

## THE GREATER PINEBELT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION COMMUNITY IMPACT - EXAMPLES

**Successful U (2012).** The vision of Successful U is to empower high school seniors in the Greater Pinebelt area to develop a career path that fits their individual goals and aspirations, as well as build a foundation of financial literacy to serve them as they begin life after high school. Ten high school seniors from surrounding schools in Forrest and Lamar counties were selected through an application and interview process. Selected students completed classroom sessions that helped identify personality traits and skills, as well as, gain knowledge in sound financial principles. Students that completed the program were awarded with a \$1,000 scholarship to further their education, vocational or professional careers.

**Adam's Place (2001, and Winner of State Leadership Project -- 2003).** This ADP Leaders group created a first-class playground that is accessible to all children, regardless of their physical limitations, for Hattiesburg and South Mississippi (housed at Kamper Park; maintained by City of Hattiesburg).

**Ann Morris Memorial Fund (started in 2012 - ongoing).** The Ann Morris Memorial Fund is set up to support programs, services and activities –as offered by area nonprofit organizations– whose purpose is to enrich the quality of life of persons of advanced age, who have been diagnosed as intellectually challenged.

**Officer Benjamin J. Deen and Liquor Tate Scholarship Fund (2015 – ongoing).** This fund was established to provide scholarships to full-time sworn Pine Belt law enforcement officers and their family members in cases where the officer is killed in the line of duty or sustains a career-ending permanent injury in the line of duty or while acting in an official capacity.

**The Bernice Linton Memorial Fund (2015 - ongoing).** This fund was established to assist small downtown improvement projects such as a sign, a new door, sidewalk furniture and so on. Individuals or small business may apply for these funds, to be administered by a board appointed by the Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association.

**Born Learning Trail (2008).** This ADP Leaders group constructed an interactive learning trail to be used by Hattiesburg area children at Town Square Park in partnership with the City of Hattiesburg. This project also included an area with green space for local families and learning stations about nature along the trail (project on-going).

**Bridging the Gap Through Inclusive Play (2008).** This ADP Leaders group developed a universally accessible playground with equipment adjacent to Thames Elementary School and implemented a city play day to help integrate the lives of all children regardless of ability.

**Canvassing the City – A Downtown Mural Series (2006).** This ADP Leaders group facilitated business owners and local artist partnerships to paint quality murals in appropriate public places in Historic Downtown Hattiesburg.

**Community Play (2006).** This ADP Leaders group built a playground in a low to moderate income area of Hattiesburg for area children.

**Day of S.N.O.W. (Southerners Needing Outdoor Wear – 2009).** This ADP Leaders group held an event in downtown Hattiesburg's Town Square Park to disperse winter coats to needy children.

**Dig A Well.** After hearing about the lack of clean and safe drinking water in developing nations and how far people walk in order to bring fresh water to their homes, Harrison St. John started the Dig A Well Fund to bring fresh water closer to those who need it.

**Drive at 5 (2011).** This ADP Leaders group's provided a city-wide drive for school supplies for primary (K-6) public schools in the Hattiesburg area.

**Fostering the Future - Enhancing the Lives of Foster Children (2005).** This ADP Leaders group developed a public service campaign to promote awareness of foster parenting and upgraded the lobby and visitation room at Forrest County Department of Human Services.

**Freedom Summer Trail (2003, and Winner of State Leadership Project in 2004).** This ADP Leaders group developed the Freedom Summer Trail in historic downtown Hattiesburg. This trail was developed beginning with a memorial at the Eureka School and following the path of the original 1963 march through Hattiesburg. Markers indicate important leaders, activists and facts associated with the Civil Rights Movement and the Freedom Summer March.

**The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation (1997 | Winner of State Leadership Project – 1998).** The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation was founded in 1997 when an ADP's Leadership Pine Belt group acted on their vision to bring a community foundation to the Pine Belt area. As a driving charitable force in our region, the PineBelt Foundation's mission is to build stronger communities through philanthropy. Donors can establish charitable legacies and provide leadership to address community needs in a manner that is responsible, responsive and lasting.

**Hattiesburg Train Depot - Paving the Way to the Future (2002).** This ADP Leaders group worked with City of Hattiesburg officials to raise funds to renovate the train depot in the Hattiesburg downtown area.

**Heart of Mississippi (2011)** – Approximately every 25 seconds, an American will have a coronary event, and approximately every minute, someone will die of one. In addition, Mississippi is ranked among the highest in the nation in the prevalence of cardiovascular disease. The Heart of MS Fund was created to assist hardworking Mississippians who are working but uninsured or underprivileged by providing access for cardiovascular care. This may include, but not limited to, cardiovascular procedures, medical equipment/devices, medications (on a limited basis) assistance/education about procuring more permanent health care options (Medicaid/Medicare) and also to provide education to Mississippians about cardiovascular disease in general. The Heart of MS is helping to save lives.

**Health Insurance Premium Fund (2015 - ongoing).** The Health Insurance Premium Assistance Fund pays health insurance premiums directly to insurers for a limited number of qualified applicants (the working poor) who either do not qualify for federal subsidies or need additional assistance to pay the premium and who are critically ill.

**Kick it to the Curb (2011).** This ADP Leaders group mobilized support to bring curbside recycling to Hattiesburg. In addition, they increased awareness on the benefits of recycling.

**Kids Cash** – Holliman Harrison opened "Kids Cash" to raise funds to help underprivileged children go on field trips.

**Laughs 4 Life Fund (2016).** This fund was created by Kent Oliver, a 34 year old Hattiesburg native who was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in 2015. Laughs 4 Life is a comedic fundraising event with the intent of bringing laughter to the Hub City while raising awareness and funds for cancer research. The inaugural event will feature master impressionist and sketch comic Frank Caliendo along with opening acts from Hattiesburg's own Hub City Comedy.

**Neighbors Program Fund** – The mission of Neighbors@Hawkins is to assist in providing quality education, build student self-esteem and to expand the personal vision of students for themselves, their community and their world. Three years ago Neighbors@Hawkins partnered with America Reads Mississippi, a nationally accredited reading specialty program, to hire four full-time tutors to work at Hawkins Elementary. With the addition of the AmeriCorp Tutors and consistent support from community volunteers, we are continuing to fulfill our vision in assisting to bring "abundant life" to students at Hawkins Elementary. For more information about the Neighbors Program Fund, please visit [www.neighborsathawkins.com](http://www.neighborsathawkins.com).

**Officer Benjamin J. Deen Police Needs Fund.** Officer Benjamin J. Deen Police Needs Fund will assist the Forrest County Police Department with needed equipment, training, and counseling for their safety.

**Operation Fallen Soldier (2005).** This ADP Leaders group established a memorial honoring fallen soldiers mobilized during *Operation Enduring Freedom* and *Operation Iraqi Freedom* who trained at Camp Shelby and raised public awareness of the Armed Forces Museum and the memorial.

**Operation Kover our K9s.** Operation: Kover our K-9s raised funds to provide body armor for police dogs in the Mississippi PineBelt area. The fund also provided funds for K-9 deployment and heat alert systems for each police dog.

**Operation Renovation – Domestic Abuse Center (2006).** This ADP Leaders group provided labor and materials to enhance the aesthetic and physical condition of the Domestic Abuse Center.

**PineBelt 360 (2011).** Their mission statement: “In following the example of Jesus, we are seeking to bring positive change to the Pine Belt area by unifying the Body of Christ to meet people’s needs.” Specifically, they connect churches and other service providers for: (1) Resources Connection – creating a master list of churches, ministries and local non profits, (2) Education – connecting churches and citizens to serve in their local schools, (3) Professional Services – connecting those in need with the professional services they require, and (4) Offender Re-entry – connecting existing groups and creating new pipelines for prisoners to re-enter society productively.

**Promote the Vote (2011).** This ADP Leaders group helped students improve their political decision-making abilities and increased their interests in current issues.

**Ramp Up MS (2013 – ongoing).** Ramp Up Mississippi builds or rebuilds handicap ramps and helps with minor modifications to homes for physically challenged seniors. The ramps are built to allow seniors to move in and out of their homes without falling or causing more harm due to excessive disadvantages.

**Safety in Numbers 911 (2010).** This ADP Leaders group placed clear, visible, uniform numbers on homes in the Palmers Crossing Community. House numbers are essential in assisting police, fire, and other emergency responders to accurately locate homes.

**Scholarship Funds –** The PineBelt Community Foundation manages 20 scholarship funds. The criteria for each scholarship fund is set up by the donor. In 2015 over \$215,000 in scholarships were given.

**Stars and Stripes (2009).** This ADP Leaders group held a July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration in downtown Hattiesburg’s Town Square Park featuring music, food, activities for children and a fireworks finale.

**Strive 4 Strings (2010-2015).** The Strive 4 Strings Fund supported under resourced students in the Hattiesburg Public Schools Strings Program, which provided string music education for students in grades 5-12.

**Today’s Good Samaritan (2009).** This ADP Leaders group organized volunteers to provide acts of kindness targeting area groups in need. For example, they provided assistance to Carpenter’s Helper, Habitat for Humanity, St. Vincent de Paul and Richton’s Community Help Day.

**The Zachary Little Memorial Fund (2012).** Zachary Little was 11 years old when he passed away from cancer. His loving parents opened The Zachary Little Memorial Fund to support organizations that help other children with cancer, and to help Sumrall High School in appreciation for their support of their son. This fund will support St. Jude, Catch a Dream, Batson Children’s Hospital and Sumrall High School.

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<sup>i</sup> Khristinia/Funds/Funds Handout/Community Impact