

### 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.*

## Coastal Youth Symphony



The Coastal Youth Symphony is an affiliate of the Coastal Symphony of Georgia, Inc. Concerts are made possible through its support and also through the Symphony Society and local donors who believe that all children should experience the joy of classical music and the discipline, personal development, self-esteem, and teamwork that active participation brings. Founded in 2005, the symphony is composed of students from age ten to 18 from Glynn, McIntosh and Camden. The youth orchestra is proud of the diversity in age, gender, racial and economic status that exists among the participants of CYS. One-third are minority, over one-third come from families below the poverty level, and over one-half qualify for free school lunch. One-hundred percent graduate high school and go on to college or other post-secondary institutions, many on music scholarships.

The CYS includes many other outreach programs that benefit local youth and the local community, including the 15 member Chamber Ensemble and the CYSymphonette, a group of beginning string players, with some 30 participants. An annual week-long Summer Music Program has been added. To learn more, visit [www.coastalsymphonyofgeorgia.org](http://www.coastalsymphonyofgeorgia.org) and look for Youth Symphony.

## New Board Members Reflect Foundation's Tri-County Area

In a conscious effort to create a governing board that is more broadly representative of the coastal area we serve and one that is knowledgeable and attentive to issues in our three counties, the foundation is pleased to announce four new members to the board of directors. These new members attended their first board meeting in February as the class of 2017.



**Edward Andrews, Jr.  
St. Marys, (Camden)**

Edward Andrews, Jr., Major, USAF (retired) resides with his wife, Rose, in St. Marys, GA. Following a military career that included assignments with the Headquarter Strategic Air Command (SAC), Squadron Commander and Missile Combat Crew Commander, Ed got involved in auto sales management and operated the Kingsland Ford-Mercury dual dealership in Kingsland from 1991-2007. He is a civilian pilot with 5,000 plus hours and holds airline transport pilot and certified flight instructor instrument certificates.

He received a Bachelor's Degree in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL and a Master's Degree in Management and Business Administration at Webster College, St. Louis, MO. Ed serves on the board of the Coastal Area District Development Authority (CADD) and enjoys golf, flying and traveling. He and Rose have one daughter, Rochelle.



**S. Michael Hardy  
Shellman Bluff, (McIntosh)**

Born in Covington, VA, Mike received a degree in marketing and economics from East Tennessee State University in 1973. There followed a thirty-five year career in pharmaceutical sales with Upjohn Company and then Pfizer, Inc., specializing in sales and marketing, profit and loss accountability and sales force development. His last decade with Pfizer he managed their senior care market, generating sales in excess of one billion dollars annually. He has participated throughout his career in advanced training programs at Harvard and Cornell Universities and has

received numerous major corporate awards, including the highest leadership award bestowed by Upjohn.

Mike retired to McIntosh County, GA in 2009 and now directs his resources and energy in local business and economic development. He and his wife of forty-two years, Marcia, have two children and three grandsons. Their son, S. Michael Hardy, II resides on St. Simons Island where he is involved in real estate. Mike's hobbies include golf, boating, fishing, reading, walking, billiards, and business projects.

**Michael K. Maloy  
St. Simons Island (Glynn)**

*(photo and bio unavailable at this writing)*

Mike is Vice President of McGinty-Gordon & Associates. He currently serves on the board of directors of the United Way of Coastal Georgia and on the project team of the United Way's Graduation Blueprint. He led the Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce as chairman in 2011-2012.



**Mary T. Root  
St. Marys, (Camden)**

Mary is founder and president of Satilla Business Services, a staffing company specializing in administrative, technical and skilled trades personnel. She is a member of the Kings Bay Employer Committee and the Society for Human Resource Management. Her company has served public and private clients in southeast Georgia and northeast Florida since 1981.

Mary has been active in community support and volunteer work in Camden County since 1980, including serving as organizer, charter member and board member for several Camden service/non-profit groups including the Camden Chamber of Commerce, Camden House, CASA and Business and Professional Women of Camden County. Mary currently serves as an advisory board member for College of Coastal Georgia and for the Camden campus of Southeast Georgia Health Systems. Mary attended Southern Illinois University where she met and married Craig Root. They have two children.

## 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

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### 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

## Volunteers Key to Success of Baby Steps Early Literacy Initiative

Two women have put their faith into action to help ensure that pre-school age children living in disadvantaged households get a great start on the path to reading readiness.

Caroline Banks has been involved in literacy education for over five decades, starting with a community-based adult program while in college that led to a career in Massachusetts public schools teaching reading, journalism and English. In retirement to coastal Georgia Caroline joined the Baby Steps Advisory Council convened by the community foundation and soon decided to involve her church, St. Athanasius Episcopal Church in Brunswick in the effort.



She and other committed women, some of whom were former teachers, created a reading room in the Martin Center of the church and hosted Saturday “drop in reading sessions.” When Baby Steps opened and equipped a reading room at the Glynnvilla housing authority property nearby, they decided to broaden their effort and adopt that venue as well. Now, 20-25 children regularly participate in reading sessions led by Banks, Sherill Young, and others. Caroline has even recruited fourth and fifth graders as helpers at the center – teachers in the making! One of the

objectives of each session is to give books to the children to start building their own home collection. National research confirms that in homes of people living in poverty there may be no age-appropriate books for young readers.



Responsible for providing many of those books is Diane Knight. Diane happened to attend the opening of one of our reading centers and it sparked her interest in

current research that shows a direct correlation between exposure to books, reading and vocabulary building in the very early years of life and success in school. She knew first hand, from her years teaching second grade, how large the gap in ability can be even in early grades. She persuaded her Social Justice Team at the Unitarian Universalists of Coastal Georgia to get involved with Baby Steps by donating “gently used,” and age-appropriate children’s books. They have a book bin in the church, and Diane periodically brings the books to the foundation offices.

“There is so much to be done in our community, so the church picked programs that we feel are making real strides...and Baby Steps was one of them,” explained Knight. “When I was a child, we were devoted regulars at the Decatur Public Library. It’s no secret what an advantage this exposure gives one in life and I want to play whatever small part I might play in opening literary opportunities to our local children.”

## Literary Guild of SSI Awards \$8,000 for Early Literacy

The annual meeting of the Literary Guild of St. Simons Island was held on January 23rd and presented not one but three surprises for the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation when the Guild awarded several grants to its Baby Steps Early Childhood Literacy Initiative totaling an impressive \$8,000.

As the Foundation’s executive director Lee Owen explained, “We had been asked to submit three program funding options from our Baby Steps initiative. I thought that if we were fortunate, they might consider one for a grant award from the proceeds of their book sales and other events. When they announced the five awards they were giving out at the meeting, all three of ours were included.”

The Community Foundation received \$3,000 to fund a partnership project with the College of Coastal Georgia’s

education department to produce literacy kits for Glynn County Head Start. Another \$2,000 will be used by Baby Steps to fund the Glynn County Health Department’s Reach Out and Read chapter. Lastly, the community foundation received an additional \$3,000 to continue restocking existing reading centers the community foundation initiative has helped establish in areas where struggling families tend to live and visit.



Left to right is Lee Owen, Paul Pieschel – SSI Literary Guild, and Geri Lynn Mullis, director of the Marshes of Glynn Libraries.

## Our Coastal Communities’ Children – A Growing Cause for Concern

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, “2013 Kids Count” Data Center

	U.S. Average	Glynn	McIntosh	Camden
% Children Living in Poverty - 2012	23%	31%	36%	21%
% Children Living with Single Parent	35%	40%	59%	32%
% Low Birth Weight Babies (< 5.5 lbs.)	8%	12%	5%	7%
% Babies Born to Mothers with < 12 yrs. education	20%	27%	34%	14%
% Youth 16-19 Not in School and Not Employed	8%	17%	35%	7%
% Population 18-24 with less than a high school degree	16%	23%	17%	16%

## Community Foundation Has Banner Year

Calendar year 2013 proved to be a banner year for the community foundation as it attracted over \$3.8 million in contributions, the majority of which was directed to increase or create donor advised funds held by individuals and families in our coastal area. This brings the community foundation’s total assets to over \$12.7 million, a 49% increase in just one year. Grants made to charities and education institutions, the majority of which stayed in our area, totaled over \$450,000.

## New County Community Needs Assessments Highlights Health Issues

(source: Community Health Needs Assessment for the Coastal Health District Prepared by the College of Coastal Georgia, 2013).  
See the entire report at  
[http://www.gachd.org/counties/camden-1/camden\\_county\\_community\\_health.php](http://www.gachd.org/counties/camden-1/camden_county_community_health.php)

% Population with no health insurance	
Glynn	23%
McIntosh	23%
Camden	17%

% Population who have not seen a physician in the past 12 months due to cost	
Glynn	12%
McIntosh	19%