

Community FOUNDATION NEWS

The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation

Giving Way To A Greater Community

Vol. 2 No. 1

<http://www.PineBeltFoundation.org>

March 2009

PRESIDENT'S *Pen*

Wow...what a fantastic Board of Directors consisting of servant leaders who will lead us to new heights in spreading the message of how the Community Foundation benefits our community! Please look over the board membership included within this newsletter.



Foundation President, Ed Langton

Also we would not be able to grow without the dedicated community support from individuals and businesses making up our prestigious "Partners" who provide financial support for our operating budget. They are the community leaders who are always supporting worthwhile causes and **are** the reason we have one of the finest community spirited areas in the country!

We are often asked... "What is the mission of the Community Foundation and what does it do?"

Simply put, we are a conduit, a pipeline, for charitable giving and estate planning for whatever charitable interest the donor desires that meets with IRS approval for non-profit organizations. We are an umbrella for all charitable giving and we can design a fund to meet the donor's wishes.

Our Donor Advised Funds provide much the same thing as having your own Private Foundation, but without the burdensome cost and maintenance of establishing and maintaining one. The legal, accounting, regulatory reporting, investment management and daily operations are all taken care of by your Greater PineBelt Community Foundation. What is even more incredible is the ease with which to establish one and fund it. With only \$83.33 a month (\$1,000 a year) for 10 years to reach the \$10,000 minimum, you will establish a perpetual legacy in your name or your loved one(s) for whatever charity(s) or purpose(s) you designate.

This year we will be visiting numerous civic and non-profit organizations to tell the story often described as "a no brainer," so that people will comprehend what a terrific benefit the Community Foundation is to our community.

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DONNELL FAMILY FUND: HELPING WOMEN GET BETTER JOBS

By ROBYN JACKSON

Linda Donnell discovered the ecumenical Christian Women's Job Corps in 2001 and helped start a chapter to help Pine Belt women climb out of poverty, but money has always been hard to come by. That's why she and her husband, Robert, set up the Donnell Family Fund through the Greater PineBelt Foundation.

"It just sounded like a good avenue to take for getting funding for the organization," Linda Donnell said. "It's not easy to get grant money."

The Donnell Family Fund is a designated fund, meaning donors specify the beneficiary for the life of the fund. Others can contribute, and at the end of the year, the Foundation will present the ministry with a check.

The Christian Women's Job Corps offers a 10-week educational program to help women learn life skills, including computer and parenting classes, money management and nutrition and meal planning, as well as a Bible study. Many go on to get better-paying jobs or attend college.

"This is not a quick fix," Donnell said. "It's more about the process than achievement. We are trying to help them discover their strengths and use those strengths to solve their own problems."

The organization is run by volunteers like Donnell, a retired professor of marketing at the University of Southern Mississippi, who serves as the director. Robert Donnell is a pharmacist who owns Vital-Care Compounder.

A maximum of 10 women are accepted for the spring or autumn classes, which meet from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily. Donnell said they keep enrollment low so that each woman can be paired with a mentor.

"When they come into the program, we promise to be a family for them. Relationships are a real part of making changes."

Andrew Waites, founder of Hattiesburg-based eValueville, the largest seller on eBay, is partnering with the ministry to hire some of the trainees, and a second location opened in Petal last fall to serve women there.

"As we get more volunteers, it would be wonderful to get more centers all over town," Donnell said.

"We say we're in the hope-giving business," she said, adding that she compares her work to sowing seeds. "About six weeks ago, a woman called and said she had gone through the program early on. She was bitter then, but she said now she's married and has a good husband who takes care of things, and she's a stay-at-home mom. She said 'I just want to thank you for changing this cold heart of mine and giving me a better life.'" ▲



The Donnell Family Fund has been established in the Greater PineBelt Community Foundation as a designated fund. Robert and Linda Donnell (left) have established the fund to benefit the Christian Women's Job Corp. Tina Ulmer is a volunteer with the Job Corp, through the Vista Program, and Bill Pace is Executive Director of the Foundation. (Robinson Photography)

INSIDE.....

- Director's Report
- Hopson Scholars
- Newly Elected Board Members
- Schoell Donor Advised Fund

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: CREATING A LASTING LEGACY



Executive Director, Bill Pace

Under the leadership of our President, Ed Langton, the strategic plan is in place and committees are working implementing the plan. We have conducted a new board member orientation meeting, held coffee's for prospective donors, increased our partners support, secured speaking engagements, made call on prospective donors and started a search for a full time executive director.

As a reminder the Greater PineBelt Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity created to help you achieve your dreams for a better community and to create a lasting legacy that improves lives for yourself, your family, business and the world we share.

You have worked hard to build a successful life and to support the causes and institutions you believe in – we are you – representing your wishes in addressing needs that you identify as important to your giving goals.

Religious institutions, schools, other non-profits, arts and humanities, environment, health, human and social services, disaster responses – our list is as long as you can dream it.

We are only a phone call or email away. Look us up on the website www.PineBeltFoundation.org. Come by for a cup of coffee at 1507 Hardy Street, Suite 208. Contact any of our Board of Directors. Let us show you the many options available so your dreams can become real. Adding Donor Advised Funds to increase our endowment will be a priority this year.

I want to personally thank Eliska Schilling, my administrative assistant, for her support. She is an asset to the Foundation. I also want to thank the Board of Directors for their commitment to excellence and especially the executive committee for putting up with my emails and calls. ▲

PRESIDENT'S PEN

(continued from page 1)

What is important is that a donor understands that the charitable purpose is up to the donor and is not limited to just the Pine Belt area, but can be for whatever worthwhile cause the donor designates.

We welcome your inquiry by phone or email (on last page) and look forward to more fully explaining the benefits to you personally. Also our web site will provide more detailed information at www.PineBeltFoundation.org. Thank you for your interest in making the Pine Belt the strong community it is and leaving a legacy in doing so! ▲

2009 NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



New members of Foundation Board of Directors: Standing (l-r) Mike Collins, Benny Waddle, Dr. Ben Carmichael, David Fortenberry, Michael Shemper, Bernard Green, Gene Owens. Seated (l-r) Dr. Ricky Clark, Ed Langton – President, and Stace Mercier. Not Pictured: Chris Wilson. (Robinson Photography)

HOPSON SCHOLARSHIPS BENEFIT ENGLISH MAJORS

By KATHY GILMORE

Eloise Hopson was an English teacher at Rowan High School and wanted to assist young African-American students, who live in the Pine Belt, continue their study of English at the college of their choice. After her death, her family established the Eloise T. Hopson English Scholarship endowment with the Greater PineBelt Community Foundation. The revenue from this fund is to be used to help qualifying students pursue a degree in English and related studies.

"This is a classic example of using the Community Foundation," said Andy Leslie, Foundation Board Member and Vice-President of Investments for Trustmark Wealth Management. "Mrs. Hopson had the desire to assist young African-American students to continue their education and her family carried out her wishes to make this momentous after her death with her finances."

"We send applications for the scholarship to Pine Belt and surrounding area high schools," said Verna Miller, president of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated Alumnae Chapter of Hattiesburg. "We ask high school counselors to help with the search process of finding students who are interested in pursuing a degree in the prescribed areas," she said.

"After becoming a recipient to the Eloise T. Hopson Scholarship, students have to commit to the guidelines of having satisfactory grades and majoring in English, Speech Communications or Drama," said Miller.

Eloise T. Hopson English Scholarship was established in 1999 to assist an African-American graduate of local Pine Belt area high schools such as Hattiesburg, Petal, North Forrest, Oak Grove and Columbia who wanted to pursue a college degree in the study of English, Speech Communications or Drama.

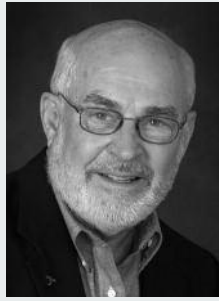
Many donors to the Greater PineBelt Community Foundation represent the diversity of the Pine Belt region. The Foundation serves as a responsible steward for permanent endowments and creates partnerships in philanthropy.

Students interested in applying for the Eloise T. Hopson English Scholarship should contact the Hattiesburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., P. O. Box 17347, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404-7347.

Kathy Gilmore is a *USM Public Relations intern*. ▲

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

JAMES N. YELVERTON *Foundation Treasurer* *Executive Committee*



Personal Profile

A native of Hattiesburg, Jim spent 35 years with the petroleum industry, serving in various engineering and management positions. In addition to locations in Louisiana, Texas, Utah and Pennsylvania, he spent 10 years living and working internationally. International projects included Norway, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia.

He served in several key management positions with Schlumberger, Ltd., was Vice-President of World Operations for Norton Christensen, and was Vice-President of Development with T-R Associates, Inc.

After considering a number of retirement locations, Jim settled on hometown Hattiesburg and is very pleased with the decision to "come home." In Hattiesburg, he is involved with the Area Development Partnership, the Historic Hattiesburg Downtown

Association, the Hattiesburg Area Historical Society and the USM Osher Life Long Learning Institute.

Jim is active with the Boy Scout program and serves on the Pine Burr Area Council Executive Board. He is Past-President of the Hattiesburg Lions Club and serves on the USM DuBard School for Language Disorders Advisory Board. Jim is a member of Main Street United Methodist Church in Historic Hattiesburg Downtown.

The Foundation

Jim's association with the Foundation began in 2001 when a member of the Area Development Partnership Leaders for a New Century Class, which created the Foundation, asked him to assist with developing a web site. He currently serves as Foundation Treasurer.

Jim feels that the Foundation's Donor Advised Fund and Designated Fund provide an excellent method for establishing an endowment to support charitable organizations of interest to the donor. However, the Pass-Through Fund provides the opportunity for a donor, or a community organization, to pass-through funds for a specific project without establishing an endowment. ▲

SCHOELL FAMILY USES ADVISED FUND FOR CHARITABLE DONATIONS

By ROBYN JACKSON

When Bill and Rosalie Schoell moved to Hattiesburg in 1970 from New Orleans, they did not intend to stay in the Hub City. "When we came here, they rolled up the sidewalks at dark," Bill Schoell joked. "It was not built up like it is now. We love the town, especially now that there's more to do."

Their desire to do something that would leave a positive, lasting effect on their adopted hometown led the Schoells to create the William F. and Rosalie B. Schoell III Fund.

With a Donor Advised Fund, the donor actively participates in the allocation process. Donors retain the right to serve as advisors to the Foundation Board of Directors in establishing charitable allocations. "This way, we have whatever life here we have left to make choices," Bill Schoell said.

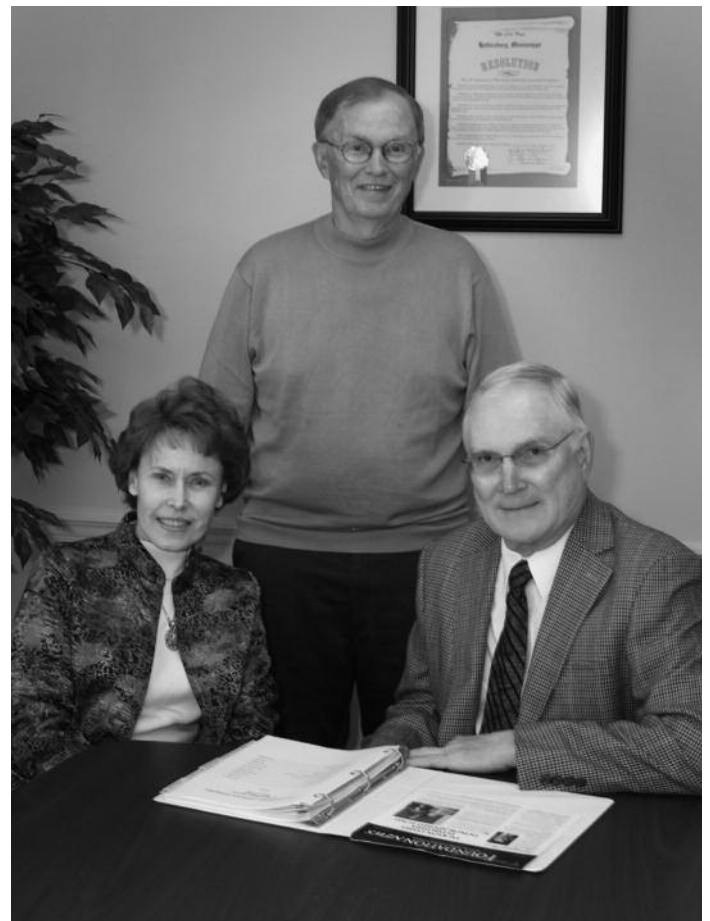
Schoell said he and his wife worked with Foundation director Bill Pace to establish the fund.

"By working through the Foundation, you're able to avoid the cost of setting up your own foundation. You're not limited to local charities, but that is the main interest."

The Schoells made an initial contribution to their fund and will continue to add to it over the coming years, eventually selecting a charity to receive the fund's earnings on an annual basis. They will also add additional funds through their will. They have not yet disbursed any money to non-profit organizations.

Rosalie Schoell said she would encourage others to look into creating their own fund. "It is a really good thing," she said. "It is a good vehicle for your charitable donations."

Bill Schoell retired from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1998 after nearly 30 years as a professor in the College of Business' Department of Marketing. The Schoells lived in the Hattiesburg Historic Neighborhood for 28 years before relocating to a new home in the Sandstone subdivision a few years ago. They enjoy gardening on their large lot and are active in the Area Development Partnership and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at USM. Rosalie Schoell is also an avid quilter and member of the Pine Belt Quilters. They have two children, who both live in the Dallas area, and two grandchildren. ▲



Rosalie and Bill Schoell (seated) complete documents for their Donor Advised Fund with Greater PineBelt Community Foundation Executive Director Bill Pace (standing). The Schoells will determine each year the charity to which they wish the interest from their investment be designated. (Robinson Photography)

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

Bold Face: Partners added since last newsletter.

2009 OFFICERS

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Bush – Executive Vice President, BancorpSouth
Dr. Ben Carmichael – Cardiologist, Hattiesburg Clinic (Retired)
Dr. Richard Clark – Retired MD
Mike Collins – Division Manager, Mississippi Power
Iris Easterling – English Department, William Carey University
David Fortenberry – Producer, Stewart Sneed and Hewes
Greg Garraway – Area Executive, South Mississippi Regions Bank
Dr. Angie Godwin – President, Area Development Partnership
Bernard Green – Agency Owner, Bernard Green Insurance, Inc.
Skippy Haik – Consultant
Robert T. Jackson, Sr. – Attorney & Partner, Jackson, Bowman & Blumentritt, PLLC
Gwen James – President, Residential Division, Coldwell Banker Realty
Richard Jones – Owner, R. Jones & Associates
Edward J. "Ed" Langton – Chairman & CEO, Grand Bank
Andy Leslie – Vice President Investments, Trustmark Wealth Management
Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas – President Emeritus, The University of Southern Mississippi
Andy Mercier – President, Merchants Food Services
Stace Mercier – Former CFO, USM Foundation
Hayden Mitchell – Executive Vice President, Citizens National Bank
Gene Owens – President, Owens Business Machines, Inc.
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Wanda Simpson – Director, Department of Human Services
Andy Stetelman – Realtor, London & Stetelman
Dr. Christy Thornton – Physician
Benny Waddle – Senior Vice President, Hancock Bank
Chris Wilson – Realtor, First Choice, PLLC
James N. Yelverton – Retired Business Executive

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

Bill Pace, Executive Director

The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation

1507 Hardy Street, Suite 208
 Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401

Standard Mail
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 Hattiesburg, MS
 Permit No. 71

STAFF

Bill Pace

Executive Director

Eliska Schilling

Administrative Assistant

Bud Kirkpatrick

Editor