



wcf winter 2017/2018

Newsletter of the Waccamaw Community Foundation



Rev. Cheryl Adamson
SCACED Ike Williams Civic Leadership Award

5

A Letter From The Chairman,
Ruell Hicks Recaps 2017

1

Farewell, Not Goodbye!

6

Board member Rev. Cheryl Adamson greets Bill Crowther, Economic Developer for Congressman Tom Rice's office, at Prestwick Country Club during our August 2017 Legislative Update.



On the Road with
Kristen Bitzegaio

2



Meet the Staff

7

Opening the Skies to Kids

A Leader's Legacy Lives On



Education changed his life, and Col. Edsel J. "Coupe" DeVille had a unique way of boosting that opportunity for hundreds of Grand Strand students.

3

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Ruell Hicks
Board Chairman,
Waccamaw Community Foundation

We are completing our 18th year of connecting donors with causes they care about to improve the quality of life for all people across the Waccamaw region. I am unbelievably grateful to our donors, volunteers, nonprofit leaders, staff and board members for the unwavering dedication you've shown in supporting our mission and our work.

In many ways, the numbers tell the story of how much we are able to accomplish in support of our community. I'm always amazed when I see that 17 million dollar statistic—it's the amount we've granted to nonprofits over the past decade. I could never have imagined we would have such an impact when I began my board service back in 2011.

You will find highlights from our 2016 Annual Report on pg. 9. We are wrapping up a banner year as we go to print with this newsletter, and we're anticipating many positives to be included in our 2017 Annual Report, which is slated to be released in May.

Adding our new Program Associate, Kristen Bitzegaio, in the Murrell's Inlet office, while collaborating even more this year with our staff representatives from our affiliate Coastal Community Foundation (see pg. 7) has strengthened the team's capacity and expanded our visibility across the region. Continuous process improvements such as our online grants application roll-out are helping us work smarter so Karen, Shawna and Kristen can provide outreach and support to more donors and nonprofit partners than ever before.

2017 brought many new funds and opportunities our way (see pg. 10). We have been thoughtful and purposeful with facilitating our strategic planning for the next five years. As our three new board members join us next month, we will continue to fine tune a strategic plan to lead us up to and well beyond our 20th anniversary as the region's philanthropic partner of choice. I was part of an invaluable conversation this fall with our past board chairs, and I am confident we are headed in the direction our founders envisioned when they created the Foundation in 1999.

On that note, I want to thank you for allowing us to be your partner in charitable giving. Our success and longevity are due in no small part to your enthusiasm, support and desire to make our community better for all. It's going to be an exciting year as we begin planning for our 20th anniversary community celebration in 2019. Stay tuned for more information about how you can be a part of this milestone.

Warm regards,

Ruell L. Hicks, Jr.

Board Chairman, Waccamaw Community Foundation

Thank you to Ruell for his dedicated service to the Waccamaw Community Foundation Board of Directors, including his service as our 2017 Chairman.

Get Our Latest News!

find us on **facebook**

/WaccamawCF

follow us **twitter**

@WaccamawCF

Want to stay up-to-date on all the latest news from Waccamaw Community Foundation? Follow us on Facebook and Twitter and visit www.waccamawcf.org to sign up for our monthly eNews! (Scroll down to the footer, click "eNewsletter" and enter your information.)



Kristen with Christina B. Jackson, Executive Director of Sea Haven for Youth.

On the Road with Kristen Bitzegaio

Our new Program Associate, Kristen Bitzegaio, has quickly become the go-to source of information about nonprofits throughout Horry and Georgetown counties. Here are some highlights from Kristen's recent travels across the Grand Strand.

11/7 Leading a Training Session at Bunnelle

First stop: Waccamaw Community Foundation Online Grants Training Session.

Nonprofit representatives met Kristen at our "sister" affiliate, the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation, for an overview of our new online grant application, rolled out this fall to streamline the application and grantmaking process for all. We are accepting applications NOW for our current competitive grant cycle. The deadline to apply is January 10, 2018. If your favorite local nonprofit has not registered yet, please help us spread the news! Visit www.waccamawcf.org/grant-opportunities for more information.

11/14 Visiting Current Transitions

Kristen's list of site visits included Current Transitions, an organization that provides life skills education and socialization opportunities for adults with cognitive disorders and/or intellectual disabilities. On her visit, students were working on Science Fair projects. Ariel (pictured) is working to

highlight the different types of food people eat. At the end of each session, students present what they've learned to their families and each other. This group is always looking for volunteers! Visit www.currenttransitions.org to get involved.

11/27 Visiting Sea Haven for Youth (Little River Location)

Why a photo of a living space? Because Kristen wants to show you the wonderful new Sea Haven for Youth facility in Little River, which provides emergency crisis services for youth ages 13-21. When they are in a time of need, it is helpful to know there is a comfortable and safe place to go for our teens and young adults. Visit www.seahaveninc.com to learn more about their mission and many services. (Sea Haven for Youth holds an organizational endowment with Waccamaw Community Foundation.)

If you'd like to get more involved, or are a nonprofit grantee with questions for Kristen, reach her at kristen@mywcf.org.



Opening the Skies to Kids: A Leader

Can you remember the first time you saw the ocean? Now imagine you are an eleven-year-old who has never before seen the sea. And then, imagine getting to see it not with your toes planted firmly in the sand, but from 10,000 feet above Myrtle Beach!



Retired Air Force Col. Edsel J. “Coupe” DeVille and his longtime friend Col. Howard Barnard gave area middle schoolers this opportunity when they co-founded Right Flight in 2003. The academic program for sixth graders—who participated in a nine-week aviation course and, if they successfully completed the curriculum, were permitted to pilot a plane for ten minutes—provided a decade of once-in-a-lifetime opportunities.

To say this “flight school” produced excitement and amazement would be an understatement. Col. Barnard remembers one little girl who was overwhelmed by the experience: “She said ‘oh my God’ the entire time – from the moment we took off, [including] when she was flying the plane.”

Right Flight inspired future pilots, engineers and members of the military, ignited lifelong learners, and brought countless “firsts” to many students who had never been in a plane, seen the ocean, or had the opportunity to participate in an academic extracurricular program. Col. Barnard described a failing student who passed the program and “proved to himself that he could be successful because he wanted to fly the plane that badly.” That motivation lasted long after those nine weeks passed, and that student went on to graduate from high school.

Cols. DeVille and Barnard brought this gift of flight (and new opportunity) to Grand Strand middle school students, but the gesture of giving back did not start or end with the Right Flight program. Col. DeVille’s mission of helping youth and supporting education left a lasting impression on those who knew him, and when he passed away in October 2016 his friends and colleagues wanted to honor his legacy in a most fitting way.

But Who Was “Coupe” DeVille?

Coming from a Cajun Catholic family, Coupe did not speak or read English very well as a young man. It was the encouragement of one dedicated professor at Louisiana State University that led to his improved language skills, and Coupe graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering, eventually returning for his master’s. Education changed his life, and Coupe wanted to help others get that same chance.

Coupe’s impressive career in the Air Force began in 1961, and he eventually landed in South Carolina as Base Commander of the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, a post from which he retired in 1989. Having been actively involved as Commander, Coupe continued to serve the Myrtle Beach community in numerous ways after retirement. He assisted with the redevelopment of the air base property and was a dynamic member of the Surfside Area Rotary Club. Fellow Rotarian and friend Val Guest recalls Coupe’s energy, citing an example of him leading a Habitat for Humanity project—organizing the schedules, getting people to come out and help, and recruiting volunteers to serve lunch. Mr. Guest remembers, “even when Coupe was not president of the club, he was always in a leadership role.”

More than a leader, Coupe DeVille was a friend to all. Mr. Guest remembers a weekly tradition instituted by Coupe for Rotary Club meetings, called *laissez les bons temps roulez* (Cajun for “let the good times roll.”) It was a way to get to know more about other members, and leave everyone in an upbeat mood. After the business portion of a meeting, Coupe would begin the game with some good news. He “liked to tell us when LSU had won a football game.” As he walked around the room, people would stand up and

Coupe's Legacy Lives On



give him some money for the club (maybe a dollar, or a five) and then share their own piece of good news "from their life...if their daughter had just had a child and now they were a grandparent or their kid was in college and had a 4.0 GPA."

Life After Coupe

Coupe's influence is still a big part of the Surfside Area Rotary Club today, although he's been gone for over a year now. His passion for flying lives on in the children he helped through the Right Flight program, his emphasis on education continues through the third graders who receive dictionaries from the Rotary Club, and his spirit lives on in the people all across the Grand Strand who were lucky enough to know him.

"Coupe was a motivation and an inspiration," says Mr. Guest. "He was the type of person who made any task feel worthwhile and made you want to work on projects just because he was the leader behind them. Coupe was a mentor, an inspiration, a philanthropist, and an amazing man."

Now, Coupe's legacy will continue through the **Edsel J. "Coupe" DeVille Scholarship Fund**, established by the Surfside Area Rotary Club through Waccamaw Community Foundation. WCF is working with the Rotary Club to ensure that Coupe's mission of changing lives through access to education will continue. Scholarships will be awarded annually to students with family members in the Surfside Area Rotary Club, as well as students graduating from St. James or Socastee High School. Rotarians and donors will continue to "open the skies to kids" in honor of someone they will never forget.

Coupe DeVille is a shining example of a man who connected with the causes he cared about. If you are interested in furthering Coupe's philanthropic legacy and would like to make a contribution, visit the Give Now page on the WCF website (www.waccamawcf.org). Select "other" as the designation and enter "Coupe DeVille Scholarship."

Right Flight Student Recalls Her Experience



My first time in an airplane was in 2006. I was in the sixth grade at Conway Middle School and had just completed Right Flight. At the time, I didn't recognize my experience as "once in a lifetime." As a typical pre-teen, I simply enjoyed missing a chunk of school to do something different! We learned about the Wright Brothers and the evolution of aviation in America. IN GREAT DETAIL. Although the course was challenging and at times, tedious (I had to add memorizing the parts of an airplane to my list of other homework) I passed all of the many tests necessary to finish the program.

The day of my flight, I was filled with anxiety but also excitement. From buckling up in the cockpit, to hearing a quick refresher about the controls over my headset, and then, finally, the plane leaving the ground... it was in these moments I realized how rare the opportunity really was. Possibly my adrenaline kicked in, and my instinct to concentrate on a task was in high gear because co-piloting the plane was surprisingly simple. While in the air, I took in the gorgeous sights, but all I could think about was how weeks of learning and studying had paid off and led to this incredible experience.

From learning so much about the history of aviation, to actually flying a plane myself, to flying over my hometown, Right Flight is something I will never forget. I always mention the experience to people. After all, I don't know many people who can say their first plane ride is one they just so happened to co-pilot!

Chelsea Anderson is a Conway native, a recent College of Charleston graduate (where she majored in Communication and was a Martin Scholar), and an intern for Coastal Community Foundation and Waccamaw Community Foundation communications. When she heard we were doing a story about Right Flight, she couldn't wait to tell us about her piloting experience!

Rev. Cheryl Adamson Receives *SCACED Civic Leadership Award*

Congratulations to Reverend Cheryl Moore Adamson who received the 2017 Isaac "Ike" Williams Award for Civic Leadership from the South Carolina Association for Community Economic Development (SCACED). This award recognizes a grassroots leader who has had success mobilizing and organizing a neighborhood community in the areas of social justice, civil rights and economic justice.

Rev. Adamson is the founder of Conway Missionary Baptist Church and the Executive Director of Palmetto Works Community Development Corporation. This month, she completes nine years of service on the Waccamaw Community Foundation Board of Directors.



2017 YEAR-END GIVING

As the end of the year approaches, you may be considering ways to integrate charitable giving into your financial planning in an uncertain tax environment. The Foundation offers a variety of philanthropic vehicles to help you achieve your goals. Please contact us to learn more. Our offices are closed December 25 and 26, and January 1. We are available to assist you during all other weekdays over the holiday season.

Remember, gifts sent to WCF must be postmarked no later than Saturday, December 30. Credit card gifts must be made online by midnight Sunday, December 31. Gifts of stocks must be received in WCF accounts by Friday, December 29. Real estate and partnerships assets must have title transferred or assigned on or before Friday, December 29.

Call us at 843.357.GIVE (4483)



Farewell, Not Goodbye!

A Farewell To Dr. Muriel Ward O'Tuel and Reverend Cheryl Moore Adamson

Some of our biggest supporters and volunteers at Waccamaw Community Foundation happen to serve on our Board of Directors. These advocates, fundraisers and positive public ambassadors work to champion the mission of the Foundation in countless ways. This season, we shine a spotlight on two incredible outgoing board members who have brought us guidance and vision for nearly a decade each: Reverend Cheryl Adamson and Dr. Muriel Ward O'Tuel.

Muriel Ward O'Tuel started life in rural Columbus County, North Carolina, where she learned the value of service. Muriel worked her way through the ranks of higher education, earning her Bachelor's Degree in English from St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, North Carolina, Master's in Counseling from the University of Alabama, and her Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Psychology from the University of South Carolina.

Dedicated to education, Muriel lead classrooms from elementary grades through university levels, eventually tackling the often-challenging role of education administrator. The first female public administrator in Dorchester County District Two, Muriel also served as Assistant Superintendent of Horry County Public Schools.

She recalls, "I became a member of the WCF Board for reasons of the heart. Sharing community concerns for improving the quality of life in Horry and Georgetown counties requires the efforts of many hearts working together."

She is the author of the inspirational book, *Footprints on the Heart, The Caring Path to Prosperity*, an uplifting read that motivates one to strive for greater achievements in life. Outside of the Foundation, Muriel is heavily involved with Coastal Carolina University's Women in Philanthropy and Leadership, and strikes chords with audiences all over the world as a renowned keynote speaker.

Another community member who has dedicated her life to improving the lives of others, our friend Reverend Cheryl Moore Adamson, is a Hartsville native but grew up in Conway and is

the wife of Dr. James W. Adamson. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from University of South Carolina and a Master's in Health Education from the University of Maryland at College Park. Cheryl worked as chaplain with Mercy Hospice for three years prior to founding Palmetto Missionary Baptist Church of Conway, launching her career in ministry after receiving her Master of Divinity from Duke University.

Cheryl's philanthropic warmth exudes from her through everything she does. She is the founder and board chair of the Palmetto Works Community Development Corporation, the umbrella organization for Palmetto Kids! Music and Arts Academy, the Work It Out Leadership Academy, and the C.H.O.P.S. (Culinary and Hospitality Operatives Prepared to Serve) jobs training program. Cheryl just received the 2017 Isaac "Ike" Williams Award for Civic Leadership from the South Carolina Association for Community Economic Development (SCACED).

These phenomenal women may be parting from the Board, but they are a major part of the Waccamaw Community Foundation family! We applaud them for their contributions and look forward to seeing what great work they will continue in 2018.

*Cheryl and Muriel received Oprah Winfrey's inspirational book, **The Wisdom of Sundays** complete with an engraved Waccamaw Community Foundation bookmark. Their commemorative glass awards are engraved with "Thank you for 9 years of dedicated service and commitment to Waccamaw Community Foundation."*



Meet the Staff



Since our last newsletter, we've grown! You may know **Karen Minogue**, our Director of Development, and **Shawna Mosley-Foster**, our Donor Services and Office Manager. But did you know we have a new face in the Murrell's Inlet office? And have you ever wondered who else is working behind the scenes on the many moving pieces that make up foundation philanthropy?



Kristen Bitzegaio

Kristen, our new Program Associate, has more than a decade of experience in the nonprofit sector, including marketing and community engagement, and serving as an executive director. She assists Coastal Community Foundation's Vice President of Grantmaking & Community Leadership, Edie Blakeslee, on competitive grantmaking for Horry and Georgetown counties. *Bring your best sweet tea and southern hospitality if you come for a visit, because Kristen recently arrived to the Grand Strand from Indiana.*



Karen Black

Karen is the Director of Communications for both Waccamaw Community Foundation and Coastal Community Foundation. Karen brings us a wealth of experience in strategic communications and the nonprofit sector. If you haven't met her yet, you might see her around town on her frequent trips to the Grand Strand. *She is a proud Seahawk (MBHS '89) with a personal stake in our community.*



Christa Divis

Christa, the new Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer at Coastal Community Foundation and Waccamaw Community Foundation, serves as our primary business operations and financial strategist. She brings a breadth of knowledge from the nonprofit, public accounting, construction, manufacturing, and transportation sectors. *Christa landed in the Lowcountry three years ago and is happy her WCF role takes her up the road to explore and discover.*



Angel Johnson-Brebner

You've probably already met Angel Johnson-Brebner, the Executive Vice President of Coastal Community Foundation, who manages the strategic operations of Waccamaw Community Foundation. Her 16 years in foundation philanthropy means we ask her every question under the sun! Her leadership is invaluable, and she assists our donors with the Donor Portal as one of the many hats she wears. *An Orangeburg, SC native, Angel has great memories of vacationing her whole life on the Grand Strand.*

Our team is geared up and looking forward to the new year. We are here to help answer your questions about community philanthropy, and hope to meet you or see you again soon!



New Fund Spotlight Literacy Matters



If you're reading this newsletter, you're lucky. That means you are not one of the 32 million people in the United States who cannot read or write. And chances are, you have been influenced by the power of a transformational book or a dedicated educator in your lifetime.

The anonymous donor who founded Waccamaw Community Foundation's new Literacy Matters Fund believes that literacy is the key to success in life. "I've seen it over and over again in the course of my career. If you put the right book in the right hand at the right time, it can make all the difference in the world."

Compelled by the many stories in our community about the struggles of illiteracy, and the accomplishments people make once they are able to learn to read and write, the donor established this fund to provide ongoing support for books, teaching materials and programmatic expenses to literacy nonprofit organizations in Horry and Georgetown counties. Grant recipients, such



as Freedom Readers and Horry County Literacy Council, are successful organizations dedicated to promoting a love of reading and producing more literate individuals within the region.

If you are interested in helping this new fund take root and would like to make a contribution, visit the Give Now page on the WCF website (www.waccamawcf.org). Select "other" as the designation and enter "Literacy Matters Fund."



Annual Report *at a glance...*



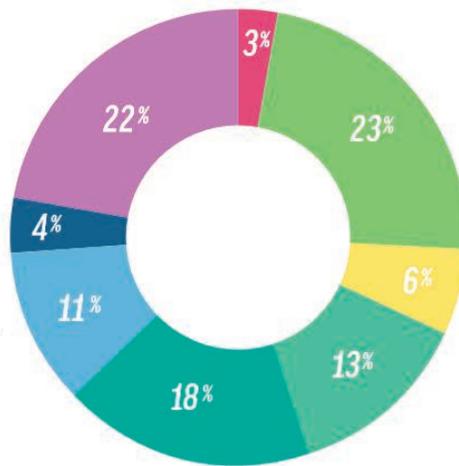
\$1.8 million
given back to the
community in 2016

\$17 million
given back in the
past ten years

Grants Awarded

January 1 - December 31, 2016

ARTS	\$52,055
EDUCATION	\$414,185
ENVIRONMENT	\$108,980
HEALTH	\$237,987
HUMAN NEEDS	\$317,398
NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	\$194,083
PHILANTHROPY	\$74,150
RELIGION	\$396,377



68%

of grants were awarded to
local nonprofits in Horry and
Georgetown Counties.

Consider the *Community Partnership Program*

Our community's needs are changing and expanding, and a healthy community foundation translates to a healthy network of nonprofit organizations that can rise to meet these needs and changes.

In order to serve our growing community for the decades to come, we need to grow our operations, focus our resources, and engage more people as donors and volunteers.

Will you help us grow our operational endowment? Your partnership provides staff and board members with crucial resources they need to respond to the most pressing issues facing our region.

Whether you are an individual, family or business, we hope you'll consider becoming a member of our Community Partnership Program. Joining the CPP is the beginning of a special relationship between you and other community leaders who understand what endowed philanthropy can accomplish.

To learn more about the CPP and its benefits, we invite you to visit us, call us at (843) 357-4483 or email our Director of Development, Karen Minogue at karenm@mywcf.org.





Karen Minogue, Director of Development, with incoming Board member Kathleen Burroughs and her husband Edward Burroughs at our spring 2017 donor reception.

2017: The Year in Review

Thank you to the donors who joined our Waccamaw Community Foundation family this year. Your generosity is improving lives throughout the community. And congratulations to our 2017 scholarship recipients and grantees.

Over the past twelve months, more than 250 nonprofits have received grants from the Foundation, in focus areas ranging from healthcare, education and the arts to more specific causes such as senior enrichment, providing temporary youth shelter, and much, much more.

Waccamaw Community Foundation's 2017 Scholarship Recipients

Sharon Malone Scholarship for Habitat for Humanity Fund:

Epiphany Holmes – Winthrop University

Sue's Hope Scholarship Fund:

Omaima Najib – College of Charleston

Abigail Khoury – University of South Carolina

Joseph Lee Mabry – East Carolina University

Zackary Fitz – Coker College

The Boone Foundation Scholarship Fund (Graduate Students):

Chelsea Evans – University of South Carolina

Stephen Marinski – University of South Carolina

John D. Draughn and Trena B. Draughn Scholarship Fund:

Zachary Johnson – Horry Georgetown Technical College

Cameron SeEVERS – Horry Georgetown Technical College

Our Newest Funds

Meyers Family Fund

Edsel J. "Coupe" DeVille Scholarship Fund (Surfside Area Rotary Club)

Literacy Matters Fund

Helping Hands of Georgetown Endowment Fund

Georgetown County Disaster Relief Fund

Donald Dean Scholarship Endowment Fund

Edward and Kathleen Burroughs Myrtle Beach Travel Park Campground Fund

Miss Rubys Kids Endowment Fund

Donors interested in setting up a scholarship or other fund with Waccamaw Community Foundation contact Karen Minogue, Director of Development, at karenm@mywcf.org.

Rising high school seniors interested in applying for scholarships, please visit www.waccamawcf.org/students for more information.

Interested in supporting area nonprofits or attending a site visit? Contact Kristen Bitzegaio at kristen@mywcf.org.



3655 S. Highway 17 Business
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
(843)357-GIVE (4483)

www.waccamawcf.org

our Mission

Since its inception in 1999, Waccamaw Community Foundation's mission has been connecting donors with causes they care about.

our Guiding Principles

We seek to be an organization of the highest integrity and competence with the primary goal of improving the quality of life for the residents of the Waccamaw region. We seek to be an organization to reinforce shared values, encourage mutual respect, and develop solutions to problems of common concern.

We understand that a community consists of relationships among people whose lives are inextricably linked, and who, for all of their differences, have many customs, aspirations, and values in common, and we will endeavor to link philanthropic leadership, charitable resources, and civic influence with community needs and opportunities.

We believe that the vitality of the Waccamaw region depends upon the ability of people to be responsible for themselves and concerned about one another.

We will honor and respect the trust and intent of our donors and responsibly manage all the assets entrusted to our stewardship.

Staff & Board

Kristen Bitzegaio
Program Associate

Karen Minogue
Director of Development

Shawna Mosley-Foster
Donor Services and Office Manager

2017 Board of Directors

Ruell L. Hicks, Jr., Chair

Dennis Wade, Vice Chair

G. David Bishop, Immediate Past Chair/Treasurer

Muriel Ward O'Tuel, Ph.D., Secretary (outgoing)

Rev. Cheryl Adamson, Director (outgoing)

Terri DeCenzo, Director

Brent Groome, Director

Chris Hanna, Director

New Board Members (1/1/2018)

Kathleen Burroughs

Daniel W. Stacy

Rev. Joseph W. Washington