

Focus on a Local Nonprofit:

Each newsletter edition features a profile of a nonprofit in the region. We offer this feature to educate our readers on the great work of our local nonprofits and to encourage them to support such local efforts philanthropically.

One Hundred Miles: Preserving the Promise of the Georgia Coast

The community foundation welcomes a newly formed nonprofit to protect and enhance Georgia's 100-mile coast for current and future generations. Georgia harbors one-third of all remaining salt marshes on the eastern seaboard – over 375,000 acres. One Hundred Miles seeks to build public awareness, address high profile issues with a solutions-based approach, and act as liaison among local, state, regional and national groups with an interest in the Georgia coast - in short to serve as a hub for information, advocacy and action.

This coast-focused conservation organization is similar to successful models used in both North and South Carolina. In each of these states, strong organizations have achieved breakthroughs and long-term success by working with conservation partners, community and business leaders from all sectors, the public, and local, state and federal governments.

The newly appointed executive director is Megan Desrosiers and the office has been set up in downtown Brunswick at 301 Gloucester Street. You can learn more about the organization at www.onehundredmiles.org when the website becomes live in October.



Newberry Family Opens Home for Successful Community Foundation Event in McIntosh



(Left to Right) John Giles, Rees Sumerford, Martin Miller, Michael Hardy, and Art Lucas

Becky Valentine and Kathleen Russell

(Left to Right) Marcia Hardy, Laura Lynn Miller, Rose Anne Giles

Board member host, Dr. S. Lloyd Newberry, may have had an emergency that took him out of town, but his family, including wife Martha, son Wyck, and daughter-in-law Betsy, never missed a beat in hosting a well attended and lively “widening” event at the Newberry’s marsh-front home on Harris Neck Island in northern McIntosh County.

It was an opportunity for local McIntosh residents, some with long family histories in the county and others who were more recent transplants, to enjoy beautifully prepared hors d’oeuvres and beverages, to hear some brief remarks about the advantages to a community and to charity-minded people that a community foundation brings, and to ask questions in a casual and relaxed atmosphere.

Board chair, Rees Sumerford, assured the group that there would be no request for money. “You don’t even give TO a

community foundation; you give THROUGH it,” added director Lee Owen. “Our message is a very soft-sell. If and when it becomes appropriate for you to give a more formal structure to your giving – either because of tax considerations, a special interest of yours, or because you already have a family foundation that is becoming more of a headache than a heartfelt response, we want you to be familiar with the community foundation and what it can do for you.”

Old friends reconnected and new acquaintances were made, and in the weeks that have followed, several who attended have asked for more information about setting up a fund. If you are interested in attending a future, informal “Widening the Circle” event, please contact Lee Owen at lowen@coastalgeorgiafoundation.org or 268-4442.

Community Foundation Endowments Need Your Year-End Gifts

The success of your community foundation is built on robust permanent endowments that will be here “for good and forever” to address issues and needs in our coastal communities. As you plan end-of-year donations, please consider a gift in any amount to one or more of these existing

endowment funds:

- Coastal Community Endowment (unrestricted)
- Animal Welfare Endowment
- Arts/Culture/Historic Preservation Endowment
- Early Childhood Literacy Endowment

Our Mission

To improve the quality of life in Coastal Georgia by promoting and increasing responsible, effective philanthropy – now and for future generations.

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Ellen Post

1626 Frederica Road, Suite 201
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
(912) 268-4442 (phone)
(912) 268-2316 (fax)

lowen@coastalgeorgiafoundation.org
www.coastalgeorgiafoundation.org

State Early Education Advocates Promote Quality-Rating to Local Child Care Centers

Parents often select child care based upon proximity to work or home, traffic patterns, price, or just plain hearsay. Hopefully, that is about to change in the state of Georgia.

In just over 1½ years, over a thousand child care programs have enrolled in Quality Rated, Georgia's new voluntary system to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs. The program is administered by the Quality Initiatives Division of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL).

Similar to rating systems for other service industries like restaurants and hotels, Quality Rated identifies early care and education programs that meet a set of standards and then adds both monetary and development incentives and higher rankings for exceeding those standards.



Georgia's Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) is no stranger to our early education efforts here at the community foundation. Their director has been following our progress, brought the DECAL deputy commissioner to our community August 19th and sought our help in bringing the message of the benefits of "Quality Rated" to our local child care center directors. Local centers were well represented and very responsive to the call to sign on. By the reception's end, at least three centers had indicated their intent to apply.

Another Baby Steps Reading Center!

Take one former storage room at the Boys & Girls Center in the Glynnvilla Housing Authority property. Add lighting, air conditioning, carpeting, and book cases. Mix with colorful murals by a local artist, Nancy Muldowney, and sprinkle generously with funds provided by Christ Church Frederica. Top it with new books and serve to eager young minds. That is the recipe for yet another Baby Steps Reading Center that opened this summer in Brunswick through the community foundation. It took coordination with the Brunswick Housing Authority, the Boys & Girls Club, volunteers, and funders, but it all came together in a celebration party that included pre-schoolers and their older siblings who frequent the club. Regular reading sessions by community volunteers are currently being scheduled.



Georgia's Post-Secondary Education – an Opportunity for Philanthropy

Despite torrential rain, over 60 representatives of foundations large and small – corporate, family, and community foundations - gathered in Macon August 15th to hear experts explain both the changes and challenges facing our state colleges, universities and technical schools, and ways in which the philanthropic community can get involved.

The facts presented were sobering:

- 1.2 million Georgians have no high school diploma or GED
- 45% of Hispanics have less than a high school diploma
- 15% of 18-24 year olds are not currently enrolled in school and have no high school diploma. Unemployment among this group is 50%
- 50% of first year students studying for an associate degree are in remediation classes

- 27.5% of first year students enrolled in a 4-year college are in remediation classes

- By 2020, 720,000 jobs in Georgia will need an associate degree or higher.

New paradigms are needed to adapt to new realities surrounding student preparation, remediation, technology advances, and increased costs and decreased federal and state funding. Foundations were challenged to be at the table in discussions aimed at thinking out of the box and to be ready to provide risk capital to test new ideas and directions.

Current executive director Lee Owen and future director Dr. Valerie Hepburn were both present. Dr. Hepburn moderated a panel of presenters including Suzanne Walsh of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Dr. John Wilson, Jr., president of Morehouse College, and Dr. Mark Milliron of Civitas Learning, pictured above.

Report Validates our Grant Focus

A recent nationwide survey, conducted by the Center for Effective Philanthropy, confirmed that our community foundation's focus on "capacity building for our local nonprofits" in our competitive grant making is spot on!

75% of nonprofit leaders surveyed, both experienced and those new to the field, said they lacked money for training that would improve their executive skills and those of their employees. Technology to improve their operations was another major need cited. Many respondents emphasized that better and faster technology would lower administrative costs.

"I'm not sure how many foundations see that their responsibility is to strengthen an organization. They all want to fund programs," observed report author Ellie Buteau.

Eight of the ten competitive grants we awarded from our Founders' fund this year provided for board and staff training, technology upgrades, consultants, or website upgrades and redesign.

What Part of "Permanent" Didn't They Understand???



The Wall Street Journal recently reported on the total draw-down of a \$135 million hospital endowment created by the Othmers, co-investors with Warren Buffett, in less than 20 years. The Journal called it "a cautionary tale for wealthy investors who hope their gifts will make a long-term impact."

With no children and a deep desire to give back to society and their home community, the Othmers willed the bulk of their money to several charitable institutions, including nearby Long Island College Hospital. The Othmers' wills specified that the endowment should be "held in perpetuity" by only spending its income, not the principal itself. Instead, through a series of court-approved transactions, the hospital tapped the fund to serve as collateral for loans and to cover malpractice insurance. Now it is completely gone, although there is legal action to force the hospital to rebuild the fund.

Who was there to speak for the donor couple? Didn't they want the endowment to serve that community's health needs forever? What might they have done differently?

They could have set up a designated endowed fund for the benefit of the hospital at their community foundation. It would be there "for good and forever!"