



Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation

Strengthening Our Communities Through Engaged Philanthropy



Community Needs Assessment

The Foundation recently completed a regional needs assessment. The findings are being used to shape grantmaking in the coming year and to craft future programs for Coastal Georgia Partners in Philanthropy. [Click here](#) to download a copy of the needs assessment.

Grant Cycle Begins in January

The Foundation will announce its 2016 Competitive Grant Cycle on January 4th. Applications will be due in mid-February. To assist applicants, the Foundation will be hosting two grant information sessions in conjunction with other grantmakers and the Georgia Center for Non-Profits. Attendance is strongly encouraged.

PLAN TO ATTEND A GRANT INFORMATION SESSION

**January 12th, 9am, Salvation Army
Service Center, St. Marys**
or
**January 14th, 9am, Golden Isles Career
Academy, Brunswick**

NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

At its annual meeting in December, the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation elected new board members and officers. Sandra Warwick Channell, Lawton M. Nease, III, and Rene' C. Shelnut, CPA, will join the Foundation for new four-year terms, beginning in January 2016.

Sandi Channell is a Glynn County native, who graduated from Brunswick High School and went on to earn a B.A. in Accounting at the University of Georgia. Channell earned her CPA and lived and worked in the Northeast and Midwest before she and her family returned to Coastal Georgia. She is an active community leader, who has served as Finance Committee chair for Frederica Academy, president of Cherokee Garden Club, and board member of St. Simons Land Trust and Hospice of the Golden Isles.



Sandi Channell

A native of Effingham County, Mac Nease is the President of Nease, Lagana, Eden & Culley, an Atlanta-based firm specializing in complex estate and business insurance placement. A Certified Life Underwriter (CLU), Nease has served in numerous leadership roles in the insurance industry, including national president of the Advanced Association for Life Underwriting, president of the Atlanta Estate Planning Council and the Society of Financial Service Professionals. Elected to its Hall of Fame by the National Association of Estate Planning Councils, Nease is the Past Chair of the Georgia Tech Foundation and sits on numerous corporate and charitable boards. Nease is a graduate of Georgia Tech and earned masters and doctoral degrees from Georgia State University.



Mac Nease

Rene' Shelnett grew up in Alma, Georgia and graduated from Georgia Southern with a BBA in Accounting. She is a CPA, and a partner in the accounting firm of Schell & Hogan. Shelnett is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants. She has held several offices, including Past President, of the local chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs. She also has served in a financial capacity on the boards of several volunteer organizations.



Rene' Shelnett

Alfred Sams, III, Senior Vice-President with SunTrust Investment Services, and Janet A. Shirley, an estate planning and fiduciary law attorney with Atwood Choate, were re-elected to four year terms.

The Foundation's Officers for the coming year are: Rees M. Sumerford, Chair; Arthur M. Lucas, Vice-Chair; and Jeff Barker, Treasurer. Claude H. Booker, Jr., Bonney S. Shuman, and William J. Stembler serve as At-Large Members on the Executive Committee.

While celebrating the Season, consider a contribution to a worthy cause in honor or in memory of a friend or family member. From Early Childhood Literacy (Baby Steps) to the Golden Isles Fund for Trees (GIFT) and Glynn COPS (Community Organizing for Police Safety), we have a host of funds that speak to your interests and passions.

 **DONATE NOW**

Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation | 912.268.2561 | info@coastalgeorgiafoundation.org