

the
greater **Pinebelt
Community
Foundation**

*Inspiring Charitable Giving...
Investing in Our Communities*

ANNUAL REPORT

2015

*Life is a gift, and it offers us the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility
to give something back and become more. ~Anthony Robbins*



OUR MISSION:

As a driving charitable force in our region, our 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.

OUR HISTORY:

The PineBelt Community Foundation was founded in 1997 when several community leaders acted on their vision to bring a community foundation to the Pine Belt area to help meet community needs.

Now, for almost twenty years, the PineBelt Community Foundation has enhanced the Pine Belt region by assisting youth, supplementing health initiatives, enhancing neighborhoods, providing scholarships, augmenting cultural initiatives, and helping with animal welfare.

The PineBelt Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was formed as a charitable organization to receive gifts (cash, stocks, life insurance, property, bequests, etc.) from individuals, businesses, churches, nonprofits and private foundations to support charitable causes that they are most passionate.

The PineBelt Community Foundation currently manages nearly 200 charitable funds set up by compassionate donors who want to leave a legacy and make a difference. In addition, since the time of inception, the PineBelt Community Foundation has disbursed over \$9 million in grants – all for the benefit of nonprofit organizations and charitable causes.

OUR PURPOSE:

To enhance the quality of life for current and future PineBelt residents by building a perpetual source of charitable dollars through philanthropically minded donors.

ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS:

- To strengthen communities by connecting charitable minded people to the causes that matter most to them.
- To build and manage permanent, growing endowments for non-profits, faith-based organizations and schools.
- To provide a simple, flexible and cost-effective way for civic-minded people and businesses to contribute to their community – now and forever.
- To enhance the quality of life in the Pine Belt.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I have had the honor of serving as president of The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation since 2015. My main goal has been to educate Pine Belt residents about how The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation can be their vehicle for charitable giving and leaving a legacy.

We had a record-breaking year in 2015, with donations and gifts being invested for nonprofits and churches now higher than ever, and still increasing. The generosity and kind-heartedness of PineBelt residents is apparent when examining the success and effectiveness of the PineBelt Community Foundation.

I would like to acknowledge that our donors and Board of Directors have been instrumental in the success of The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation. The board consists of twenty-five members, each an active leader in his or her respective community. Without their leadership and ability to contribute to the organization, the Foundation would not be nearly as successful as it is.

Thank you for your interest and continued support of your local Community Foundation. We hope that the following report encourages you to recognize the positive and often life-changing impact that the foundation has on the surrounding Pine Belt area. It is truly an honor to be a part of an organization that provides organizational infrastructure to support donors’ philanthropic needs, leaving a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Sincerely, David Fortenberry, President



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

We are so blessed to live in Mississippi – the most generous State in the nation! Our donors opened their hearts and gave generously, leading us to record-breaking years with over \$3 million disbursed in 2014 and 2015- all to enhance the quality of life in the Pine Belt region.

As we reflect back, I hope you will be filled with pride as we share some stories of donors coming together to help those in need. Donors gave generously to help victims of the Columbia tornado; thousands came out to support the family members of Officers Benjamin Deen and Liquori Tate who were tragically killed on May 9, 2015; and donors also gave to preserve the memory of a loved one, to support charitable causes they are passionate about, or to give forever gifts to support nonprofit organizations that have impacted their own lives.

As the Executive Director, I am humbled and honored to have the opportunity to help families that want to leave their legacy and enhance the quality of life in their home town. I can say with certainty that philanthropy is on the rise in the Pine Belt region, because I see it every day.

The history of The Foundation is based on the values of reliability, efficiency, trust and stewardship of our donors’ hopes and dreams through the management of their charitable funds. This trust has led us to now manage close to 200 funds, all which enhance the quality of life in the Pine Belt region. Every fund has a story – I wish I could share them all! My hope is that this report will give you a sense of the generosity and hearts of our donors.

The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation has been investing in the Pine Belt region for almost twenty years-- I thank Board of Directors, Fund Representatives, Partners and our Friends, and all donors who have entrusted us to help enhance the quality of life in the Pine Belt region.

Sincerely,

Theresa Erickson, Executive Director





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alex Agnew

Chief Financial Officer, Hattiesburg Clinic

Mike Axton

Michael J Axton, CLU, ChFC & Associates

Terri Bell

President, B Communications

General Buff Blount

President, Blount Consulting

David Burckel

CEO, Southern Bone & Joint Specialists, P.A.

Mit Cole

President Jones County, The First A National Banking Assoc.

Robert Cornett

Owner, Cornett Group

Gigi Dillard

Community Leader

David Fortenberry

Producer, Stewart Sneed Hewes

Lawrence Hahn

Attorney, McNeese & Hahn, PLLC

John Hales

Director, Pearl River Valley Opportunity, Inc. Head Start

Rob Jackson, Jr.

Attorney, Jackson & Arrington, PLLC

Paul Laughlin

Community Leader

Michelle Mabry

Managing Partner/President, Client 1st Advisory Group

Lou Mapp

Realtor, London and Stetelma Commercial Realtors

Patty Munn

Retired Instructor, USM College of Business

Kent McCarty

Owner, Java Moe's Coffee Company

Morgan McCarty

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Holt McMullan

Southern Region President, Trustmark National Bank

Kris Powell

Attorney, Bryan Nelson, P.A.

Brady Raanes

Financial Advisor, Raanes Capital Advisors

Dr. Steve Ramp

Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Robin Robinson

Director Org. Dev. & Corp. Communication, Sanderson Farms

Bobby Tatum

President/CEO, Tatum Development Corporation

Richard Topp

Partner, Topp, McWhorter, Harvey, LLC

PAST PRESIDENTS

- Bill Oliver - 1997-1999

- Paul Laughlin - 2000-2001

- Gwen James - 2002-2003

- Dr. Aubrey Lucas - 2004 - 2005

- LouAnn Poynter - 2006

- Andy Mercier - 2007-2008

- Ed J. Langton - 2009-2001

- Hayden Mitchell - 2011-2002

-Iris Easterling - 2013-2014

DEEN AND TATE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The tragic loss of Hattiesburg police officers Benjamin Deen and Liquori Tate, after a routine traffic stop gone wrong on May 9, 2015, sent a shockwave of grief and disbelief through the Pine Belt community. Since the incident, Deen and Tate have been honored and memorialized in many ways – one being the Benjamin J. Deen and Liquori Tate Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The Benjamin J. Deen and Liquori Tate Scholarship Memorial Scholarship fund was established to provide scholarships to full-time Pine Belt law enforcement officers and/or their family members if the officer has sustained a career ending injury in the line of duty. Recipients of the Deen and Tate Memorial Scholarship must be from the Pine Belt area and can attend any community college, university, vocational school, or police academy.

On Saturday, May 21, 2016, the inaugural Deen and Tate Scholarship was awarded to Youlander Ross, the mother of fallen officer Liquori Tate, in the amount of \$2,000 to continue her education at Jackson State University. Ross is pursuing a degree in elementary education and attributes her perseverance to her son’s encouragement for her to follow her desired career path, making her the perfect recipient for the memorial scholarship.



COLUMBIA STRONG

On December 23, 2014 a tornado devastated the city of Columbia, Mississippi. Winds reached 165 mph - this EF-3 tornado caused \$958,500 of damages within the city -- affecting 172 homes and businesses in Marion County. The damage to the city was absolutely devastating and immediate aid was necessary to start the recovery process. The amount of money needed to help tornado victims recover and rebuild seemed impossible; however, the generosity of Pine Belt residents was made evident.

Pine Belt residents have shown a remarkable capacity to help their own in times of tragedy, as exemplified by the success of the Columbia Strong initiative. A telethon sponsored by WDAM and The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation in efforts to raise funds for the Columbia tornado victims produced an astounding \$218,000 in only one day.



Additional fundraising efforts resulted in Columbia Strong generating just under **\$500,000** to help rebuild lives. Columbia Strong marks one of the most successful initiatives ever managed by The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation.

COMMUNITY IMPACT



COMMUNITY IMPACT



THE GREATER PINEBELT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

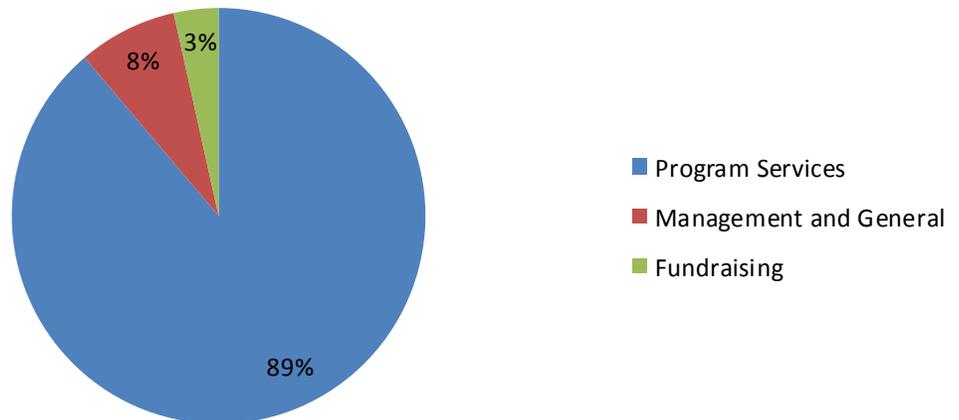
Assets

	2014	2015
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,097,682	\$1,067,551
Investments	\$2,697,555	\$3,253,671
Total Current Assets:	\$3,795,237	\$4,321,222
Fixed Assets:		
Furniture and equipment	\$81,681	\$82,801
Less accumulated depreciation	(\$45,826)	(\$70,728)
Total Fixed Assets:	\$35,855	\$12,073
Total Assets	\$3,831,092	\$4,333,295

Liabilities & Net Assets

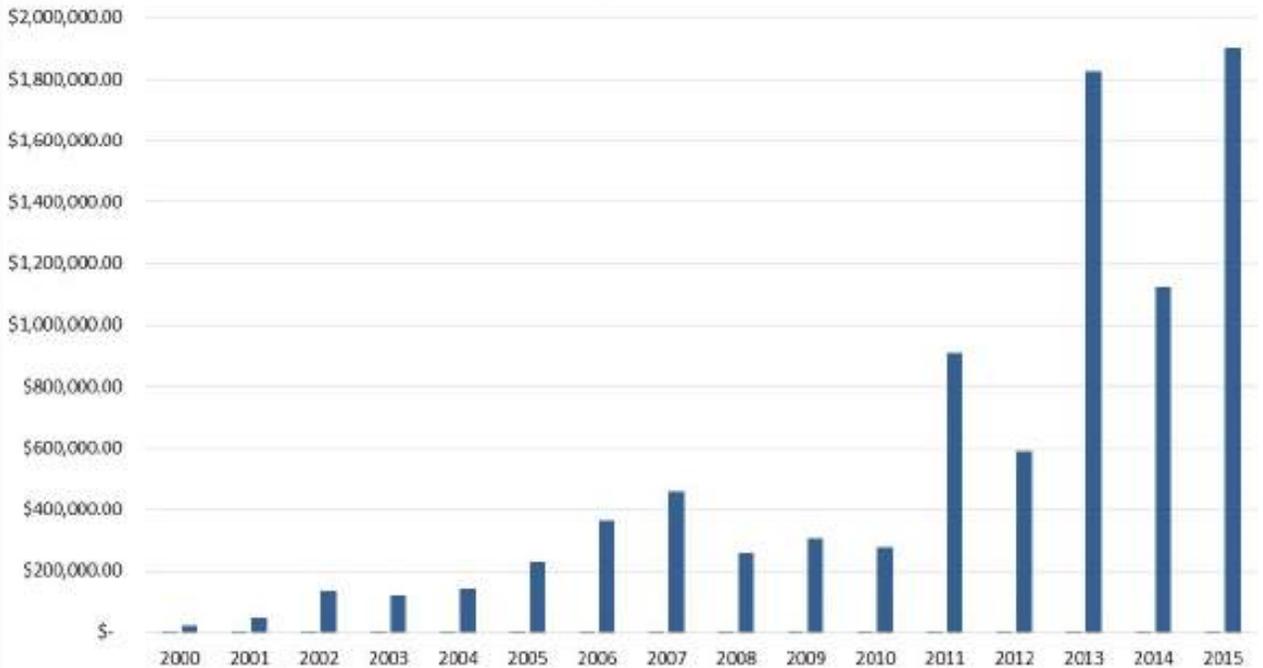
Current Liabilities:		
Payroll liabilities	\$1,334	\$3,635
Funds held as agency endowment obligations	\$499,190	\$515,340
Total Liabilities	\$500,524	\$518,975
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	\$240,220	\$201,129
Restricted	\$3,090,348	\$3,613,191
Total Net Assets	\$3,330,568	\$3,814,320
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,831,092	\$4,333,295

Greater Pinebelt Community Foundation Expense by Category to Total FYE December 31, 2015

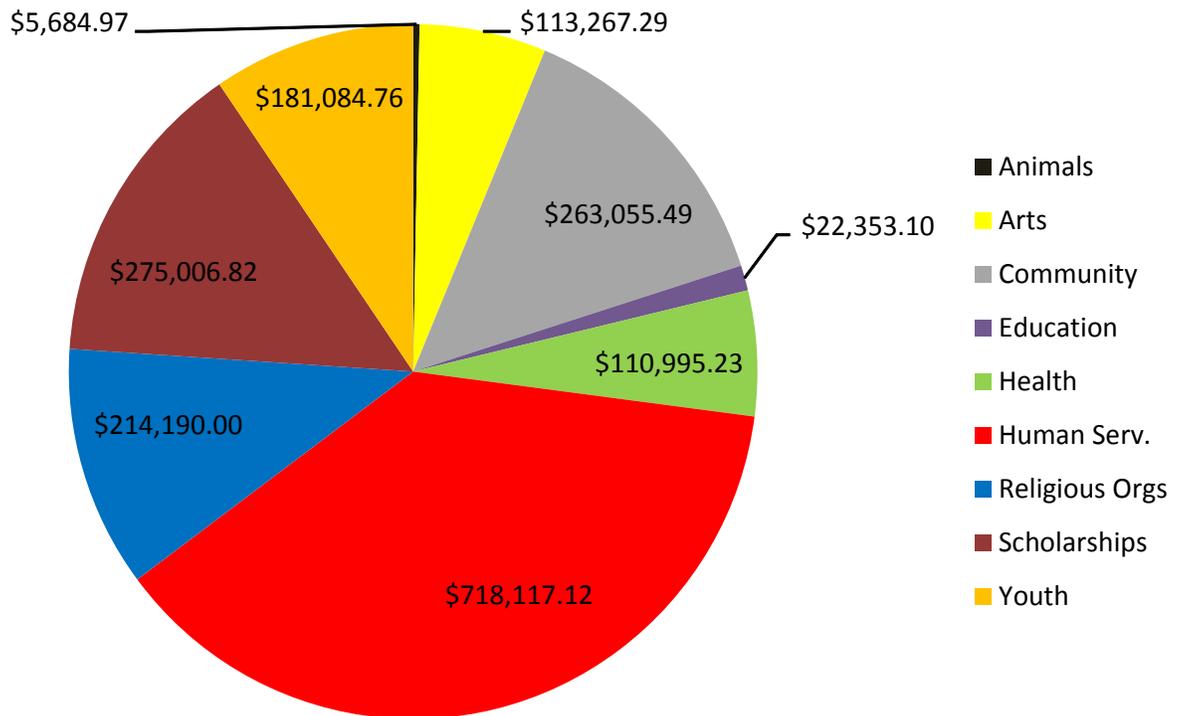


History of Gifts

Program Support: 2000-2015



2015 Areas of Support



WAYS TO GIVE

The PineBelt Community Foundation offers a wide range of options that donors can use to establish or donate to a charitable fund at The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation. The PineBelt Community Foundation provides professional gift planning assistance and facilitates a variety of gifts, including:

- **Cash or Outright Gifts** – Checks, cash or donations via our Website can be made and designated to any established fund or for the operations of the PineBelt Community Foundation.
- **Charitable Bequests** – this is a simple designation in a will or trust and costs nothing during your lifetime. They are easy to set up and revocable if the situation changes.
- **Memorial Gifts** – gifts in memory of a loved one is a generous way to honor his or her life.
- **Living Trusts (Revocable Trust)** – Avoids probate. The donor names the charity as a partial beneficiary.
- **Insurance Beneficiary Designation** – Donate a policy and deduct future premium payments, or just name the charity as a policy beneficiary or a partial beneficiary.
- **Charitable Remainder Trust** – A great tool for selling assets tax-free and receiving income for life; the remaining assets go to a charity. It provides steady cash flow and can be more beneficial than keeping an asset or selling it outright. The income to the grantor is currently materially more than can be owned on a savings or certificate of deposit account.
- **Charitable Lead Trust** – A Charitable Lead Trust helps a donor build a charitable fund with the PineBelt Community Foundation during the trust's term. When the trust terminates, the remaining assets are returned to the donor or transferred to the donor's heirs, often with significant tax savings.
- **Retirement Assets** – One of the simplest and most tax-efficient ways to leave a legacy is to name The PineBelt Community Foundation as a beneficiary of all or a percentage of your retirement plan. These are advantageous types of assets to leave to charity because they can be taxed heavily when left to heirs. Leaving a retirement plan to the PineBelt Community Foundation ensures that 100% of your gift will support your charitable interests.
- **Gift Annuity** – An agreement that can increase a donor's cash flow from a gift that provides guaranteed fixed payments for life. Lifetime annuity payments, based on age may be two or three times higher than your cash return on low-earning securities or CDs.
- **Family Business Stock** – When the time comes to transfer or sell the business, there are tax and practical reasons for including a charity in the plan. Tax advisors can be very creative.
- **Lifetime Bequest (Gift Now + Estate Pledge)** – Secures a current gift and increases potential for an even larger estate gift.
- **Real Estate** – Great for making a gift and also transferring the burden of managing the property. The gift can be made outright or can be made to a charitable remainder trust.
- **Bargain Sale** – You can sell your property at a discount, deduct the difference, and receive a lump sum or installment payments. It won't reduce your disposable funds.
- **Life Estate Deed** – You can deed your home or other property to charity, save taxes with a current deduction, and still use the property for the rest of your life.
- **Art and Other Assets** – This gift allows others to appreciate your special holdings.

Join US... Start Your Legacy!

- Create an endowed fund for your favorite nonprofit, church or school in honor or memory of a loved one.
- Start a scholarship fund and help change lives forever.
- Leave us as one of your beneficiaries on your life insurance policy or retirement plan. ***You will then become a PineBelt Community Foundation Legacy Society Member!***
- Give to an already-established Fund – help grow forever gifts!
- Become our Partner or Friend – invest in an organization that strengthens communities by connecting charitably minded people to causes that matter most to them.

Give a Gift That Gives Forever!

For more information visit our website at
www.PineBeltFoundation.org
or contact the following:

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