ETCF Grants over $100K to Henderson County Nonprofits

The Edwin A. Blue and Janice Owen Miller Charitable Fund held at East Texas Communities Foundation (ETCF) in Tyler, Texas awarded $125,000 to assist 17 charities serving Henderson County, Texas.

“Mrs. Miller was a generous benefactor during her lifetime, giving both her time and her resources to many groups and worthy causes in and around Athens,” said Kyle Penney, President of East Texas Communities Foundation. “Mrs. Miller made plans before her death in 2007 to establish an endowment fund that continues to fulfill her charitable objectives in her beloved community.”

The Henderson County United Way received a grant for a new program called Ride United. “The Ride United program is a partnership between Lyft Ride Services and Henderson County United Way,” said Kilena Underwood, Executive Director of the Henderson County United Way. “Through this collaboration, we will be able to provide free-of-charge rides to help people access essential items and services such as rides to medical appointments.” Underwood went on to add that “Henderson County is fairly large resulting in significant commuting distances. With no formalized public transportation, this program will make a huge impact on our vulnerable populations that experience rural isolation.” The mission of the Henderson County United Way is to advocate and fundraise in support of educational, health and human service agencies by engaging residents, corporate citizens and stakeholders to help people by helping others.

ETCF seeks strong projects based on good ideas and compelling needs which have the potential to improve Henderson County residence. Applicants are limited to non-profits with 501(c)(3) status or governmental entities providing services in Henderson County, Texas. Grant requests for support in the areas of education, health, human services, environment, and the arts are welcome. A grant committee composed of representatives of Henderson County review all grant applications.

**Nonprofits awarded grants include:**
- The Ark Campus Ministry for general support.
- Athens High School to support the library by providing updated sections of nonfiction, ebooks and teacher requested titles.
- CASA of Trinity Valley’s marketing campaign to raise awareness of mission and gain volunteers and the purchase of CASA branded teddy bears.
- Children’s Clothing Ministry of First Baptist Church, Athens, Texas, to provide shoes to public school students for the upcoming school year.
- East Texas Arboretum to provide property insurance.
- East Texas Crisis Center will provide face-to-face violence intervention, safety, shelter and advocacy for clients.
- East Texas Food Bank for their fresh produce program.
- Friends of the Library, Henderson County to purchase ebooks and audio books via the Libby app.
- Henderson County Food Pantry to purchase food supplies and maintain inventory.
- Henderson County HELP Center to provide behavioral therapy for child victims of abuse and neglect.
- Labor of Love to provide wheelchair ramps to 8 clients.
- Lila Lane Outreach to assist with general operating cost, utility bills and maintenance cost.
- Malakoff Elementary School to start an Urban Garden and outdoor classroom.
- Community Food Pantry in Tool / Miss Fran’s Teaching Garden for Phase II of the garden and general operating support.
- Library at Cedar Creek Lake for materials and supplies to supplement literacy programs and initiatives.
Mrs. A.D. Francis Endowment Awards Funds to Winnsboro Area Nonprofits

The Mrs. A.D. Francis Endowment Fund held at ETCF made grants to the Winnsboro Center for the Arts, Winnsboro Community Resource Center and Hooves and Halos.

“We are pleased to carry out the legacy of Mrs. A.D. Francis with the assistance from the Winnsboro Community Foundation,” said Kyle Penney, President of East Texas Communities Foundation. “We greatly appreciate their help in selecting projects which meet the needs of the Winnsboro community.”

The Winnsboro Center for the Arts received funding to support the 2023 Winnsboro Festival of Books. “Next year will be our fifth year hosting the Festival of Books,” said Mary White, Executive Director for the Winnsboro Center of the Arts. “Our growth, while spectacular, has forced us outside of our building space, therefore we plan to use this grant to provide a tent to house the activities.”

The 2023 event will expand into two-days. Friday will focus on books for children. “We are very excited to have an opportunity for children’s authors to be on site and present to local school students,” said White. “We are also planning a workshop for writers and panel discussions on Saturday.” The Festival of Books is free for the public to attend.

Winnsboro Center for the Arts mission is to engage people in the arts through educational programming, cultural experiences and entertainment.

Winnsboro Community Resource Center (WCRC), whose mission is dedicated to providing resources to economically disadvantaged within the community by providing the stepping stone that will lead to a path of self-reliance, received funds to assist with the purchase of food.

“This grant will provide approximately one and a half months of food,” said Ray Richter, Executive Director for Winnsboro Community Resource Center. “We have been experiencing an extra level of pressure on us with the rising cost of purchasing food coupled with the additional families in the community seeking out our services.” Within the first six months of the year, WCRC has served over 1,000 families in the Winnsboro area.

Hooves and Halos received a grant to assist with the purchase of shirts for their annual fall playday. “Our Fall event has always been our largest event of the year,” said Johnette Poole, CEO of Hooves and Halos. “We expect over 1,000 to attend our November 2nd.” The mission of Hooves and Halos is to provide equine recreational programs to individuals that are physically or mentally challenged, discouraged or disadvantaged.

The purpose of the A.D. Francis Endowment Fund is to support and build the capacity of public charities serving Wood County.

INVESTMENT RETURNS - As of September 30, 2022

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PORTFOLIO</th>
<th>Year-To-Date</th>
<th>3 Year</th>
<th>5 Years</th>
<th>Since Inception</th>
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<td>3.62% (02/03)</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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Additional information available at www.etcf.org. Returns shown are net of fees paid to money managers.
Scholarship Celebrates 12 years of Outstanding High School Applicants

The Gladys and Thomas “T.B.” Stewart Scholarship was created through an estate gift in 2010. The Stewarts, life-long residents of Tyler, valued their faith and the role of education in their lives and served as positive role models to young people.

Mrs. Stewart was an educator with Tyler ISD for 40 years. It was the Stewarts’ desire to make a lasting contribution to their community by rewarding students who share their values of faith, education, and high moral character. Since inception, the Stewart scholarship has awarded over $260,000 in scholarships to high school seniors. The 2022 scholarship recipients were Kiyymi Lamea, Jessie Espinoza and Cambree Sessions.

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.

Education: The Gladys and Tomas “TB” Stewart Education Fund made a grant to the Tyler Area Business Education Council to support their annual “School is Cool” event. Organizers distributed 2,000 backpacks with supplies in 90 minutes. The event is held in partnership with the City of Tyler, Tyler Area Business Education Council, and Tyler ISD.

Historic Preservation: The City of Tyler, Parks and Recreation received a grant to make improvements to the historic Oakwood Cemetery. The cemetery was established in 1849 and currently encompasses 20 acres of land with more than 2,000 inscribed tombstones. The cemetery is the burial ground for 300 graves of Civil War soldiers.

Youth Development: The Chapel Hill Youth Football and Cheer Association received a grant to assist with the purchase of uniforms and game day expenses. The youth football program enables students age 7-12 to participate in team sports while teaching character skills, sportsmanship and teamwork.

Human Needs: A grant to Newgate Mission will help provide sleeping bags for the homeless this winter. The Gregg County based mission serves approximately 200 people a day. Newgate Mission is a Christ-centered community providing hope, love and purpose to those in need.

Youth Development: A grant to Elijah’s Retreat will provide opportunities for children with autism and their families to relax, rejuvenate and experience the wonder of nature. Elijah’s Retreat, founded in 2009, sits on 50-acres in Cherokee County, Texas.
Holiday Hours
ETCF offices will be closed:

Thursday, November 24th
& Friday, November 25th
In observance of Thanksgiving

Monday, December 26th
In observance of Christmas

Monday, January 2nd
In observance of New Year’s

Nonprofit Registration Opens
Wednesday, January 25th
register your nonprofit online at
www.EastTexasGivingDay.org

Want to be a part of East Texas Giving Day 2023?
Plan to attend our virtual trainings & learn how to build a successful campaign.
Use your smart phone to scan the QR code or go to
www.easttexasgivingday.org for details!