

FOUNDATION FOR SOUTHEAST TEXAS
BOARD LIST 2016-2017

Todd Dunkleberger-President
Rod Carroll-Vice President
Robert Edgar-Treasurer
Mary Ann Reid-Secretary
Jason Fuller-Past President

Chris Akbari	Meredith Hise
Johnnie Andrus	Ingrid Holmes
Debbie Bishop	David Jones
Tom Broussard	David Locke
Warren Claybar	Ida Schossow
Colby Crenshaw	Larry Spears, Jr.
John Draths	Penny Sullivan
Jefferson Fisher	Ronnie Turner
Scott Hall	Joe Vernon
Tiffany Hamilton	Boyd Wells
Christy Hardt	

ADVISORY BOARD

Elaine Allums	David Hitt
Pat Avery	Gisela Houseman
Larry Beaulieu	Tammy Kotzur
Sandra Benski	Evelyn Lord
Shirlene Cook	Floyd McSpadden
Charles Cox	Shawn Oubre
Shaun Davis	John Quigley
Joe Domino	Dean Robinson
Jim Dunaway	Gail Shook
Jason Fuller	Ross Smith
Kathleen Hardey	Peg Towers

Mellie Bevilacqua - Executive Director

If you would like more information
please call 409-833-5775

FOUNDATION FOR SOUTHEAST TEXAS
P.O. Box 3092
Beaumont, TX 77704
fax: (409) 833-7885
e-mail: Director@cfsetx.org
www.cfsetx.org

The Foundation For Southeast Texas is a community Foundation providing management, investment and administration of funds given by many donors for numerous charitable purposes. The Foundation serves Hardin, Jefferson and Orange Counties. The funds in the Foundation support activities focused primarily on local needs designated by the donors and the Board of Directors.

The Foundation for Southeast Texas is designated as a public charity. The Foundation will make its yearly audit and IRS Form 990 available for public inspection at its office by request. Call the office at 833-5775.

If you would like an electronic copy of our publications please email or call the Foundation with your email address.

20 Years of Giving Back

On Tuesday, November 29th the Foundation for Southeast Texas celebrated 20 years of giving back to its community. The celebration took place at The Laurel's in Beaumont.

In 1996, the Foundation for Southeast was established by a group of dedicated community leaders who believed that a community foundation serving Hardin, Jefferson and Orange Counties would attract philanthropic donors interested in supporting numerous charitable organizations. The Foundation began with an initial contribution of \$4 million from a trust called the Beaumont Community Foundation. Today the foundation has grown to a little over 13.5 million dollars in assets. This year, the foundation granted over \$320,000 to nonprofits. Over the past 20 years, the foundation has gifted more than \$5 million to charities.

Over the years, almost 300 nonprofits and countless individuals have benefitted from the gifts of the Foundation. Because the Foundation for Southeast Texas is a community foundation, these gifts and the impact that they make are not from one person alone-they are from a community of people. People who want to be a part of something bigger. It's amazing what can be done with a little participation from a group of people.

The Foundation for Southeast Texas is a 501 c 3 and any donation made to the Foundation is tax deductible. All money that is donated to the Foundation is invested while it continues to be gifted, so your initial gift will continue to grow while benefitting the charities that are near and dear to your heart. For example, a one million dollar gift that was made by a donor and invested with the foundation 18 years ago has grown to over 1.2 million dollars today, while giving away over \$700,000 to a local church of the donor's choice.

Tuesday, November 29th was also #GivingTuesday! The idea behind #GivingTuesday is that after the Thanksgiving holiday is spent with loved ones, gratefulness and thankfulness is extended towards others first. So, before the crazy holiday season of gift-giving, tree-trimming and holiday fun, one takes a moment and thinks about others who don't have the resources he has. When you truly have a grateful heart, thanks and giving always go together. It's a natural progression of gratitude that flows from one heart to another.

There are so many ways to give through the Foundation. If you are interested in establishing your own fund, be it an individual fund, a family, or business fund, the Foundation for Southeast Texas can help you achieve your charitable goals. There is so much flexibility with the Foundation that your opportunities are endless.

It has been said that The Foundation for Southeast Texas is the best kept secret in our community. Let's get the word out! Let's help our community understand all that the Foundation has to offer! Not only to nonprofits, but donors as well!



GIFTS TO THE FOUNDATION

ADDITIONS TO FUNDS

To: The Audrey P. and Edward M. Curtis Endowment Fund

From: The J. Curtis Spayth Fund of The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia

To: O.B. and Ethyl Sawyer Fund

From: BBX Operating, LLC

To: Community Opportunity Fund

From: Texas Petroleum
The Bequest Maurine Gray Estate
Ed Curtis in memory of Mr. Terry Chilton
Laura E. Allums
Todd and Judy Dunkleberger
Christine and John Draths
Kate and Rod Carroll

John Quigley
Joe and Melanie Vernon
Mr. and Mrs. Colby Crenshaw
Jennifer and Ed Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Wisener in honor of our precious grandchildren
David and Caroline Heinz
Nancy Vincent
Christy Hardt

NEW FUNDS

Pat and Craig Sherlock Family Fund
Alan and Cherrie Hefty Charitable Fund
Coburn Supply Company, Inc. Employer Sponsored Disaster Relief Fund

You can help the nonprofits in Southeast Texas by giving to the Foundation for Southeast Texas. Your donation will be added to the Community Opportunity Fund at the Foundation. Your gift of any size will be pooled with gifts from other donors to make small grants to the nonprofits of Southeast Texas. Because the Community Opportunity Fund is endowed, your gift is not just for now, but forever. You can give in honor or memory of a loved one. Your gift will be acknowledged by our staff and listed in our publications with your permission.

SITE VISITS

This fall, site visits were made to 17 of the 77 nonprofits who received competitive grants this year from the Foundation for Southeast Texas. Executive Director Mellie Bevilacqua and Grants Committee Chair Penny Sullivan visited all of the facilities. Board members Meredith Hise and John Draths also participated for selected visits.

The first round of visits was to Jefferson County in Beaumont. Land Manor was our first stop where we toured the facility and observed all of the supplies purchased for the rehabilitation house funded by our grant. The next stop was The H.O.W. Center where



we received a guided tour and an explanation of the services provided by the Center. With the grant the Center received this year, they were able to make much needed repairs to their Air Conditioning System. The Beaumont Children's Museum was a beautiful place to visit. They were able to purchase items for their STEM exhibit called "Maker Space". Next, we visited the Art Studio. The grant money given to the Art Studio was used to purchase an awning and exterior light fixtures. At Shorkey Center the Executive Director showed us around the facility. This year's grant provided funding for summer camps. We also



visited Hope Women's Resource Center where we were guided through the premises. The money received was used to fund a new software program to run the Blessings Boutique more efficiently. Harvest House Ministry was the final stop for the day. The grant money the ministry received this year was used to purchase a laptop and other office equipment.

The second round of visits was to Hardin County. First, we went to Christian Women's Job Corps where they provide women with computer skills, job skills, and life skills. We were able to see the computer lab. The funding they received this year was for new hardware and software for the computers. Kirby Hill House was the next stop. We toured the beautiful, historic home where they were preparing



for their upcoming fundraiser. The House purchased a laptop, software, virus protection and an external hard drive with the grant money it received. Next, we visited the Museum of Hardin County where the grant money was used to purchase a new air conditioning system. The residents of Hardin County will surely enjoy the wonderful museum.

The third round of site visits was to Orange and Mid-Jefferson Counties. Mid County Victory Garden was our first stop of the day. We toured the beautiful garden and were able to see plans for the future. The grant money awarded to the garden this year will be used to purchase lawn equipment. We stopped at Community Retirement Home where the residents were enjoying a delicious breakfast. We were able to see the new carpet as well as the repaired walls and fresh paint that was provided by the grant money this year. At Museum of the Gulf Coast, we toured the museum and learned of the family fun days and 3rd grade tours made possible by the Foundation's grant.



Next, we visited United Board of Missions. We were able to see the facility and learn all about the daily operations. Funding from the grant was used to purchase meals for their Meals on Wheels program. At the Jackson Community Center, we walked around the vegetable garden and were informed of the improvements that will be made in the near future. The children are able to grow vegetables and take home their harvest. We also visited Orange Community Action Association



where we were shown around the kitchen and dining room where elders come together to eat and enjoy each other's company on a daily basis. The grant the association received this year assisted with the Meals on Wheels program. Our final stop was to Friends Helping Friends, a thrift shop that provides for those in need in a way that promotes dignity and preserves self esteem. This year, the Foundation's grant money was used for a security system and lawn equipment. We were informed that the security system had already provided the police with the information they needed to catch a thief.

Each and every visit to these deserving nonprofits was eye opening and rewarding. The services they provide for people in the community are immeasurable. We were assured that each of the grants the Foundation awarded was well deserved.

7 TIPS FOR YEAR-END GIVING

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

with Your Year-End Giving

The end of the year is a notable time for charitable donations. Not only do the holidays inspire many people to feel generous, but it's the last opportunity to glean an income tax benefit for the current year.

If you're thinking about making a year-end gift, here are a few suggestions to consider:



1. Make a list Decide which organizations you care about most.

2. Talk to your Advisors Before making any significant gift to charity, consult with your CPA, attorney or other trusted financial advisor to understand the impact on your taxes and estate.

3. Review your stocks If you'd like to make a year-end charitable gift, consider giving appreciated stock. Selling stock yourself and donating the proceeds will cause you to pay capital gains tax on the appreciation, but if you donate the stock, you will receive a charitable deduction for the current market value of the stock and avoid the additional capital gains tax.

4. Age has its advantages The Charitable IRA Rollover Act allows donors age 70 ½ or older to donate up to \$100,000 from their IRA without counting the distribution as income. Call us if you are considering a gift from your IRA and we can discuss the current availability of this option based on action by Congress this fall.

5. Give now, decide later If you are planning for a charitable tax deduction in 2016 but are undecided about which nonprofits to support, consider opening a donor-advised fund at Foundation for Southeast Texas. You can claim a deduction for contributions to your fund now, and thoughtfully plan how distributions from the fund might be made both now and in future years.

6. Sharing is caring At the next family gathering this holiday season, ask your children or grandchildren to participate in the selection of the charities you want to impact. This allows family members to share their personal beliefs and values and experience the joy of giving together.

7. Give to qualified non-profits Not all gifts are tax deductible. In order to receive the tax deduction, your gift must go to a qualified tax-exempt organization. Foundation for Southeast Texas can assist you with verification of the organization prior to making your gift. Please call 409-833-5775 and ask to speak to Mellie Bevilacqua, Executive Director.

COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR 2017

The grant packets for the 2017 competitive grant season will be available the first week in January. The packet will be accessible through our website at www.cfsetx.org or by emailing director@cfset.org or calling our office at 833-5775 and requesting a packet. All grant applications must be returned to our office or postmarked by Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

This year, the Foundation for Southeast Texas awarded over \$134,000.00 to seventy-seven nonprofits in the three counties we serve. The grants ranged from \$500 to \$5000.

A friendly reminder to those nonprofits who received a grant this year: please have your report turned in to the Foundation for Southeast Texas' office by February 8, 2017 in order to be eligible to apply for a competitive grant in 2017.