

Simplified Charitable Giving



\$3.52 Million Raised for Area Nonprofits through Online East Texas Giving Day Campaign.

Nonprofits in East Texas benefited from the generosity of 5,537 donors during East Texas Giving Day, the region's recognized day of giving to support local nonprofits.

The online fundraising effort began at 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 29th, and ended at midnight. Donors contributed \$3,526,958 to support causes they care about in 32 East Texas counties.

"East Texas residents stepped up in a big way," said Kyle Penney, President of East Texas Communities Foundation, which hosts the online event. "Nonprofit organizations spent countless hours getting the word out about the needs facing our region. Donors across East Texas responded generously to meet the call. It's a community effort we can all be proud of."



During East Texas Giving Day, nonprofit organizations encouraged their donors and the public to make charitable donations online at www.EastTexasGivingDay.org. Donors could choose among 366 participating charities, and make donations starting at just \$10. Throughout the day, donations to select nonprofits were

eligible to be matched thanks to the generosity of individuals and nonprofit business partners that had already pledged funds to the charities they support. This year, \$1.1 million in match was available on the East Texas Giving Day website.

For a complete look at this year's results, go to <https://www.easttex-asingivingday.org/>

Northeast Texas Community College (NTCC), encouraged supporters to give on East Texas Giving Day.



Use the QR Code to see the impact Giving Day had on NTCC.

Smith County Libraries Awarded Grants

Tyler Library Foundation Fund at East Texas Communities Foundation awarded \$27,000 in grants to community libraries in Smith County in May.

The grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$6,000 will be used for new public computers and WIFI hot spots, electronic books, STEM kits and Summer reading programs.

Whitehouse Community Library received a grant to assist with their annual Summer Reading Program and general program supplies. "A large portion of funds received from this grant will go toward the implementation of an online streaming service for our patrons," said Olivia Saldana, library director. "Keeping our DVD collection updated has been difficult and costly. Patrons have been asking for the added convenience of streaming videos and content. We have found that the best solution for our patrons is the free streaming platform Kanopy, which we feel will boost library use, specifically amongst teens and young adults."

Tyler Library Foundation Fund was created in 2009 as a field-of-interest fund to support community libraries located in Smith County. Each spring, a grant recommendation committee meets to review requests submitted by these libraries.



ETCF Awards Over \$1 Million in Scholarships

East Texas Communities Foundation awarded \$1.1 million in scholarships to high school and college students across East Texas for the 2025-26 school year. Scholarship amounts range from \$500-\$30,000 per student.

“East Texas Communities Foundation is honored to help these deserving students continue their education. It is our privilege to fulfill the charitable goals of the many individuals, organizations, and families who have made it possible,” said Kyle Penney, President of East Texas Communities Foundation. “Each year we are impressed with the quality of students applying for these funds. The donors who have invested in these students through the creation of scholarship funds have given a lasting gift to all East Texans.”

This year students from Tyler Legacy High School received the most awards followed by Early College High School at TISD and Clarksville High School in Red River County, Texas. Students planning to enter into Vocational / Technical degree plans made up 17% of scholarship recipients while students that selected majors of science or engineering lead with 27%.

ETCF recognized 318 recipients of scholarships. Over 10,000 applicants applied for available scholarships this year.



East Texas Communities Foundation President, Kyle Penney, recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in Foundations on the Hill, a national event that brings philanthropic leaders together with policymakers.

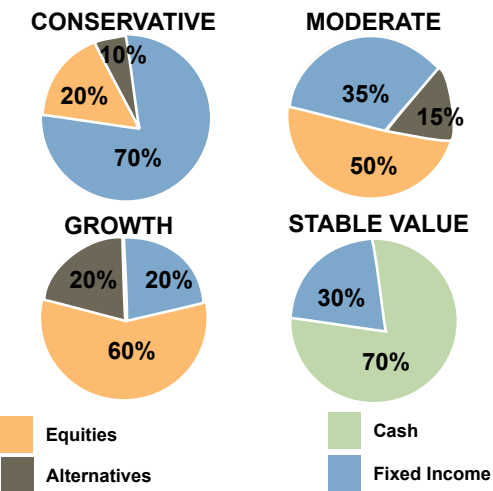
Over the course of more than 25 meetings, Kyle and fellow Community Foundation delegates engaged in meaningful dialogue with elected officials and legislative teams, emphasizing the vital role philanthropy plays in shaping public policy and driving positive change in communities across the country.

“These conversations are essential,” said Penney. “They give us the opportunity to highlight the real, lasting impact that local philanthropy has—and to ensure the voices of East Texans are part of the national conversation.”

Pictured left to right: Congressman Nathaniel Moran, Kyle Penney and Carl Illig member of the Public Policy committee of Philanthropy Southwest.



Scholarship recipients from Tyler Legacy High School.



INVESTMENT RETURNS- As of March 31, 2025				
PORTFOLIO	Year-To-Date	3 Year	5 Years	Since Inception
Stable Value	1.44%	NA	NA	3.11% (02/23)
Conservative- Active	1.40%	1.16%	1.81%	3.92% (02/03)
Conservative- Passive	1.36%	1.28%	NA	1.43% (06/20)
Moderate- Active	0.09%	3.79%	7.13%	5.53% (02/03)
Moderate- Passive	0.27%	4.02%	8.81%	6.96% (09/11)
Growth- Active	-0.75%	5.25%	10.72%	6.95% (02/03)
Growth- Passive	-0.79%	4.98%	11.97%	9.15% (03/16)

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

Family Scholarship Recognizes Rural East Texas Student

The Minton Family Scholarship is the legacy of a family devoted to the community and to the young people of Sabine County, Texas. The Fund was established to benefit students graduating from Hemphill, West Sabine and Brookeland High Schools.

West Sabine High School graduate and Minton Scholarship recipient, Lucas Burrow said, "I fully intend to make a difference in my community through a career in electrical engineering. This scholarship has provided support needed to make that dream a reality."

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.



2.

Health: Therapet utilizes specially trained and certified animals to promote health, hope, and healing. Animals in the Therapet program, inspire patients in therapy to walk a little farther, motivate children to read aloud with confidence, and provide comfort to hospital patients. Grants to Therapet help the organization serve individuals at medical facilities at no charge.

Community Improvement: ETCF fundholders made grants to support the efforts of Smith County based nonprofit, Love Thy City. Established in 2024, the nonprofits mission is to unite cities by expressing tangible love for spiritual and societal transformation. In 2024, the nonprofit hosted their signature event, Love Thy City Day, which welcomed 8,000 attendees.



1.



3.

Youth Development: The Every Last Inning (ELI) Foundation made a grant to support registrations for youth baseball programs. The ELI Foundation's mission is to provide opportunities for youth to engage in sports, develop life skills, and foster a sense of community and teamwork.



5.

Religion: Grants to Encouragement Radio have helped the media group provide Christian music and programming to the growing Hispanic population of East Texas and beyond.



4.

Youth Development: Students at Chapel Hill Elementary in Titus County, Texas, received two free books as part of Titus County Reads, a program of Titus County Cares. In 2023, Titus County Reads distributed over 5,100 books to children in the four Mt. Pleasant elementary campuses as well as Chapel Hill and Harts Bluff schools. Titus County Cares coordinates resources to meet the needs of residence in the county.

THE BEST WAY to predict THE FUTURE IS TO Create IT

Get started today with a fund at...



www.ETCF.org

*East Texas Communities Foundation supports philanthropy by
offering simple ways to achieve your
charitable goals both now and into the future.*

East Texas Communities Foundation
315 N. Broadway, Suite 210
Tyler, Texas 75702
www.etcf.org



facebook.com/SimplifiedGiving

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

AUGUST IS NATIONAL MAKE-A-WILL MONTH

August is National Make-A-Will Month. Statistics show that nearly 67% of American adults don't have a legal will in place. Writing a will is a powerful way to steward your blessings while protecting the people you love and creating a legacy that extends for generations to come.

No matter what your "estate" includes, everyone needs a plan. Having a legal up-to-date will is a powerful way to protect your loved ones, make important decisions about the future on your own terms, and support the causes you value permanently.

Scan to Access Your Free Wills Planner

Questions about wills or charitable bequest?
Call our offices at 903-533-0208.

