



GEORGIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.

*Building a
foundation for all
of Georgia*

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Founded in 1991, Georgia Community Foundation, Inc. (“GCF”) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization the mission of which is to promote and support charitable and educational activities in Georgia and to provide philanthropic advice and charitable giving services to individual donors and, when designated, members of their families.

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Since inception, the Georgia Community Foundation has made a special effort to serve donors who desire to recommend qualified charities or charitable projects to which they would like GCF to contribute. Through these “donor-advised” funds, individuals who contribute to GCF, and their family members, can assist GCF in supporting the charitable activities in which they have an interest.

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In addition to helping donors realize their philanthropic objectives through donor-advised funds, GCF focuses its efforts in four areas: educational freedom, community initiatives, scholarships, and religious liberty. GCF believes that free and well-educated citizens, personal responsibility, voluntary associations, educational freedom, religious liberty, and limited government are the keys to a compassionate and civil society.

Programs and Initiatives



EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM

Empowering Parents Through Educational Freedom

- Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program
- Charter Schools
- Community Schools
- Character Education



COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Building Communities Through Faith-based and Community Initiatives

- Faith and Family Services Amendment
- Juvenile Justice Faith-based and Community Initiatives



SCHOLARSHIPS

Educating the Next Generation of Georgians Through Scholarships

- Vera Jackson Scholarship Program
- Thomas G. Harris Scholarship Program
- Duane Ackerman Family Scholarship



RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Promoting Religious Liberty Through Law & Policy

- Christianity and Democracy
- Solidarity Center for Law and Justice, P.C.
- International Human Rights



DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Supporting Compassionate Conservatism Through Donor-Advised Funds

Educational Freedom

Georgia Community Foundation is committed to making sure that all parents have the opportunity to educate their children at the public school, public charter school, private school, private religious school, or home school that is best suited for them. Since its inception, GCF has been one of Georgia's leading education reform organizations. GCF and its affiliated entities have been responsible for expanding charter school opportunities in Georgia; filing friend-of-the-court briefs in the Supreme Court of the United States in school choice cases; monitoring Georgia's character education movement; implementing Georgia's K-12 tuition tax credit program; and educating policy makers about the need for K-12 community schools at which parents could use state-funded educational assistance grants. GCF provides its donors and policy makers with state-of-the-art education reform research and ideas.

AREAS OF FOCUS

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GEORGIA GOAL
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

CHARTER SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

CHARACTER EDUCATION

For more information on the Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program, please visit www.goalscholarship.org.

GEORGIA GOAL
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, INC.

Georgia Community Foundation is a state and national leader in promoting cooperation between government agencies and faith-based and community organizations. This cooperation is essential to providing effective and efficient social and educational services that strengthen families and communities. GCF played a leading role in educating Georgia policy makers about need for, and the value of, a Faith and Family Services Amendment to the Georgia Constitution. It monitors national trends in the field of government partnerships with faith-based and community organizations and, when requested, provides advice to state officials in structuring such partnerships. GCF provided assistance to the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice as it designed and implemented its Project FACE, which is DJJ's effort to promote faith and community engagement to help youth avoid detention.

AREAS OF FOCUS

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FAITH AND FAMILY SERVICES AMENDMENT
**JUVENILE JUSTICE FAITH-BASED AND
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**



GCF Board Member Stan Epperson presents fellow Board Member Pastor Dexter Rowland with a contribution to help fund the New Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church summer math camp, which provides tutoring services to low-income students in the South DeKalb area of Atlanta.

Scholarships

Due to the generosity of its donors, Georgia Community Foundation provides scholarships to deserving high school graduates who will be attending an accredited college or university. In all cases, scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of financial need, high school academic and extra-curricular achievement, personal character, likelihood of collegiate success, and potential long-term individual contribution to the welfare of the communities in which they ultimately reside.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

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VERA JACKSON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Established by Vera Jackson, a native of Lumpkin County, the Vera Jackson Scholarship Program provides room and board scholarships to high school graduates from Fannin, Union, Towns, and Lumpkin counties and provides them with mentors to enhance their college and post-graduate experiences.



Matt Schmidt receives the Vera Jackson Scholar of the Year award.

THOMAS G. HARRIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Established by the Judy Lane Gilbert Memorial Foundation, the Thomas G. Harris Scholarship Program provides room and board scholarships to graduates of Armuchee High School. Several recipients of this scholarship have located in and around the Rome, Georgia area and are making a valuable contribution to the communities in which they were raised.



Lindsay Whitelaw presents Vedant Mehta with the Thomas G. Harris Scholarship award.

DUANE ACKERMAN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Established by F. Duane Ackerman, a graduate of Plant City High School in Florida, the Duane Ackerman Family Scholarship provides financial aid to graduates of Plant City High School who have exhibited solid academic achievement, involvement in extracurricular, athletic, or civic activities, upright character, and a strong work ethic.



Adrianna Gianino becomes one of the first ever Duane Ackerman Family Scholarship recipients.

Georgia Community Foundation believes that religious freedom is essential to the success of a democratic society. For this reason, GCF works closely with Solidarity Center for Law and Justice, P.C., a public interest civil and human rights law firm based in Atlanta, Georgia. Solidarity Center for Law and Justice has filed amicus curiae briefs in three religious liberty cases in the Supreme Court of the United States. GCF also educates state policy makers about the discriminatory history and impact of the Blaine Amendment to Georgia's Constitution that opponents of religious freedom rely upon to prevent faith-based organizations from gaining equal access to public funds for the provision of social and educational services to those in need.

AMICUS CURIAE BRIEFS

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GOOD NEWS CLUB V. MILFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL (2001)

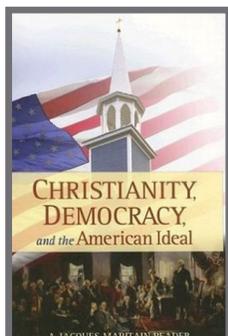
- Successfully argued in support of a Christian youth group that sought the same after-school access to public schools as a school district was providing to secular youth groups.

ZELMAN V. SIMMONS-HARRIS (2002)

- Successfully argued in support of an Ohio program that provided parents in Cleveland with state funds to use for the education of their children at the schools of their choice.

LOCKE V. DAVEY (2004)

- Unsuccessfully argued in support of a college student pursuing a pastoral ministries degree to receive the same state-funded scholarship assistance as was being provided by Washington to college students pursuing other degrees.



In 2006, GCF Founder Jim Kelly published *Christianity, Democracy, and the American Ideal*, a collection of writings from the works of Jacques Maritain organized around modern-day themes of social, spiritual, and political importance.

Donor-Advised Funds

With a donor-advised fund you can make gifts to Georgia Community Foundation during your lifetime and, when you pass away, your children can carry on your legacy of giving. A donor-advised fund serves as a flexible way to establish vehicle for charitable giving and is a tax-efficient lower cost alternative to a private foundation. Other benefits of starting a donor-advised fund with GCF include an estate tax deduction and savings for your gift, as well as tax savings from a charitable tax deduction in the year of your gift. For more information on planned giving and donor-advised funds please visit the GCF website at www.georgiacf.org.

DONOR STORIES

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JUDY LANE GILBERT MEMORIAL FUND



When Rick and Debra Gilbert created their donor advised fund at Georgia Community Foundation, they wanted to involve their adult children and their spouses in the process of making grant recommendations. The six of them meet throughout the course of the year to consider various charitable endeavors that might fit within their mission, with their daughter, Lindsay, serving as the group leader. This process enables them to engage in philanthropic decision-making in a manner similar to that which would take place in a stand-alone family foundation, but without the related administrative and compliance burdens. Philanthropic interests of the Gilbert family tend to focus on initiatives that promote faith, family and education in rural areas of North Georgia.

HALLOCK FAMILY FUND



The Hallock Family Fund continues a philanthropic legacy rooted in the Christian faith. Roger Hallock, a successful businessman in Atlanta during the 1970s and 1980s, and his wife, Pauline, generously contributed their time and financial resources to charitable causes. In doing so, they passed along a faithful and generous giving tradition to their children. After Roger's death, Pauline and their son, Paul, established a donor-advised fund at Georgia Community Foundation, with Paul and his wife, B.J., serving as the advisors. In addition to resulting in a significant charitable income tax deduction, this gift enabled Paul and B.J to enhance their active philanthropic involvement in their north Georgia community.

Scholarship Program Graduates

KEVIN CHAMBERS

Vera Jackson SCHOLARSHIP

Kevin Chambers always wanted to be an artist. At the age of 12, he started formal art training in Blairsville, Georgia. It was during this training that he realized he could turn his passion into a career. During his senior year of high school, Kevin was awarded the Vera Jackson Scholarship, which assisted him in attending The Art Institute of Atlanta. In May 2006, Kevin graduated college with a BFA in Media Arts and Animation, a program that allowed him to develop his own personal style while he apprenticed for talented artists.

Upon graduating, Kevin was offered an apprenticeship with a renowned sculptor at an Atlanta sculpture studio called Cherrylion. Over the next eight years, Kevin became head apprentice at Cherrylion, and continued to gain recognition for his work. A significant commission of Kevin's is a bust of Georgia legacy Ms. Vera Jackson, founder of the Vera Jackson Scholarship Program.

Kevin established KLC Studios in 2010 with his wife Lauren, combining his sculpture and her photography talents. The company continues to grow and offers fine art, sculpture instruction, custom sculpture tools, and commercial photography services. Kevin's works and collaborations are widely exhibited and displayed in public, national, international, corporate and private collections. He recently accomplished his long time goal of becoming an Elected Member of the National Sculpture Society, and is now one of just 100 Elected Members worldwide. He claims, "I have been very lucky to be as busy as I am, and I owe a lot of credit to all the help I received from Vera Jackson Scholarship."



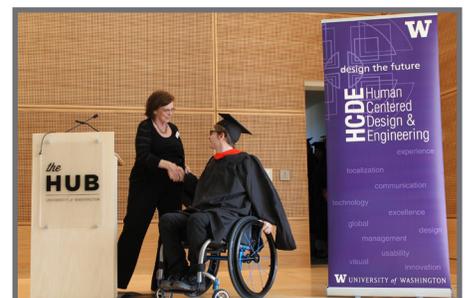
LUKE EASTERWOOD

Thomas G. Harris SCHOLARSHIP

Luke Easterwood discovered his passion for writing while at Armuchee High School and began taking self-directed internet courses to learn the basics of computer programming and technology. Luke wanted to combine his love for creative writing with his love of technology in his future career. He applied to Georgia Southern University, and received his acceptance letter on November 11, 2008. Just two days later, Luke was involved in a severe motor scooter accident that left him permanently paralyzed from the chest down.

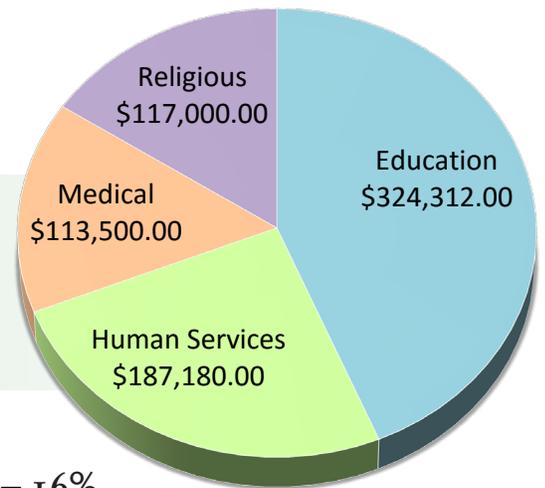
Luke spent two months at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, during which he completed and mailed in his application for the Thomas G. Harris Scholarship. In early spring of 2009, Luke was awarded the scholarship, making it possible for him to attend Georgia Southern University (GSU) in the fall. Luke earned his BA in Writing and Linguistics in Information Technology & Information Systems from GSU in just three years. He then graduated from the University of Washington at 22 years old with a Master of Science in Human Centered Design and Engineering. He currently works at Apple as Sr. UI Writer.

Luke's physical challenges never affected his perseverance and dedication. He says, "I think it is important in life to have the ability to adapt. You have to know your destination, but be willing to change your path to get there. My next goal is to give back. I want to pay forward the same opportunities I have had to others."



Grant Disbursements

In 2014, a total of **\$741,992** in grants was disbursed to **34** non-profit and faith-based organizations.



EDUCATION – 44%

Ackerman Family Scholarship Fund
Berry College – 2013/2014 Annual Campaign
Marist School – Capital Campaign
Purdue Foundation
Rollins College – Matching Gift Program
Rollins College Alumni Fund
Thomas G. Harris Scholarship Fund
The University of Georgia
Vera Jackson Scholarship Program
The Westminster Schools

RELIGIOUS – 15%

Amigos for Christ
Browns Bridge Church
First Presbyterian Church
For His Kingdom Missions, Inc.
New Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church
Prince of Peace Catholic Church

MEDICAL – 16%

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation
Foundation of Wesley Woods
Marcus Autism Center
Reaching Out Foundation, Inc.
St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital

HUMAN SERVICES – 25%

Atlanta Step-Up Society
Boy Scouts of America
Christian Counseling & Education Ministries, Inc.
Dawson County Wee Books Program
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Georgia Mountain Food Bank
Habitat for Humanity – Rome & Floyd County
Marianna Greene Henry
The Ministry Village
Missionaries of the Poor
Open Door Children's Home
Rome Action Ministries
Rome Area Fellowship of Christian Athletes



Board of Directors

The members of the GCF Board of Directors represent a broad cross-section of experience or expertise in the areas of business, philanthropy, education reform, juvenile justice, faith-based initiatives, and poverty relief.

RICK GILBERT, CHAIRMAN. Rick is the co-founder and chief operating officer of Atlanticus Holdings Corporation. He serves on the Board of Trustees of Berry College in Rome, Georgia.

KAREN BAYNES-DUNNING. Karen is one of the two monitors appointed by the Federal Court to oversee Georgia's implementation of reforms to its foster care program. She was formerly the Assistant Director for the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia and an Atlanta Juvenile Court Judge.

TIM EMBRY. Tim is the owner and chief executive officer of American Lube Fast, Inc., the largest privately owned and operated oil change and maintenance company in the United States.

STAN EPPERSON. Stan is the founder and president of Deli Provision Co., Inc., the distributor of Boar's Head Brand products in the metro Atlanta area. He is the treasurer and past president of the Southeastern Brain Tumor Foundation and a member and past chairman of the Duke University Brain Tumor Advisory Board.

TERRY HARTMAN. Terry serves as the Director of the Vera Jackson Scholarship Program. She is an active member of the Order of Malta and A Million Matters. Since 2006, she has participated as a mentor for the Central Eurasian Leadership Alliance.

DOUG MACGINNITIE. Doug is the CEO of River Oak Risk, a captive insurance management company. From 2011-2015, he served as Georgia's Commissioner of Revenue. Prior to that, Doug was an executive in the insurance brokerage industry.

DEAN MATHISON. Dean is SVP, Chief Accounting Officer and Corporate Controller at Intercontinental Exchange, Inc., a leading global exchange for the trading of energy and agricultural commodities and financial futures.

JUSTICE HAROLD MELTON. Since 2005, Harold has served as a Justice on the Supreme Court of Georgia. Prior to joining the Court, Justice Melton served as Executive Counsel to Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue, representing the Governor on legal issues covering the entire scope of state government.

ALBERT MURRAY. Albert is Chairman of the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles. He is the former Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (2004-2010) and was responsible for the oversight and management of the juvenile correctional system statewide.

PASTOR DEXTER ROWLAND. Pastor Rowland is the Senior Pastor of New Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia. From 2005-2012, he served on the Board of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice.

JUDGE MAXWELL WOOD. Judge Wood serves as the Chief Judge of the Georgia Office of State Administrative Hearings. From 2001-2009, he served as the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia. Judge Wood currently serves as a Colonel in the Air Force Reserves assigned to HQ Air Force Reserves Command.



GEORGIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.

“GCF has been a wonderful partner, making the donation transaction so easy and convenient, as well as sharing their expert insights relating to our recommendations of possible charitable recipients.”

- Paul Hallock

GEORGIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION STAFF

LISA M. KELLY, President

JAMES P. KELLY III, Founder and Director of Development

AVERY PARKER, Director of Finance

KATE SAYLOR, Director of Marketing & Communications

ALLISON SAXBY, Director of Scholarship Programs

SHERRI O’CONNOR, Accounting

www.georgiacf.org