

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.

McIntosh County 4-H Club



offer activities as varied as public speaking, topic research, time and money management skills, science, and career path exploration. For more information, contact Greg Hickey at (912) 437 -6651.

Offering research-driven programs developed by the national cooperative extension service system, 4-H Clubs stress hands-on learning with a “do-reflect-apply” methodology in activities focused on science, citizenship and healthy living. 4-H is the nation’s largest youth development organization.

The McIntosh County 4-H Club’s current enrollment is over 800, and 83% of their participating youth are considered “at risk.” Operating with no federal or state funding, programs are dependent upon local contributions and fundraisers conducted by the youth and adult leaders. The current after school program and summer program for youth from fourth grade through high school

Changing of the Guard



Lee Owen: It seems like last week, not eight years ago, that Dennie McCrary invited me to his home to see if I was interested in running a community foundation – I had to admit that I didn’t even know what one was! I had just celebrated my 21st year in a career with MAP International and thought I would be there until I retired, but this concept of encouraging philanthropy and building funds that would be used to better coastal Georgia in all sectors from “A to Z – Arts to Zoology” intrigued me. It has been a blessing and a privilege for me to give back to this area that I have loved since I first walked its beaches at age nine. The people with whom I have interacted while at the community foundation – my board, our founders, the amazing philanthropists who have created funds with us, the staff at local nonprofits, city and county officials, educators, civic club members – have all been so giving and so genuine in their belief that together we can build a great community. Valerie ignited and inspired our coastal community to create a four-year college so successfully. I know she will take our community foundation to a new level of relevance and impact when she takes over July 1.



Valerie Hepburn: I am excited to join the community foundation and to build on the tremendous work that has already been done by our founders, fund holders, board and staff. Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to learn from Lee and the board, and other foundation colleagues around the state about the

complexities of foundation operations and the tremendous opportunities we have for community-building across the region. As we approach this community foundation’s 10th Anniversary in 2015, we look forward to fully embracing the vision for community philanthropy - For Good, For Ever.

Endowed Funds “Keep on Keepin’ On”

“The gift that keeps on giving” is the perfect description of an endowed fund at the community foundation. As a permanent fund, created to address a specific area of interest, it will always honor the individual or family whose name it bears, and annual grants are made to nonprofits in that field from the interest earned. Fund your passion “for good and forever.”

Our Mission

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

2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rees Sumerford-Chair
Edward Andrews, Jr.
Jeff Barker
Mark Bedner
Claude H. Booker, Jr.
Martha Brumley Ellis
Ellen Fleming
S. Michael Hardy
Diane G. Laws
Arthur Lucas
Michael Maloy
Jeanne Manning
Bernard McCloud
Diana Murphy
S. Lloyd Newberry
Mary Root
Alfred Sams III
Bonney Stamper Shuman
William Stembler

CHAIR EMERITUS

Bill Jones III

BOARD EMERITUS

Frank DeLoach
Jack Dinos

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lee Hiers Owen

GRANTS/OPERATIONS MANAGER

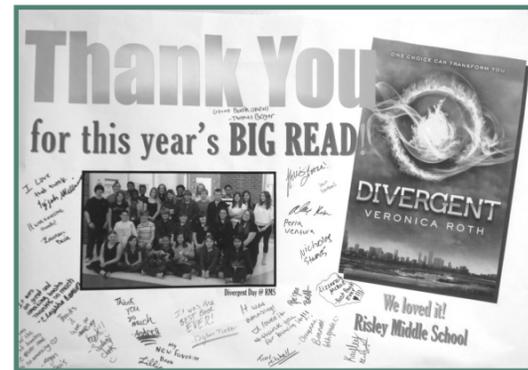
Ellen Post

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

lowen@coastalgeorgiafoundation.org
www.coastalgeorgiafoundation.org

Serendipity in Grant Making

ser-en-dip-i-tous (adjective):
Occurring or discovered by
chance in a happy or beneficial
way



Your community foundation has supported GIAHA's program, "The Big Read," with a grant each of three years for two reasons – it brings the community together and it represents one of our two focus areas in our competitive grant making – education/literacy. An unexpected outcome this year, however, was the huge success of "The Little Big Read" that featured the popular book "Divergent" specifically for middle grades. Increased participation by teens was a major goal of this year's programming. All middle schools received a class set of the novel.

School media centers held "Divergent Days" and group book readings during February and early March. A serendipitous outcome, however, is outliving the official "read" dates. Waiting lists for the discussion groups at the middle schools are so large that the principals have pledged to continue to form groups until every student who has shown interest can participate. The principals have been quick to point out that participants have come from all levels of achievement and the experience has sparked an interest in reading for pleasure.

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

Thirty percent of American households live paycheck to paycheck – one serious illness or home repair away from catastrophe.

What can a single community do to combat poverty? Plenty, according to a report issued in March by the Seattle-based Paul G. Allen Family Foundation (www.pgafamilyfoundation.org). The key is to work to improve financial security and to integrate efforts aimed at individual capability with those that expand market opportunities. The report highlights six short case studies of communities that have broken the poverty cycle for some and invigorated their communities by stressing nonprofit collaboration and public/private partnerships.

Financial security can move people out of poverty and build economic and emotional resilience.

What are the elements of financial security? Job training and skill building, affordable housing, entrepreneurial loans, transportation, wellness information and access to health care are among the most critical.

Book Tree Blooms This Spring!

The Marshes of Glynn Libraries downtown Brunswick library has solved the problem of harried parents with no time to peruse the book shelves on behalf of their pre-school children. Children's librarian Karen Larrick noticed that often parents, accompanied by a small child, ran in to get books for an older child's school project. The younger child's request to go to their section in search of books was often met with "not now, honey, we don't have time." A grant from the community foundation's early education initiative made possible the purchase of over 100 early literacy picture books. These books, grouped in sets of five around



a theme and packed in colorful totes, are now hanging from the branches of "The Book Bag Tree" in the downtown library children's room. In the bag, along with the books, are coloring pages, a book mark, and a small card that gives helpful advice to the parent or caregiver.

The foundation's early education initiative's coordinator, Maryellen Aiken, noted that "having books already selected by library professionals and pre-packaged makes it convenient, fun and effective." Exposure to print-rich environments and the knowledge that sadly, in some of our community's homes, there are no age-appropriate books for young children has been a focus of the community foundation initiative since its inception three years ago.

Library Targets Early Literacy and Parental Involvement

Looking back over the past three years, the community foundation's Baby Steps Early Literacy Initiative has exceeded expectation. "We saw ourselves as an incubator - identifying a critical community issue, convening major players, raising public awareness of the issue and experimenting with avenues of approach, but always with the hope that at the end of the day community groups would take what we had started and incorporate it into their programming," explained director Lee Owen.

The Marshes of Glynn Libraries' board recently voted to tackle the issue of parental involvement – a key focus area for the initiative - as part of its strategic plan. With a community foundation grant of \$29,500, the library will bring the American Library Association's "Every Child Ready to Read" Program to Glynn County beginning in July and will contract with the former Baby Steps coordinator Maryellen Aiken to deliver a series of workshops for parents and childcare workers aimed at improving children's early language and literacy development at home and preschool. Children of low income families in the community will be targeted, with special emphasis on the city's six HUD communities and child care centers that have been active in the initiative.

Baby Steps was never meant to be a permanent program of the foundation, but we can celebrate its ongoing impact within the community thanks to the partnership of several community organizations, including the SSI Rotary Club, College of Coastal Georgia, health department, housing authority and local churches. The community foundation will continue to concentrate on its role as funder, and is committed to raising programming funds and to build the endowment for early childhood literacy for future generations of coastal Georgians.

Council on Foundations Recertifies Our Community Foundation



Community Foundations must adapt constantly to new government regulations, governance issues and charitable donation guidelines. The process is helped by the national Council on Foundations that acts as an impartial critic and periodically judges a community foundation according to a set of over thirty standards that must be met in order to qualify for accreditation. "Think of it as a Good House-keeping Seal of Approval," explains foundation chair Rees Sumerford. "The seal is evidence that our community foundation is in total compliance and meets the highest standards of ethical and accounting behavior." The Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation was just notified that it passed reaccreditation. The new recertification will carry through 2019.

