



SOUTH CUMBERLAND COMMUNITY FUND

MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER



Opportunity.

When we look around the South Cumberland Plateau, we see opportunity.

Opportunities to support the people and organizations in our communities who have the vision and desire to enhance the social, cultural, and economic well-being of this place.

Opportunities to cultivate leadership and resources through our grant funding and nonprofit capacity-building efforts.

That's why we're calling this year's initiatives the **2015 Opportunity Campaign**.

Co-chaired by board members Norm Carl and Bill Davis, the Opportunity Campaign offers you, our supporters, ways to move our initiatives forward, whether by joining our Annual Giving Initiative, our Endowment Initiative, or volunteering your time and talents in meaningful ways.

Join us, and help us make the most of this opportunity in 2015.

southcumberlandcommunityfund.org

Community Fund welcomes four new board members



Marshall Graves is Managing Partner of Stone Door Group, a business services consultancy. He is on the Board of Directors for Mountain T.O.P. and is the Foundation Chairman for the Rotary Club of Grundy County.



Bill Harper is a Managing Director-Investments of Wells Fargo Advisors in McLean, VA. He has co-chaired the Sewanee Community Chest, and is an active volunteer with Blue Monarch.



Marietta Poteet, a retired public school teacher, moved to Monteagle in 2006. She is involved with Morton Memorial UMC, Tennessee Trails Association, and Friends of So. Cumberland State Park.



Cameron Swallow teaches English at Grundy County High School. She is a board member of St. Andrew's-Sewanee School, the Sewanee Civic Association, and the Grundy Area Arts Council.

2015 grant round

When the May 1 deadline for grant applications arrived, the Community Fund had received grant requests from 18 nonprofit groups on the Plateau, totalling \$141,722, including nine repeat applicants.

According to Grants Committee Chair Sheila Beard, "Once again, the Community Fund has received a wide variety of strong proposals for using grant funds to effect change in our communities. The Grants Committee looks forward to evaluating these proposals, and selecting those which will receive grant funding and be announced in August.."

Grant awards will be announced on or around August 1, with a public celebration of the awards on Sunday, August 2, at 2:30 PM at Otey Parish Hall in Sewanee.



PHOTO: Grants Chair Sheila Beard speaks at one of three information sessions held for 2015 grant applicants.
Charles McClain for the Community Fund

Grants, at a glance (First four grant cycles, 2012-2014)

Grant applications

83

Grant \$ requested

\$780,318

Grants awarded

32

Average grant

\$8,794

Repeat applicants

18

Grant \$ awarded

\$281,417

Org's awarded more than 1 grant

5

We're building capacity by giving communities & nonprofits the tools for lasting, self-sustained success across the Plateau

The Community Fund's Capacity-Building Initiative is a collaboration between the SCCF & The University of the South, led by the university's Office of Community Engagement & the AmericaCorps VISTA program

Community capacity building: addressing immediate issues like food insecurity

SCCF & VISTA have instituted programs to support our communities, creating collaborations to deal with a pressing issues in our area. One example: food insecurity.

Summer meal program: Together with Sewanee Dining, the VISTA program has partnered with the USDA Summer Food Service initiative.

This new program will provide free summer meals for youth ages 18 and under throughout Franklin, Grundy & Marion Counties.

According to Chef Rick Wright of Sewanee Dining, "Food insecurity is harmful to all people, but especially to children. The South Cumberland Meal Program will assist in feeding school-age children during the summer when the normal school meal program is not available to them."

For sites, menus and other information, visit facebook.com/pages/south-cumberland-summer-meal-program/.

ConAgra mobile pantries: A \$20,000 grant from ConAgra Foods Foundation to the Chattanooga Area Food Bank, a VISTA partner site, made possible two mobile pantries, which will distribute summer bags of "foods to encourage" – fresh fruits & vegetables – to children & families in Grundy County.

This summer program will bring 15,990 pounds of food into Grundy County. At an estimated 1.2 pounds of food per meal, this opportunity will yield 14,158 meals for Grundy County.



Organizational capacity building: technical support to enhance success

VISTA & SCCF are providing capacity-building support to nonprofit groups on the Plateau, with the goal of making them better able to fulfill their missions.

By assisting smaller, low-budget organizations with needed tools and advice, we leverage resources to provide better outcomes for them and the clients they serve.

Grundy County Food Bank

received accounting assistance and software, database development, information technology, and a new website.



Mountain T.O.P. was given guidance from a consultant on board development as well as on organizational structuring and best practices.

Folks at Home were provided with marketing & communications assistance, including a new logo and website.



By enhancing the infrastructure of these and over two dozen other nonprofit groups on the South Cumberland Plateau, our Capacity Building Initiative has created new opportunities for improving the lives of people here. Our VISTA volunteers, working with these groups, will continue to develop resources and programs for positive change.

VISTA welcomes two new volunteers to the Mountain



Erica Teasley will collaborate with the Babson Center for Global Commerce and the Grundy County Mayor's Office to conduct research and establish an economic development plan for Grundy County.

Kelly Farina is assigned to Sewanee Dining to develop and implement the summer meal program (see story above). Kelly will also provide organizational capacity for the Grundy County Food Bank.

southcumberlandcommunityfund.org



Have you checked out our Youtube channel?

If not, you've missed the story of the Children's Choir of Appalachian Music, made possible by grants from the Community Fund and the Paul McConnell Fund.

See that and much more at

youtube.com/sccfund

Look for the Community Fund at these upcoming events!

- Swiss Heritage Festival, July 25
- SCCF Grant Awards, August 2
- Fanny Moffett STOMP, October 1
- Mountain TOP Fall Festival, October 24

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Howell Adams, Chair Emeritus	Bill Harper
Scott Parrish, Immediate Past Chair	Dale Layne
Margaret Woods, Chair	Bonnie McCardell
Sheila Beard, Vice Chair/Grant Chair	Jack Murrah
Leah Rhys, Secretary	Emily Partin
Barry Rollins, Treasurer	Marietta Poteet
Norm Carl	Cameron Swallow
Marshall Graves	Gayle VanHooser

Know of a group that would like to learn more about the Community Fund?

Let us know! We'll come to your meeting, luncheon, or gathering at your home, and show a short video explaining our mission and our efforts across the South Cumberland Plateau. It's one of the best ways to engage the public, spread the word, and attract new supporters.

Send us an email at info@southcumberlandcommunityfund.org and we'll make it happen!

Join our 2015 Opportunity Campaign - go to southcumberlandcommunityfund.org/donate to learn more!

Get involved, support the Community Fund

- 1** **SIGN UP** for our emails on our website or Facebook page
- 2** **LIKE** us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter (@sccfund)
- 3** **DONATE** to the Community Fund through our website
- 4** **TELL** your friends about the Fund's work. Forward our emails, like & share our Facebook posts
- 5** **HOST** a gathering at your home or office to share information about the Community Fund