

Coastal Community News

For Good. Forever.

Here for Good...Here to Stay.

On the beautiful evening of October 10th, the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation celebrated the successful completion of their Decennial Campaign.



Bill Stembler addressing the guests gathered to celebrate the successful completion of the Foundation decennial campaign.

The celebration was hosted by Foundation Board Treasurer and Campaign Chairman Bill Stembler and his wife Anne at their beachfront home on Sea Island. In attendance

were over 60 of the Coastal Georgians who made the effort a success. The Decennial Fund is now a \$3.5 million operating endowment. The campaign to fund it was announced on the

Foundation's 10th anniversary in 2015. It will provide financial support for the Foundation's operations and guarantee its presence for the foreseeable future.



Changing Lives For Generations

Scholarships take a lot of work, for both the recipients and the granting entity.

Individuals and organizations establish scholarship programs with the very best intentions and often need assistance with systems and processes to preserve them. The Coastal Georgia Foundation is here to help. In 2017, the Foundation managed the selection process and made distributions for three existing scholarship funds and established a fourth.

The Correll Scholars Program at The Foundation awarded four Glynn County high school graduates with scholarships to pursue higher education. "These kids have demonstrated a remarkable potential. The Corrells and the Foundation are prepared to make sure that potential is realized," said Paul White, President

and CEO of the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation. "That's what this scholarship is all about." Pete and Ada Lee Correll established the Correll Scholars program to help Glynn County high school graduates who are members of the Elizabeth F. Correll Teen Center in Brunswick pursue a two-year or four-year post-secondary degree through one of Georgia's public colleges. The program provides an annual scholarship of \$5,000 to students enrolled in four-year academic degree programs and an annual scholarship of \$4,000 to students enrolled in two-year academic or technical degree programs. "Pete and

Continues on page 3.

2017, A Busy Year of Disaster Relief

Who could have anticipated two hurricanes hitting Coastal Georgia in the course of just eleven months?

Because this was such an outrageous thought, our community was not prepared for Hurricane Irma at the end of August of 2017.

In the days after the storm, the Foundation started working with several other agencies on the Coast to make sure that the current and long-term recovery needs of Coastal Georgians were being met, and that our community would not be caught "on our heels" when the next disaster hits.

The first thing we did after the borders of Glynn County were reopened was to sit down with representatives from other local foundations, local nonprofits and the United Way of Coastal Georgia to establish the Community Emergency Needs Fund. To date, the fund has already granted close to \$100,000 to reimburse local agencies that responded to immediate local needs following the storm. As the long-term recovery needs are met going forward, funding efforts for that purpose will be channeled through this fund. This vehicle will be available to immediately receive, and later, distribute resources focused on disaster response.

In addition to lacking a financial infrastructure that could be leveraged following a disaster, it was also apparent that the Coastal Community lacked an organization that could marshal resources directly to those families most impacted but with insufficient means. As such, the Foundation played an instrumental role in forming and building a VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) an association of organizations that mitigates and alleviates the impact of a disaster; provides a forum promoting community cooperation, communication and collaboration; and fosters more effective delivery of services to communities affected by disaster. Our local VOAD has already been recognized by FEMA officials as one of the most effective examples in the State of Georgia.



Check our current funding opportunities by visiting our website:
coastalgeorgiafoundation.org
Whatever your passion, we know a worthy cause.

Dear Editorial Board,

When I first became involved with the Coastal Georgia Foundation by establishing a donor-advised fund in 2014, I had rather limited objectives. I just wanted to cut down on faxes, e-mails, and phone calls to my broker and donees, and I wanted not to have to worry about timing the market at year’s end.

However, in 2017 I learned how much more the Foundation has to offer through two very different projects. Early in 2017, quite unexpectedly, I went to the emergency room of the Southeast Georgia Health System. Thanks to the quick thinking and expertise of the professionals there, my story had a happy ending. Following my recovery, I wanted to figure out a way to thank the people there beyond the writing of a letter. With the help of the Foundation staff, we found out that the emergency room staff lounge desperately needed upgrading. Unfortunately, the ER lounge kept falling to the bottom of the list of other hospital “needs.” Working with the hospital’s Foundation, we figured out the way to have me earmark my

donation and make sure the ER staff lounge update happened.

The second example comes from my wanting to set up an endowment to help fund the perpetual maintenance of the middle Georgia cemetery used by my family. As the Foundation prepared to draw up the agreement to establish a fund for this purpose, we found out that the cemetery had let its state corporate status lapse in the 1980’s and had last filed a federal tax return at the same time. Patiently and assiduously, Foundation staff worked with the cemetery’s Trustees over a couple of years on re-filing with the state and with the IRS. I can happily report that the Foundation was able to make the first contribution to the cemetery fund this month in time for their annual meeting.

My thanks to the Foundation. I feel sure we will test your “problem-solving” abilities again soon and that you will “ace” the test.

Sincerely yours,
Frances A. Zwenig



2018 Foundation Leadership

Arthur M. Lucas, *Chair*
Bonney S. Shuman, *Vice Chair/Secretary*
Jeff Barker, *Treasurer*
William J. Stembler, *At-Large*
Jack C. Kilgore, *At-Large*
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Sandra Warwick Channell
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William Bernard McCloud
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Reg Murphy
Lawton M. (Mac) Nease, III, PhD
S. Lloyd Newberry, Jr. PhD
Alfred Sams, III
René C. Shelnutt
Janet A. Shirley
Hillary Smith Stringfellow

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Paul White, *President and CEO*
Ellen Post, *Grants Operation Manager*

EDITORIAL

Making Progress, One Problem At A Time. Community Foundations are hard to understand. On the one hand, we make grants to support those organizations doing important work in our community. That is pretty straight forward and easy to grasp. However, another way to look at a community foundation is as a financial institution or even a mutual fund, that is governed by the charitable side of the tax code. Now things are getting a little complex and out there.

We can discuss the nuances of a community foundation at great length and never really get to the important stuff. There are so many things that a community foundation can do, and so very many and different ways that we can work with our variety of constituents, that the discussion can get very confusing. How, for example, we work with a local financial professional is very different than how we work with a local charitable agency. A discussion with a potential donor is very different than a discussion with local insurance agents.

We work with our donors to find the most creative and effective ways for them to invest their charitable dollars. Problem solved.

So how do we answer the question “What does the Coastal Georgia Foundation do?” I, for one, like to keep it simple: we solve problems. Yes, we make grants to local agencies to address community challenges and/or opportunities. That is obvious. But we also work with financial professionals and brokers to help them best serve their clients’ philanthropic interests locally in a way that can keep assets invested with the original brokerage. Problem solved. We act as a thought partner and a resource to accountants and estate attorneys who help their clients maximize wealth transfer, minimize tax obligations in an estate plan, all the while creating a charitable legacy. Problem solved. We provide investment services for agencies that have excess capital and want access to larger investment pools and greater expertise. Problem solved. We work with our donors to find the most creative and effective ways for them to invest their charitable dollars. Problem solved.

I encourage everyone I speak with to consider the Coastal Georgia Foundation a resource in solving the current and future problems that they face individually or as an organization. Understanding every facet of what the Coastal Georgia Foundation can do can be difficult. But getting us on your team to help you solve your problems is easy.

Portrait of A Great Lady

On the evening of Monday, February 27, 2017, Coastal Georgia lost a treasure when Eloise Bailey Thompson, 88, passed away at her home on Mush Bluff near St Marys.

Mrs. Thompson was born on December 31, 1928 in Brunswick, Georgia to the late Clarke Memary and Elizabeth Dean Yancey.

Eloise’s life-long passion for education included serving in roles ranging from classroom teacher and PTA President to informally educating anyone interested in the history of the area. Dedicated to historical preservation, especially local history and genealogy, she often wrote and lectured on these topics. Recognizing the need for a senior living facility in Camden County, Mrs. Thompson was a major force in getting Magnolia Manor of St. Mary opened and served on its board of directors and later on the advisory board up until her death. These are but a few of the impactful things Eloise did during her life.

Mrs. Thompson was a generous supporter of many charitable causes and her impact on the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation were profound. Eloise’s name is prominently listed on the plaque listing Foundation Founders which is displayed in the Foundation office. Additionally, Eloise established the oldest active donor advised fund managed by the Foundation.



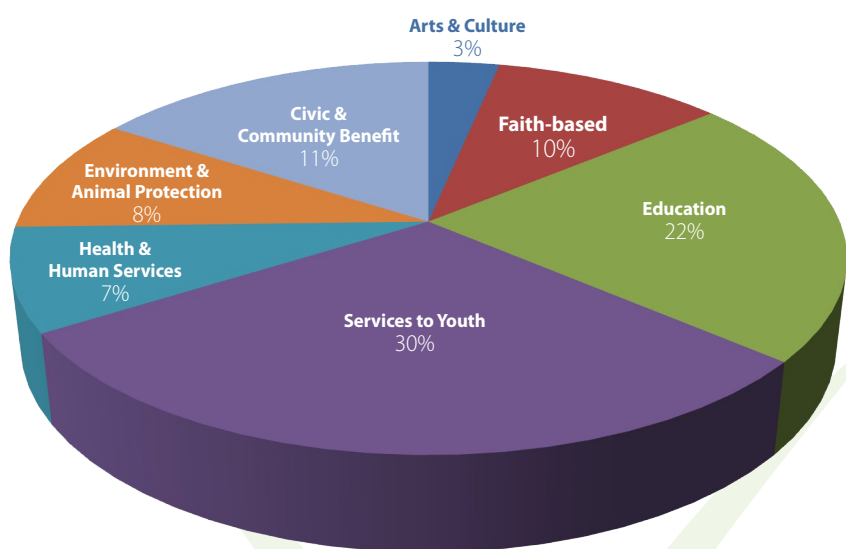
Since it was established in 2006, her Fund has made over \$1 million in grants to support efforts to preserve coastal habitat, enhance education, protect historical resources, care for Coastal Georgia’s elder population, and much more. Fortunately, her legacy continues through her children.

As meaningful as Eloise’s financial contributions have been in her community, it was her vision as well as her willingness to lead and act as a thought partner that enabled her to make such a profound impact across her community. Few citizens are able to leave the footprints that were left by Eloise during her long and meaningful life. Though we still find inspiration from the example she set, she is and will always be greatly missed. Rest in peace, Eloise, and know that you made, and will continue to make, a difference in Coastal Georgia.

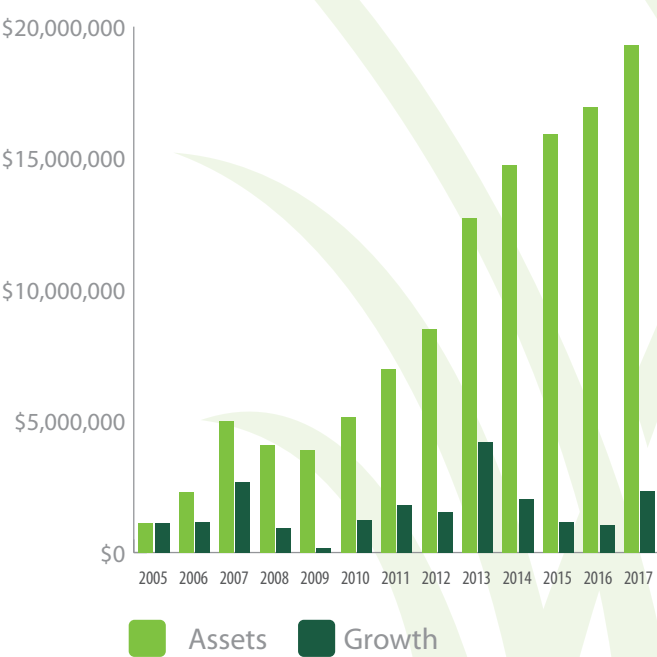
HIGHLIGHTS

2017 Community Foundation Grantmaking by Sector

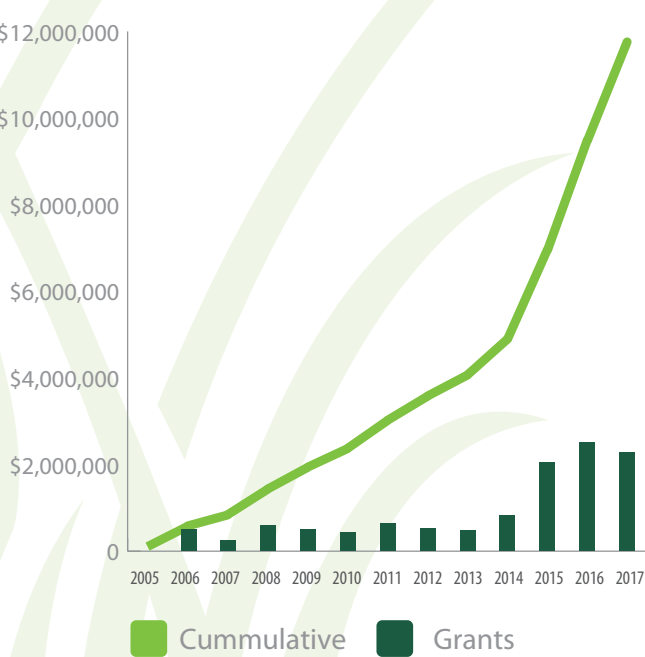
Total Grants - \$2,276,269



Assets Growth by Year & Cumulative



Grants by Year & Cumulative



Changing Lives For Generations continuing from page 1

Ada Lee set this up to provide opportunities, and it's basically for kids that graduated from high school who have been involved with the Boys & Girls Club," White said. Nalani Burch, Jaylon Cooper, Cekayla King and Bria McGirth were this year's recipients. "These kids had done well in school, had been involved in extracurricular activities, a variety of them, and had very good college plans. They represented themselves well to the selection committee. This is a great way for the Foundation to help our donors maximize the impact of their philanthropy by investing in future generations," White said.

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In the spring, members of the Glynn Academy Class of 1969 joined to celebrate Barion Jerome Scott, Jr., the 2017 scholarship recipient of the **Glynn Academy Class of 1969 Memorial Scholarship**. The scholarship was established and is funded by members of the last class to graduate from Glynn

Academy before the school was split with the opening of Brunswick High. The Scholarship is reserved for a promising student to become "HOPE" eligible as a result of good academic progress during his or her freshman year. Barion is currently enrolled at Armstrong State University.

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The Halsey Family Scholarship Fund awarded two worthy students \$3,000 each for up to two academic years to help them complete their undergraduate degrees. Candidates must be graduates of Camden High and planning to study either science or music during their college years. The 2017 recipients were Emily Gilbert, who is attending Georgia Tech and Alexander Anklam, who is attending the University of Alabama, both majoring in Aerospace Engineering.

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A scholarship fund created by the **Christ Church Frederica Episcopal Church**

Women was established in 2017. Annually, the Christ Church Frederica ECW Scholarship Fund for Women will provide \$2,500 to a female high school graduate pursuing a degree through an academic or technical college or university. The student must be of the Episcopal faith and hale from Glynn or McIntosh County.

"Many of our Christ Church women have, over the last fifteen years, donated to this wonderful effort to establish a scholarship program for our young ladies. The fruit of our gifts will now benefit many young women with their future educational goals. In establishing this scholarship we honor those who came before us and saw this as just a dream...but now it is a reality and we could not be more pleased," noted Jane Watson, President, Episcopal Church Women. The first selection round took place in the spring of 2018.

MAKE ART NOT LITTER



The manatee at Overlook Park will catch your eye. As will the blue heron on its elevated perch at North Glynn Recreation Complex. And have you seen the shrimp at Blythe Island Regional Park? Not to mention the right whale at Coast Guard Station Beach on St. Simons or the pelican at Mary Ross Park?

These bright, eye-catching sculptures are the work of Myrtle Beach and environmentally-minded artist Jim Swain and were paid for with grants from the Coastal Georgia Foundation as well as the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Office for Coastal Management.

But the sculptures were not always so full of color. A closer look will reveal that each piece is actually hollow and made of a steel mesh. When the pieces were installed by Keep Golden Isles Beautiful back in May, volunteers spent the afternoon picking up litter at each location and then filled the statues with the plastic cups, aluminum cans, soda bottles and other garbage and recyclables.

On the base of each statue is a plaque with a carefully worded narrative regarding the animal and its natural habitat, as well as the damage our litter does. The two might combine to make pretty art, but litter definitely does not mix well with these creatures in their natural environments.



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™



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COMMUNITY IMPACT

Coastal Georgia Foundation Celebrates the Largest Community Impact Since its Inception

This year, the Foundation's Competitive Community Impact Grants cycle invested \$82,525 in programs addressing and changing futures for at-risk youth. A record number of grants (18) were made to organizations doing impressive work in various fields.



From left to right, top to bottom: Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeast Georgia, Camden Community Crisis Center, CASA Glynn, Children In Action Sports Club, Coastal Coalition for Children, Coastal Outreach Soccer, Communities In Schools of Glynn County, The Gathering Place, Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia, Girls On The Run of the Golden Isles, Golden Isles Arts and Humanities Association, Golden Isles Youth Orchestra, Marshes of Glynn Libraries, Morningstar Children and Family Services, Safe Harbor Children's Center, Social Opportunities & Active Recreation, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, YMCA of Coastal Georgia

The need in Glynn County is very real. It is something that Paul White sees daily. That is why the President and CEO of the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation and his staff work hard to find money to help area organizations. This year, they outdid themselves.

In June 2017, White announced that 18 local groups would be granted a record total of \$82,525 by the Foundation. The money is provided through the Foundation's Community Impact grant initiative. It is the largest number and highest total of grants in the Foundation's history for the annual competitive grant program. It was a move prompted by the serious issues plaguing at-risk youth in Glynn, Camden and McIntosh counties.

The Foundation annually budgets \$50,000 for such needs. But this year, Foundation officials were able to up the ante, gifting an additional \$32,525 in donations to organizations' grant programs. "Our comprehensive internal review process indicated that there were more qualified organizations providing critical services to this vulnerable population than we had funding for," White said. "Many of our fund holders rely on us to help them maximize the impact of their philanthropy. When we reached out to them, apprising them of this opportunity, they responded and the gap was covered in less than 36 hours."

The Foundation distributed the grants to organizations providing a variety of critical services to at-risk youth and their families. In addition to donor-advised endowed and field of interest grant-making throughout the year, the

Community Foundation also conducts this competitive grants cycle, which targets specific areas of need and opportunity across the three county region. Three of the 18 grant recipients are first-time awardees. Those receiving the Foundations' grant funds include:

- The Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeast Georgia, Brunswick, \$5,000
- Camden Community Crisis Center, St. Marys, \$5,000
- CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Glynn, Inc., Brunswick and St. Marys, \$4,675
- Children In Action Sports Club (CIA), Brunswick, \$5,000
- Coastal Coalition for Children Inc., Brunswick, \$1,700
- Coastal Outreach Soccer, Brunswick, \$5,000
- Communities In Schools of Glynn County, Brunswick, \$5,000

- The Gathering Place, Brunswick, \$4,500
- Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia Inc., St. Marys, \$4,900
- Girls On The Run of the Golden Isles, Darien, \$4,250
- Golden Isles Arts and Humanities Association, Brunswick, \$5,000;
- Golden Isles Youth Orchestra, Brunswick, \$5,000
- Marshes of Glynn Libraries, Brunswick, \$5,000
- Morningstar Children and Family Services Inc., Brunswick, \$5,000
- Safe Harbor Children's Center Inc., Brunswick, \$5,000
- Social Opportunities & Active Recreation Inc. (SOAR), Brunswick, \$5,000
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Darien, \$5,000
- The YMCA of Coastal Georgia Inc., Brunswick and Darien, \$2,000