

# Simplified Charitable Giving



## ETCF Appoints Kirgan as Board Chair, Adds New Board Members

East Texas Communities Foundation announces the appointment of Tiffany Kirgan to serve as Chairperson for 2021 and welcomes four new board members: Anthony Brooks, Cindi Featherston-Shields, David McWhorter and Mark Whatley.

Mrs. Kirgan, who has served since 2012 on the ETCF board, is a partner at Johnson Financial Group. A graduate of the University of Texas at Tyler, Mrs. Kirgan is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP), and has also earned her Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP) designation.



Cindi Featherston-Shields owns The Property Shoppe Group, eXp Realty in Tyler, Texas. Ms. Shields is a member of the National Association of Expert Advisors and holds a designation as a Certified Negotiations Expert.



David McWhorter is a native of Longview, Texas and is President of Gans & Smith Insurance Agency, Inc. Mr. McWhorter served as a past Mayor for the City of Longview as well as two terms on the City Council. Mr. McWhorter earned the designation of Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) and served on the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas Board of Directors.



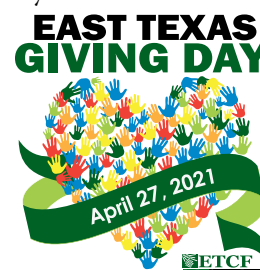
Mark Whatley is the President and Chief Executive Officer for Burns Commercial Properties. Mr. Whatley holds an Associates Degree in Real Estate from Trinity Valley Community College and a B.S. from Texas Tech University. Locally, Mr. Whatley has served on numerous nonprofit boards and has served as City of Tyler Councilman for District 5 since 2009.



Anthony Brooks serves as the CEO for Azalea Orthopedic and Sports Medicine. Mr. Brooks graduating from Texas State with an Accounting degree and went on to receive his Master in Business Administration from Webster University. Prior to joining Azalea, Mr. Brooks worked at Longview Regional Medical Center and actively participated in the Boys & Girls Club of Big Pines, the Longview Chamber and United Way.

## ETCF to Host Sixth Annual Regional Day of Giving

ETCF officially launched East Texas Giving Day 2021 by hosting a virtual kickoff in January.



Entering into its sixth year, East Texas Giving Day is an 18-hour, online giving event which will take place on Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

Benefiting nonprofits across the 32 counties served by ETCF, East Texas Giving Day has raised over \$5.3 million since its inception in 2016.

ETCF provides training to participating nonprofits to equip them with the skills needed to have a successful campaign. This year, trainings will be provided by webinar, allowing participants from the entire service area to take part.

Each session will be recorded and available online at [www.EastTexasGivingDay.org](http://www.EastTexasGivingDay.org) for nonprofits to review at anytime.

If you know of or are a part of an organization that would like to participate in East Texas Giving Day, you can find more information online at <https://www.easttexasgivingday.org> or by calling our office at 866-533-3823. Nonprofit registration ends March 31, 2021 at 5 p.m.

## ETCF Ends Year With Surge in Grants

In 2020, East Texas Communities Foundation awarded \$9.2 million in grants and scholarships as donors responded to the pandemic and increased community needs. In addition to the generous grantmaking seen in 2020, ETCF fundholders contributed more than \$12.3 million for future charitable giving due, in part, to a strong fourth quarter in the stock market. ETCF ended the year with \$124 million in charitable assets under management.

"Area residents gave generously this year," said Kyle Penney, ETCF

President. "The community gave millions of dollars to address the increase needs both here and nationally. Growth at ETCF reflects the priority of donors, working with area financial advisors, to make significant investments in philanthropy."

ETCF enters 2021 stewarding more than 400 unique charitable funds, established by individuals, families, corporations and nonprofit organizations.



After nine years as ETCF Program Officer, Mary Lynn Smith announced her retirement, effective February 1, 2021. During her tenure at the Foundation, she has witnessed the scholarship program double. "I will miss a lot of things about working at ETCF" said Mary Lynn. "I think I will miss most of all seeing the students faces light up when you tell them they will receive a scholarship to further their educational goals. It has been a rewarding experience that I will always cherish." Pictured with Mary Lynn is her husband Roger Smith.

## ETCF Hires Program Officer



ETCF is excited to announce the addition of Kathryn Martinez to our staff as Program Officer.

Prior to joining ETCF, Martinez served as a member of the Advancement Team at the University of Texas at Tyler, College of Arts and Science.

Kathryn has worked in numerous capacities with local nonprofits for the past 10 years including the American Cancer Society, Susan G. Komen and the Alzheimer's Alliance of Smith County.

In the role of Program Officer, Kathryn will assist with the administration of scholarships at ETCF as well as process grant recommendations. Kathryn can be reached at [kmartinez@etcf.org](mailto:kmartinez@etcf.org) or by calling 903-533-0208, ext 103.

## Tyler ISD Receives Grant from ETCF for Name Change

ETCF President, Kyle Penney, presented a check in the amount of \$91,362 to the board of Tyler Independent School District. The check represents the initial distribution from the Tyler ISD Future Fund, a fund established by citizens to receive public contributions to offset expenses related to renaming both local high schools.

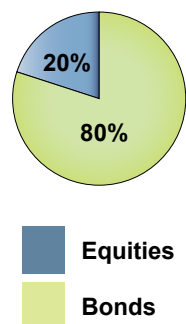
"The creation of this fund demonstrates the generosity of our community and the support for our students and faculty within Tyler ISD," said Kyle Penney, East Texas Communities Foundation President. "We are pleased that ETCF has had the opportunity to help facilitate support from the community in this historic endeavor. The district is navigating very challenging issues related to operating in a COVID environment. It is the least we could do at ETCF to work with citizens to facilitate public support for this project. The

main objective of this fund is to allow the public to make contributions for this effort so tax dollars can remain focused on instruction and other voter approved infrastructure projects."

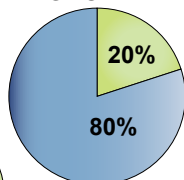


Tyler ISD School Board members accept a check from ETCF to offset cost of rebranding due to the recent name change of both high schools. Pictured left to right: Aaron Martinez, Fritz Hager, Kyle Penney, Wade Washmon, Dr. Patricia Nation, Yvonne Atkins, and Artis Newsome.

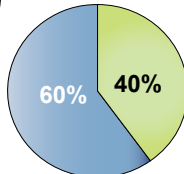
### CONSERVATIVE



### GROWTH



### MODERATE



## INVESTMENT RETURNS- As of December 31, 2020

| PORTFOLIO        | Year-To-Date | 3 Year | 5 Years | Since Inception |
|------------------|--------------|--------|---------|-----------------|
| Conservative     | 9.38%        | 6.38%  | 6.50%   | 5.48% (02/03)   |
| Conservative-ETF | 3.37%        | NA     | NA      | 5.97% (06/20)   |
| Moderate         | 12.19%       | 8.36%  | 9.05%   | 6.37% (02/03)   |
| Moderate-ETF     | 13.61%       | 8.95%  | 9.57%   | 8.54% (09/11)   |
| Growth           | 16.35%       | 9.60%  | 10.70%  | 8.32% (02/03)   |
| Growth-ETF       | 14.87%       | 10.15% | NA      | 12.55% (03/16)  |

Additional information available at [www.etcf.org](http://www.etcf.org). Returns shown are net of fees paid to money managers.



## Jones Scholarship Created to Support Rusk County Students

Dalton and Betty Jones, lifelong residents of Rusk County, were active in their community. They were long time members of the First Baptist Church where he served as a Deacon. For 35 years, they shared in the role of teaching the Young Adult Sunday School class. Mr. Jones also served his country in the United States Army.

Dalton and Betty Jones loved to support the youth in their community of Henderson, Texas. So much so, through their estate, they created two scholarships benefiting Rusk County graduating seniors. The Dalton and Betty Jones Scholarship and the Dalton and Betty Jones Vocational/ Technical Study Scholarship were established to create opportunities for area students to obtain a good education and have rewarding careers.

If you would like to discuss creating a scholarship at ETCF, please call 903-533-0208 to set up an appointment.



# GRANTS

MAKING AN IMPACT +

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



#GIVING TUESDAY  
East Texas

2.

**Community Impact:** Over \$726,000 was granted to nonprofits as part of #GivingTuesday 2020. #GivingTuesday happens the first Tuesday, after Thanksgiving every year. ETCF encouraged fund holders to support this fundraising effort in light of the increase in demand for services at nonprofits due to the pandemic.

**Youth Development:** A grant to the Tyler Police Foundation provided gift cards to area children as part of the annual Blue Santa campaign. Approximately 280 children participated in the 2020 event.

**Animals:** Wild & Free Again Raptor Rehabilitation, based in Lindale, Texas, received a grant from ETCF to assist with the care and rescue of raptors and other birds of prey across Northeast Texas. The goal of wildlife rehab is to help the animal heal and be released back into the wild.



**Arts & Culture:** The Evans-Merrick Music Grants Fund awarded a grant to the East Texas Symphonic Band, which typically holds a free, public concert in Teague Park in Longview, Texas on the Monday prior to Memorial Day. The 2020 concert had to be postponed due to Covid 19 restrictions.



**ENVIRONMENT:** A grant to the Friends of the Neches River helped provide nesting boxes for wood ducks nesting at the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge near Jacksonville, Texas.

# SAVE THE DATE!

Early Giving Starts

April 5, 2021

## EAST TEXAS GIVING DAY



### ETCF

EAST TEXAS COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION

315 N. Broadway, Suite 210

Tyler, Texas 75702

[www.etcf.org](http://www.etcf.org)



[facebook.com/SimplifiedGiving](https://facebook.com/SimplifiedGiving)

Want to learn more about Giving Day?

Go online to

[www.easttexasgivingday.org](http://www.easttexasgivingday.org).

For more information about ETCF, please contact us  
at 866-533-3823 or [info@etcf.org](mailto:info@etcf.org)

## DONOR EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

# How Do We Stay Connected... Until We Meet Again?

As a connected community member, you know the need is high, but without the usual fundraising events, you aren't sure how to connect with nonprofits or how to identify the greatest community needs.

Join us for this virtual training designed to help you and your advisor better understand how to incorporate the tax-smart tools offered by ETCF into your giving strategy- *and make an impact in the community you love.*

## Tuesday, May 4, 2021

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

This virtual meeting is designed for  
Donors and their trusted Advisors

Please RSVP to 903-533-0208  
or [RSVP@etcf.org](mailto:RSVP@etcf.org)

1 hour continuing education for CLE, CFP, CPE.

