



Communities of COASTAL GEORGIA FOUNDATION

CHRONICLING AN ACT *of* GOODWILL

by Valerie Hepburn, President & CEO Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation

History was made in the Golden Isles with the formation of the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation in 2005. Led by founding chair, Bill Jones III, a small group of local philanthropic visionaries set on a course to establish a public charitable organization devoted to improving the quality of life in Coastal Georgia. These dreamers believed that our community could join the ranks of more than 700 successful communities and regions in the United States with establishment of a “community foundation.” Broadly defined, community foundations serve to bring a wide range of philanthropic interests together – individuals, families, businesses, community organizations – to promote civic and community well-being through collective, strategic, solution-focused philanthropy.

Yet, unlike most other communities that have robust community foundations, Coastal Georgia did not have a well-spring of established, large corporate interests or headquarters from which to draw start-up funding. So, with its usual can-do attitude, Coastal Georgia made history by establishing a community foundation in its own unique way. Some seventy (70) local families and foundations came together and pledged their resources to create the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation – in hopes of ensuring its work would be “for good, for ever.” Others invested in the Foun-

ation through legacy gifts. Residents of the Golden Isles anchored that exceptional effort, and today they provide leadership in governing a growing charitable enterprise.

The Foundation’s Board of Directors is composed of community leaders who volunteer their time and talents to steward resources to address community needs. Assets now exceed \$13 million, putting Coastal Georgia in the good company of high-quality, smaller public foundations. By comparison, in 2013, the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta reported assets of \$933 million, and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation is approaching \$5 billion! Georgia is home to twenty (20) community foundations. Coastal Georgia is among the elite seven (7) to have earned national accreditation.

Each year, through donor advised funds and a competitive grants process, the Foundation invests about one-half of a million dollars in community improvement through worthy organizations across Glynn, Camden and McIntosh counties and beyond. Areas of interest include education and youth serving programs, health and human services, arts and culture, history and heritage, crisis intervention, workforce development, faith-based initiatives, environment, and animal welfare. The beauty of a community foundation is that it reflects the interests of its donors and the *(continues)*

Some seventy local families and foundations came together and pledged their resources to create the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation – in hopes of ensuring its work would be “for good, for ever.”

continued from page 64

special assets and developmental needs of its communities.

Congratulate your neighbors and friends for their incredible vision and selflessness in creating this Foundation. Coastal Georgia is rare among communities of its size to have such generosity and engagement to promote community well-being. Going forward, a story of Coastal Georgia philanthropy will be showcased each month in *Elegant Island Living*. We look forward to sharing yours.



DR. VALERIE HEPBURN brought more than 30 years of senior public policy and educational leadership experience to the Communities of Georgia Foundation when she became its president and CEO in July 2014. Most recently, she served as the president of the College of Coastal Georgia, leading its transformation to a senior college, and as an administrator and faculty member in health policy and management and public administration at both The University of Georgia and Georgia State University. Prior to that, Dr. Hepburn spent more than two decades in leadership positions with state health, financing and regulatory agencies. Hepburn earned her doctorate in Public Administration and Policy from The University of Georgia, a Master of Public Administration from Georgia State University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Agnes Scott College. In her “free time,” she serves as a board member for the Glynn County Board of Health, the Glynn-Brunswick Memorial Hospital Authority, the Ty Cobb Educational Foundation, the Frederica Academy Board of Visitors, and the Fort Frederica Association.

F O U N D E R S ’ C I R C L E

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Mrs. Forrest Adair, III | Mr. & Mrs. Brad Foster | Mr. & Mrs. Dennie McCrary | Mr. & Mrs. Billy Shuman |
| Mr. & Mrs. John G. Altston | Mr. & Mrs. John T. Glover | Mr. William A. McIntosh | John L. Simms Family |
| Mr. & Mrs. Dewey Benefield | Mr. & Mrs. Jerry W. Harper | Mr. & Mrs. Walter McNeely | Mr. & Mrs. Ben T. Slade, III |
| Mr. & Mrs. James Bishop, Sr. | Mr. & Mrs. Bob Hatcher | Mr. & Mrs. Russ Mentzer | Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Small |
| Mr. & Mrs. James Blanchard | Mr. & Mrs. William Heck | Mr. & Mrs. Reg Murphy | Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Smith, Jr. |
| Mr. & Mrs. Claude H. Booker, Jr. | Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Jackson | Mr. & Mrs. Donald G. Myers | Mr. Taylor W. Smith |
| Mr. & Mrs. Morton E. Boyd | In Memory of Mr. Howard Jones | Mr. & Mrs. Mac Nease | St. Marys United Methodist Church Foundation |
| Mr. & Mrs. Jim Calvert | Mr. & Mrs. Bill Jones III | Mr. & Mrs. Pat Pittard | Mr. & Mrs. William J. Stembler |
| Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Castellini | Mr. & Mrs. Gene Kelly | Mr. & Mrs. M. E. Ralston | Mr. & Mrs. Tom Sublett |
| Frederick E. & Helen Dykes Cooper Charitable Foundation | Mr. & Mrs. James Kennedy | Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Redd | Mr. & Mrs. Rees Sumerford |
| Mr. & Mrs. Lovick Corn | Mr. & Mrs. David Kuntz | Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Reeves | Mrs. Eloise Bailey Thompson |
| Mr. & Mrs. Frank DeLoach, Jr. | Mr. & Mrs. C. Vance Leavy | Mr. & Mrs. Lee Richards | Mr. & Mrs. Dick Vieser |
| Mr. & Mrs. Jack Dinos | Mr. & Mrs. Davis Love, III | Mr. & Mrs. Dan Robitaille | Ms. Susan Corn Wainright |
| Mr. & Mrs. Don Dutson | Mr. & Mrs. James Lowrey | Mr. & Mrs. John Rogers | Mr. & Mrs. Bill Walker |
| Mrs. Martha Brumley Ellis | Mr. & Mrs. John Ludwig | Mrs. E. Clayton Shelhoss | Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Yellowlees |
| | Mr. & Mrs. James V. Manning | Mrs. Frances Shropshire | |

No matter how small or big your wrist is, silver or gold, or a bit of both, we'll make you something special and lasting.

GOLDEN ISLES BRACELET CO.

Keepsake Jewelry from the artist of the original St Simons Island Signature Bracelet and Jekyll Island Turtle Bracelet.

#106 Pier Village Market, St. Simons Island
(912) 638.3636

www.GIBCoBracelets.com

AN OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE GA SEA TURTLE CENTER

