

Simplified Charitable Giving



GIVING SPOTLIGHT

The Time is Now to Plan For Year-End Giving.

The thermometer may still read 90 degrees, but with school back in session, football again on television, and pumpkin spice everything hitting our local stores, year-end giving will soon be upon us.

With a healthy stock market and looming tax reform, 2017 could be a good time to assess your financial and philanthropic goals to minimize your tax bill and maximize your charitable impact.

Here are a few things to consider for your philanthropy in the second half of the year:

1. The value of your charitable tax deduction.

Momentum is growing in Washington for Congress to address tax reform, however, there is no clear timeline for when that will happen. If proposals to change the 100 year-old charitable tax deduction are enacted, your charitable gifts may be more tax advantageous this year than in the future.

2017 is also a good time to exercise the ability to

use the "IRA Charitable Rollover." If you are over 70 ½ years old, you are able to direct some or all of your minimum required IRA distribution to the public charity of your choice. While the option is not available for donor-advised funds, you can contribute to other fund types such as a donor designated fund, scholarship or nonprofit endowment.

For those following tax reform closely, there are bills in both the House and Senate to permit "IRA Charitable Rollover" to be used for donor-advised funds. Only time will tell if these measures will pass. ETCF is keeping a close watch on these developments and will continue to provide timely updates.

2. The type of assets you can give.

Regardless of the size of your donations, be sure to consider using assets other than cash. Donors can fund charitable giving vehicles like donor-advised funds, with stock, real property or complex assets like business interests. There can be tax advantages to gifting appreciated securi-

ties, and more importantly, more funds available to donate to charity.

3. Planning for year-end and beyond.

The calendar year-end is also an ideal time to update or create your estate plans. A recent Gallup poll reports that only 44% of Americans have a will. An up-to-date estate plan will help protect your family and your future. ETCF offers free planning guides online at www.etcfgift.org.

We encourage you to call your trusted advisor for assistance in creating your charitable legacy. You can also call us today for assistance at 903-533-0208.



John Biggers Mural- The History of Black Education in Morris County

Northeast Texas Community College (NTCC) recently received a gift from The Burt and Nancy Marans Charitable Fund at East Texas Communities Foundation to restore a 1955 mural by Dr. John Biggers.

The mural is now on display at the Tyler Museum of Art from August 20th through September 10th. Following the showing in Tyler, the piece which is on a single bolt of muslin measuring twenty-two feet long and six feet tall, will be on permanent display at the NTCC campus.

Dr. Biggers is a well-known, highly respected African American artist, muralist, author and lecturer who passed away in 2001. With the addition of the mural, NTCC will be home to the largest known collection of Biggers' artwork.



The story of the unique piece begins in 1955 when Biggers was commissioned to paint the mural. The artwork depicts the struggles that African Americans faced in the early 20th century while trying to obtain an education. After the painting was completed, it was displayed for several years in what was once George Washington Carver High School, the African American school serving the Naples and Omaha communities in Morris County, Texas.



Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations

Mental Health Awareness on the Rise in East Texas Thanks to Local Initiatives

When the McSwane’s son, Patrick, was diagnosed with schizophrenia in 2005, their awareness of treatment options in East Texas was extremely limited. The family managed the disease for a short-time, but in 2012, Patrick lost his battle with schizophrenia. Doug McSwane and his wife Mo gave purpose to the family’s loss by working with Samaritan Counseling Center of East Texas to organize the first Peace of Mind conference in 2014 aimed at reducing the stigma surrounding mental illness and building awareness of the signs and symptoms.

“Everyone at some point will encounter a form of mental illness,” said Doug McSwane, a lawyer at the Potter Minton Firm and advisor to the McSwane Family Charitable Fund held at East Texas Communities Foundation. “It doesn’t make any difference if you’re rich, poor, what your gender is, what your race is, mental illness can affect us all.”

The McSwanes use their donor advised fund to support organizations providing assistance for families dealing with mental illness. Many ETCF fund holders have recommended grants to organizations providing counseling to individuals and families dealing with mental health issues caused by abuse, grief, depression, anxiety and addiction.

A few local nonprofits providing these services that have received grants include: Family Peace Project; East Texas Crisis Center; First Christian Pastoral Counseling Ministry and HELP Center / Maggie’s House Children’s Advocacy Center in Athens; Next Step Community Solutions and National Alliance on Mental Health Illness- Tyler (NAMI).

The next Peace of Mind conference will be held October 7, 2017 at Green Acres Crosswalk Conference Center. For more information go to www.peaceofmindtyler.com.



Mo and Doug McSwane, with help from the Samaritan Counseling Center of East Texas, formed the Peace of Mind conference held every fall in Tyler, Texas.

Gift of Real Estate Fuels A Passion For Parks

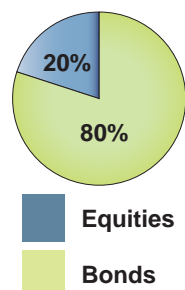
Some of the most unique gifts given to ETCF over the past quarter century have been gifts of real estate. One such gift was from Robert Faulkner. When Mr. Faulkner had the opportunity to give a gift of land for others to enjoy, he looked for an efficient way to make this happen. Mr. Faulkner’s intent was to donate land to the City of Tyler and the City of Lindale to develop two public parks. In 1997, he chose to make the initial gift of two parcels of land to East Texas Communities Foundation (ETCF) to help him accomplish this objective.

Today, the spray ground at Faulkner Park in South Tyler is alive with the sights and sounds of splashing water and children’s laughter. The nearby tennis courts and baseball fields seem to always be in use by area families sharing in their love of the outdoors. The next time you attend a baseball game, play tennis or hike the trails at Faulkner Park, think about the property you plan to pass down to others.

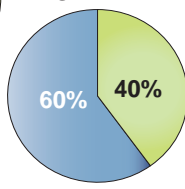
Making a contribution of real estate or mineral interests to benefit your favorite nonprofit may be your next best opportunity to inspire others. Feel free to contact us today for details on how a gift of real estate could help you achieve your philanthropic goals.



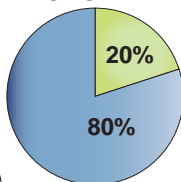
CONSERVATIVE



MODERATE



GROWTH



INVESTMENT RETURNS - As of June 30, 2017

PORTFOLIO	Year-To-Date	3 Year	5 Years	Since Inception
Conservative	4.8%	3.5%	4.3%	5.15% (02/03)
Moderate	7.6%	5.0%	7.8%	6.10% (02/03)
Moderate-ETF	7.2%	4.4%	7.7%	8.69% (09/11)
Growth	9.2%	5.7%	9.6%	7.69% (02/03)
Growth-ETF	8.8%	NA	NA	13.19% (03/16)

Additional information available at www.etcf.org. Returns shown are net of fees paid to money managers.

Bullard Rotary Club Plans Improvements for Bullard Kids Park

Built in 2013, Bullard Kid’s Park has quickly become a favorite of kids and a destination park for families across East Texas. Four years later, the Bullard Rotary Club has initiated Phase II of improvements for the park located in downtown Bullard, Texas.

“The project includes two new walking and jogging trails, as well as eight exercise stations,” said Bullard Rotary Club president Shawn Dunn. “We will be adding two more pavilions and paving the recently expanded parking lot to allow for more parking and bus parking.”



The Bullard Rotary Charitable Fund at East Texas Communities Foundation was established in 2012 to assist the Rotary Club with processing gifts during the original construction of the park. “We are once again using the fund at ETCF to receive contributions for this second phase of the park,” said Dunn. “The partnership has been fantastic between ETCF and our Rotary Club. ETCF handles the receiving of donations and the acknowledgment letters for us. It is a relief to know that the back office stuff is being taken care of for us and our donors are getting timely receipts.”

Sponsorship opportunities for Phase II of Bullard Kid’s Park include general donations, as well as sponsor bricks for \$125 each, eight exercise station sponsorships at \$8,000 each, and two pavilion sponsorships for \$10,000 each.

Donations for Bullard Kid’s Park Phase II can be made online by visiting ETCF.org or by calling our offices at 866-533-3823.

GRANTS

MAKING AN IMPACT +

Take a look at what is happening around East Texas. The pictures below represent just a few of the ways donors are investing in our communities through ETCF.



1.

Education: A grant from the Edwin A. “Blue” and Janice Owen Miller Charitable Fund was used by Athens Public Education Foundation to enrich the lives of students at Athens Independent School District. APEF made 15 grants to teachers throughout the district which impacted over 1800 students.



3.

Community: The City of Longview held their 4th of July Fireworks and Freedom Celebration at Maude Cobb Convention and Activity Complex. Grants from ETCF provided funding for fireworks at the event.



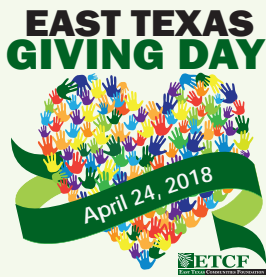
2.

Human Services: ETCF donors supported the annual Teddy Bear Picnic hosted by The Children’s Park of Tyler. Each spring, this event provides an opportunity for families to come to the park, play and celebrate children through the art of natural play.



4.

Human Services: Over \$120,000 in grants were initiated by ETCF fund holders in the wake of nine confirmed tornadoes that impacted Henderson, Van Zandt and Raines Counties. Pictured is Andy Teague cleaning up his living room after the April tornadoes. (Picture Credited to Andy Jacobson/The Dallas Morning News)



SAVE
THE
DATE!

ETCF
EAST TEXAS COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION
315 N. Broadway, Suite 210
Tyler, Texas 75702
www.etcf.org

EAST TEXAS
GIVING DAY
KICK OFF PARTY

Thursday, December 7, 2017
Tyler, Texas
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Details on event location to follow.
RSVP NOW by calling 903-533-0208
or email etcf@etcf.org.



facebook.com/SimplifiedGiving

For more information about ETCF, please contact us
at 866-533-3823 or etcf@etcf.org

EAST TEXAS COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION PRESENTS



NON-PROFIT EDUCATION
SERIES

RSVP by calling 903-533-0208 or email etcf@etcf.org.

FREE REGIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

TIPS FOR END-OF-YEAR GIVING.
HOW TO FINISH STRONG.

Wednesday, September 13, 2017
Texarkana, Texas
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Texarkana Public Library
600 West Third St. Texarkana, TX 75501

Tuesday, September 19, 2017
Longview, Texas
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Longview Community Connections Bldg.
501 Pine Tree Road Longview, TX 75604

Wednesday, September 27, 2017
Paris, Texas
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
the LOFT @ 123 Clarksville
123 Clarksville Street, Paris, TX 75460

Thursday, October 5, 2017
Lufkin, Texas
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Crown Colony Country Club
900 Crown Colony Drive Lufkin, TX 75901