Lou Ann Poynter – <i>Retired Bank Executive</i>
Mike Ratliff – <i>Attorney at Law, Johnson, Hall & Ratliff, PLLC</i>
Michael Shemper – <i>Attorney, Michael J. Shemper, PLLC</i>
Wanda Simpson – <i>Director, Department of Human Services</i>
Andy Stetelman – <i>Realtor, London & Stetelman</i>
Dr. Christy Thornton – <i>Physician</i>
Benny Waddle – <i>Senior Vice President, Hancock Bank</i>
Larry B. Watson – <i>Senior Vice President & Compliance Officer, BancorpSouth</i>
Chris Wilson – <i>Realtor, First Choice, PLLC</i>
James N. Yelverton – <i>Retired Business Executive</i>

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

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STAFF

Bill Pace

Executive Director

Eliska Schilling

Administrative Assistant

Bud Kirkpatrick

Editor