THE DAVIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IS GROWING OUR FUTURE NOW! WE BELIEVE THE INVESTMENTS WE MAKE TODAY THROUGH GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS TRULY DO AFFECT THE FUTURE OF INDIVIDUALS AND OUR COMMUNITY. AS ENDOWMENTS GROW AND NEW ONES ARE ADDED, THE FOUNDATION'S ABILITY TO IMPACT DAVIE COUNTY AND OUR RESIDENTS INCREASES. THE ENCLOSED STORIES ARE ABOUT SOME OF OUR INVESTMENTS AND THE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE THEY ARE MAKING IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE HOPE YOU WILL BE INSPIRED TO JOIN WITH US IN "GROWING" THE FUTURE OF DAVIE COUNTY!
In the spring of 2018, the Davie County Future Farmers of America (FFA) received a grant from the Foundation’s S.U.R.F. Board to build a small raised bed garden for vegetables at the Family Promise Day Center. This summer, the garden produced delicious vegetables and enabled participants in their program to teach their children to cook healthy meals!

Next, the Davie County FFA requested a Community Grant to build a raised bed Community Garden at Davie County High School. With Healthy Davie funds, this project was set in place to benefit students and the community at large. Students also wanted their Community Garden to help spread awareness and play a part in alleviating food insecurity.

Alongside Mr. Ledbetter, the teacher sponsor of FFA, students set out to learn how to properly build and sustain a community garden. They studied the construction and irrigation of the garden, soil composition, planting, harvesting, growing seasons, composting, and much more. During the school’s Smart Lunch Program, students familiarized themselves with the proper safety equipment and worked together to complete the garden.

Since its construction in the spring of 2019, Davie High FFA’s Community Garden has produced over 400 pounds of produce. This abundance of produce is regularly distributed to students, staff, Hunger Fighters, and A Storehouse for Jesus. Some of the food is used by the Food Sciences department to teach culinary skills and promote healthy eating choices. The Science Club and Science teachers regularly use the Community Garden to conduct experiments and learning exercises. In addition to growing food and providing hands-on learning, the garden was also aesthetically pleasing as sunflowers were planted for the summer!
Davie County Schools puts a fun spin on a summer camp for 7th and 8th graders by offering STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Pipeline. This two-week experience was created in 2013 to increase interest and performance in STEM related studies for students across Davie County. The summer camp experience focuses on problem-based learning through a variety of activities, field trips, and the 4 C’s – collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking. In addition to increasing science and math knowledge, students learn leadership, communication, and teamwork skills as they work alongside peers from all three county middle schools.

Week one of the 2019 camp focused on Ecology. Students were given leaf packets that were collected over a two-week time span along the Yadkin River from Blowing Rock to Hanging Rock. Using the packets, they explored wildlife, insects, and learned about water pollution. They also traveled to the Greensboro Science Center where they learned more about the insects that were found in their packets. The technology portion of STEM was evident during a digital scavenger hunt and rollercoaster virtual reality simulation.

Week two focused on sound waves. Art was incorporated when students got to paint waves in one of the high school’s art studios. At the end of each week, students presented their learning to parents. The second week of presentations are typically more confident than the first because of the presentation practice that week one provides. STEM Pipeline helps students become better problem solvers and helps build teamwork skills.

Since its start in 2013, STEM Pipeline has seen an average of 65.72% of its students attend the Davie County High School’s STEM Center or Davie County Early College High School. Participants in the STEM Pipeline are tracked throughout the school year in order to determine individual success, leadership qualities, and continued interest in STEM-based studies.

66% of STEM pipeline students attend STEM center

STEM PIPELINE CAMP
When a family walks through the door of CARes, they meet with a Financial Coach and are given a spending tracker to be used for thirty days. After tracking their spending, they come back to meet with the Financial Coach and work to create a first draft household budget. If they complete the first phase, the family is invited to attend a Basics in Personal Finances workshop. This workshop is required to be awarded a car loan. After learning the basics of personal finance, the family once again meets with the Financial Coach to finalize their family budget, and discuss their credit. Applicants are encouraged to save the minimum requirement of a $300 down-payment needed to receive a CARes Project loan.

Among those impacted are Trampus and Laura Keen. When Laura acquired a car through a CARes loan, she was able to get a job within a week of the car purchase, allowing her to double the family’s income. Along with their car, Laura and her family will participate in a program that includes financial literacy courses, budgeting skills training, and credit counseling. Not only does CARes offer short term assistance, they make sure the Car Ownership Program offers a long-term opportunity to teach financial skills to customers and set them up for success.

Last year, The CARes Project reported that four vehicle purchases were made with approved loans. Two of the clients experienced an average of 30% increase in household income directly attributable to having reliable transportation. In one case, a single mom was able to gain better employment in the healthcare field because the reliable transportation allowed her increased mobility. Another client was able to return to the community college to continue her studies because of reliable transportation!
Summer break from school often causes academic regression for students who have spent all year learning reading, writing, and math. William R Davie Elementary School developed the Summer of Fun Learning Academy to fight that regression. By offering themed learning experiences while school is not in session, the camp is helping students become life-long learners.

Diane Ireland, one of the teachers involved in Summer of Fun Learning Academy, shared the story of three siblings who have been attending camp for many summers. The 2nd grade, 4th grade, and 5th grade students are sent to Summer of Fun Learning Academy by their mother who often expresses her appreciation for an engaging opportunity for her children to learn during the summer. The camp helps them work to meet grade level expectations, build comradery with their classmates, and experience structured, themed learning. The 5th grader is in the self-contained class at William R Davie. Mom has seen the benefit of Summer of Fun Learning Academy and happily allowed her special needs student to attend without worry. Although they learn differently, this student was able to engage in a classroom environment and work alongside peers. Diane is proud that she and the other teachers involved have created Summer of Fun Learning Academy to be an inclusive experience.

Many Spanish speaking students are sent to Summer of Fun Learning Academy by parents who want their children to be exposed to the English language all summer long. Being around peers and teachers who speak English helps them to retain and improve their language skills when not in school.

Older students are involved in Summer of Fun Learning Academy too! High school and middle school students who attended the camp themselves, assist as volunteers. They pull students out for one-on-one work in reading and writing.

The elementary students are attentive to the middle and high school students who were once in their shoes. One high school volunteer in particular helped at camp for the fourth year in a row this summer!

Each year, the theme for Summer of Fun Learning Academy changes. In the summer of 2019, it was “It’s A Splash!” With this theme, students enjoyed reading, math, and writing activities where they learned about the ocean. They became investigators of the sea and utilized their critical thinking skills, collaboration, and creativity through a variety of hands-on activities.

This is my second summer participating in the William R. Davie Summer of Fun Learning Academy as a teacher. I can say firsthand, it sure was a “splash!” Camp was highly successful in keeping students engaged in their learning so they did not regress in the skills they worked so hard to gain in the previous school year. I saw students across all grade levels maintaining their skills, and even advancing and mastering new skills, which ultimately supported their readiness for the upcoming school year in all academic areas. Summer of Fun Learning Academy is such a great way to make a difference beyond the other opportunities I have as an educator within the 180 day school year!"
In the spring of 2018, Davie County High School made Beach Volleyball a club sport. The explosive popularity of the fastest growing collegiate sport was evident when a total of 38 students participated on the team, both male and female. During the team’s first year, Andrew Hilton and Aiden McCartney were the 2019 Boys Triad Conference Champions and Ali Angel and Aimee Loj were the 2019 Girls Triad Conference Champions. Andrew Hilton and Nick Azar went on to win the state championship!

Seeing the desire of students to have a space to practice, play games, and host tournaments, the Davie Athletic Booster Club began the process of building courts on Davie High’s campus. They plan to open the courts with a grand opening tournament that will benefit Breast Cancer research.

With three all-inclusive, sand volleyball courts located on the grounds of Davie County High School, individuals of all ability levels will have a safe and inclusive place to play and receive adequate instruction in the growing sport of Beach Volleyball. This facility will contain professional grade level material and equipment that will be an attractive location for club training and competitions. Several weeks during the summer months, Davie County High School will offer the facility to host Beach Volleyball clinics to K-8 grade students. With over 8,000 kids enrolled in Davie County Schools, there is a definite need for modified or non-traditional sports.

Jennifer Smith attended a training in Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS) in June of 2018. Following the training, she piloted the TPRS teaching method in her Spanish classroom at Davie County High School. After observing impressive comprehension and fluency in her classroom, Mrs. Smith wanted to learn more about the TPRS method. This summer she attended an International Forum on Language Teaching through a Staff Development Grant. These grants, made through the Wendy & Mike Brenner Staff Development Fund, provide opportunities for teacher enrichment.

During her time at the conference, Mrs. Smith was able to observe Spanish and French language labs, improve her own fluency, and learn techniques that will allow her to teach using a more natural way of learning a language. “I’m excited to get back into the classroom and implement the new ideas and make tweaks in my teaching style from what I learned,” said Mrs. Smith.

A parent of one of Mrs. Smith’s students shared her opinion of the new teaching method, “I think it is awesome how my daughter is learning Spanish. I believe she is becoming more fluent in Spanish with this new program. It seems she is learning more than just words.”
Grants from the Davie County Hospital Foundation Fund will be made annually for projects that improve Healthcare in Davie County. Healthcare projects in the areas of Wellness and Prevention; Access and Awareness; and Mental Health and Behavioral Health are considered by the selection committee.

The Davie County Hospital Foundation Fund was one of three funds at Davie Community Foundation receiving a portion of the Davie County Hospital Foundation assets following its dissolution. Dollars were added to the Davie County Hospital Foundation Scholarship in an effort to support more Davie County students who wish to pursue careers in the medical field, and a Davie Medical Center Endowment was created to support Davie's hospital. All three of the funds are endowed and will distribute earnings annually for the purposes stated for each fund.

Davie County ranks 13th among 100 NC counties in “Health Outcomes” that include length and quality of life and 18th of 100 counties in “Health Factors” including Health Behaviors, Clinical Care, Social & Economic Factors and Physical Environment. Although Davie ranks in the upper tier of the state for both benchmarks, we know there are significant challenges relating to the overall “Health” of our community. The goal for grant funds is to have a positive impact on Davie Health Factors.

In its first year of grant making, the Davie County Hospital Foundation Fund awarded five grants. Two are highlighted here.

Cancer Services, Inc. received a Healthcare Grant for their creation of Chemo Care Kits and a Specialty Cooking Program. With a mission of enhancing health, life, and survivorship, Cancer Services has served Davie County since 1988. In 2018, 214 cancer survivors residing in Davie County benefited from their services. The Chemo Care Kits are survivor inspired and will help alleviate the most common discomforts associated with chemotherapy and cancer treatment. Each kit includes a specialty cancer cookbook, turbans, cocoa butter Chapstick, ginger products, a journal and pen, comfort socks, and specialty chemo cream. The kits will be distributed to 100 Davie County residents in active treatment or within six months of treatment. Cancer Services also plans to promote wellness through a specialty cooking program. This program will provide cooking demonstrations and recipes developed by a Registered Dietitian and Certified Specialist in Oncology Nutrition.

Davie County Recreation and Parks is in the process of building a Community Park that will house the largest Vortex Splashpad in North Carolina. With a Healthcare Grant they will purchase three aquatic wheelchairs for the Splashpad. The addition of these aquatic wheelchairs will bring awareness to the need for adaptive methods of recreation and give individuals with different abilities access to utilize this exciting amenity. Aquatic Wheelchairs were created for individuals, who under normal circumstances, would not be able to participate in water play! They will be available to patrons at no additional cost with reservations available during regular operational hours. Through the purchase of the aquatic wheelchairs, Davie County Recreation and Parks hopes to reach a new segment of the community that have limited access to basic accommodations.
LISA FOSTER
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

You may recognize the name of this 2010 White-Martin Scholarship recipient from her involvement in the Davie community. Lisa foster currently serves as the Executive Director of Family Promise of Davie County!

After graduating from high school, Lisa attended North Carolina State University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2014. Knowing that she wanted to work in the non-profit sector, Lisa attended The University of Georgia and earned a Master of Social Work and Master of Public Health in 2016.

While home for a long weekend, she learned about Family Promise through a member of her church. Family Promise is a local shelter program for families experiencing homelessness. When she returned to school, she began volunteering with the Athens, Georgia affiliate of Family Promise, a national organization. Because of the impact on families that she saw during her time volunteering in Georgia, Lisa knew she wanted Family Promise of Davie County to be part of her future.

As soon as I stepped foot in Chapel Hill, I knew that’s where I belonged. It felt like home, and it had everything I wanted! When the status of my application came back, I knew that I belonged. Even though I went into the Diana Springer Scholarship drawing sure of my acceptance into UNC Chapel Hill, I was prepared to walk away from the drawing with no scholarship. Of course, I was filled with nerves, but I’ve never had much luck with lottery tickets and I figured this would be the same. Having my name called first was one of the most amazing moments of my life as I was overwhelmed with excitement. I looked over at my dad as soon as it happened and I could’ve sworn we were both about to cry. Before we left, my dad said “your grandpa always knew you would get into Chapel Hill. He would be so proud of you”. My grandfather passed away the summer going into my senior year. My dad then said “I was talking to him, which I do sometimes when I feel like he’s watching over us, and I told him to just let your name be drawn first so you know God has you exactly where you’re supposed to be. I guess he was listening. You deserve this. You did this. We are all so proud of you.” It truly was a perfect storm of events, and I am so excited to call Chapel Hill my home for the next four years. My house has been filled with nothing but Carolina blue shirts, pajama pants, coffee mugs, and flags. My family and I are so excited to be Tar Heels!
With the anticipation of the opening of COGNITION, an interactive learning center and makerspace coming to Mocksville, we are excited to introduce you to this former scholarship recipient, Andrew Domanski. Andrew received the Roy and Ruth Eldridge Scholarship in 2011 and is now a Fabricator/Designer for Design Dimension, Inc. This company is a resource for creative exhibit design and build solutions for spaces within North Carolina and beyond. We are thrilled to have a former Davie Community Foundation scholarship recipient as one of the designers of COGNITION!

Before working for Design Dimension, Inc., Andrew earned a Bachelor’s of Industrial Design from North Carolina State School of Design. As part of his studies, he spent a summer semester in Prague, Czech Republic that allowed him to travel to nearly a dozen countries. Upon graduation, he worked in the Materials Lab at the Design School as a teaching assistant. He instructed students how to use tools and equipment safely, work through design problems, and come up with creative solutions to turn projects into reality. The role in the Materials Lab led Andrew to his fiancé, Gena!

Andrew then began working full time for Design Dimension, Inc. (DDI) where he says each day is different. Simply put, DDI is a full design and build shop with the capability to build almost anything one could dream up. From visitors’ centers for a state park, an exhibit in a history museum, branding for a corporate office, or COGNITION, Andrew’s daily role is to help ideas come to life. He and his team take ideas through inception, design, fabrication, then implementation.

Andrew’s latest projects include planning his and Gena’s wedding and building a house outside of Raleigh, NC. As a couple with design-orientated occupations, they have taken on the home building process. With dreams of traveling around the world and adventuring in his Jeep, Andrew is looking forward to making memories with his family. Although he is planting roots in Raleigh, he says, “Davie will always be home. I had a great amount of fun growing up and playing in the woods and those memories will always be with me. I feel it is a place I can relax and unwind.”
At some point in life, we all might dream of what it would be like to work at Walt Disney World. Karl Kassel, a Davie County Early College graduate and recipient of the MALLMARK Eagle Scout and White-Martin Scholarships, is getting to experience just that. After graduating from the Early College in 2015, Karl began taking classes at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG). He applied for and was accepted to the Disney College Program in the spring of 2017. While at Disney, Karl worked as a character attendant, escorting our favorite Disney characters around the various parks as they charmed guests.

Following the Disney College Program, Karl returned to UNCG and completed his degree in Communication Studies with minors in English and Media Studies. Upon graduation, Karl could not resist returning to work for Disney. He was cast in Mickey’s Once Upon a Christmastime Parade and classic show, Fantasmic! The Disney Aspire Program, which pays 100% of tuition up front for schools that are part of the Disney Aspire network, is now providing Karl with an opportunity to earn a master’s degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Bellevue University in Nebraska.

Karl’s service project experiences while at the Early College, and his experiences working with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the Davie County Public Library, sparked his interest in Communication Studies. He loves engaging with others and getting to know people better – both of which are qualities that fit his position at Disney beautifully! When he is not at work, Karl enjoys reading, cooking, and visiting his two favorite parks: Blizzard Beach Water Park and Magic Kingdom. It is exciting to hear the story of a scholarship recipient getting to enjoy the most magical place on earth!

Nick Ashburn’s involvement with the Davie Community Foundation began during his freshman year of high school as a member of the S.U.R.F. Board. For four years, Nick played a part in bettering Davie County through his work on the board. As a Senior in 2010, Nick Ashburn received the Davie County Crosby, Rotary Club of Mocksville, and Roy and Ruth Eldridge Scholarships.

Nick attended Wake Forest University to earn a Bachelor of Science in Biology with dreams of medical school. To see his dream through, Nick began his studies at the Wake Forest School of Medicine in 2014. Remembering the help of his undergraduate scholarships through the Davie Community Foundation, Nick applied for and received the Davie County Hospital Foundation Scholarship to help sustain his studies during four years of medical school. In 2018, he began his residency close to his Davie County roots. As a resident in Emergency Medicine at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Nick is cultivating his knowledge of medicine and investing in his research interests of cardiovascular risk stratification, prehospital emergency care, and flight medicine.

In June of 2018, Nick married his wife Kate. Originally from Austin, Texas, Kate quickly became acquainted with Davie County by working with the Davie County Public Library system. Both Nick and Kate have connections to the Davie County community and are grateful for the people and opportunities Davie provides.

When not working in the Emergency Department, Nick enjoys a 4:00am run, a long bike ride, hiking in the mountains, or spending time with his wife and their miniature labradoodle, Molly. We are excited that Nick and Kate have chosen to remain close to Davie County!
Brooke Ball graduated from Davie County High School in 2013 and received the Davie County Education Scholarship through Davie Community Foundation. She attended East Carolina University and earned a Bachelors in Business Administration with a concentration in Management Information Systems. Following graduation, Brooke began a job as a Business Analyst in the Technology Development Program of Optum Technology.

In October of 2017, Brooke married her husband, Travis. They bought a house in a local suburb of Raleigh, NC where they lived for two years. Recently, the Albrecht’s decided to move back to the Winston-Salem area and are settling into their new home. Brooke continues to work for Optum Technology, now as a Technical Project Manager within the Infrastructure Services organization. She manages a team of Infrastructure Engineers who work to complete all build requests of the internal and external clientele. With dreams of graduate school in the future, Brooke continues to challenge herself in her career. As a woman in the field of Technology, she hopes to continue breaking the mold and moving forward in the industry.

To Brooke, Davie County means home. She has family here and it’s where she attributes many childhood memories. She spoke fondly of her hometown saying, “Davie County has a way of making someone feel they belong somewhere in this world. I know when I go home, I will always see a smiling face shining back at me. Sometimes we don’t realize how blessed we are with living in a small town until we leave for a while. I can truly say Davie County and its residents have shaped and molded me into the woman I am today.”
Allison Lambert graduated from Davie County Early College in 2011 and received the Roy and Ruth Eldridge, Davie County Education, and White-Martin scholarships through Davie Community Foundation. She attended Liberty University and earned a degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education and an ACSI certification. As an educator, she too continues to learn through workshops and classes specific to her role as the Director of Childcare Ministries at First United Methodist Church (First UMC) in Mocksville.

Allison worked alongside her sister-in-law to start the After-School Ministry at First UMC from the ground up in 2014. She has directed the After-School and Summer Day Camp Ministries since 2014 and is now the Director of Childcare Ministries for the church. In this role, Allison wears many hats. She is either handling the administrative side of childcare ministries, playing with the preschoolers, participating in ministry opportunities around the church, going on adventures with summer day camp, or anything in between.

In 2016, Allison married her best friend, Joshua Gupton. They live in downtown Mocksville with their black lab mix, Charleigh Mae who is now 4 years old. She hopes to establish a family here in the community in which she grew up and loves dearly, let the light of Jesus shine through her work, and continue working with the next generation.

“Each day is different and through the ups and downs, I thank God for this wonderful opportunity I get to work alongside an amazing team, right here in my hometown that I truly love.”

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“Davie County means a small county in the heart of North Carolina, where the summers are long and the winters are fairly short. It means tractor parades, and Christmas parades and flags adorning Main Street. Davie County means people looking out for each other, and waving to strangers, and churches on every corner. Davie County means small town living with big opportunities right in our backyards through businesses that have broken ground here. Davie County means a school system (that I am a proud product of) that engages, equips and empowers its students and staff. Davie County means Advance, Mocksville, Cooleemee, one county under God. Davie county means home.”
Through the Davie Community Foundation, Samuel Nesbit received the Rotary Club of Mocksville Scholarship and the Spurgeon Goss Memorial Scholarship. Samuel graduated from Davie High in 2014 and then attended North Carolina State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Technology and Management. His areas of focus were environmental chemistry and toxicology. During his time at NC State, Samuel assisted with the raising of funds for childhood cancer research and suicide prevention through his fraternity. With an undergraduate degree in his tool belt, Samuel began his studies at Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law with plans to graduate in the spring of 2021.

"From walking the halls of William R. Davie Elementary to playing under the Friday Night Lights at War Eagle Stadium, I have been a Davie County boy through and through. One of the scholarships I received from the Foundation was the Spurgeon Goss Memorial Scholarship. Spurgeon was a ferocious defensive lineman. The scholarship is in honor of LCpl James Spurgeon Goss, a star football player from Davie County who was KIA while serving in the USMC during the Vietnam War. He received multiple decorations including the Combat Action Ribbon and Vietnam Service Medal. To say that having received such an award is humbling would be an understatement. It undoubtedly influenced my life goals and career plans."

Samuel was recently accepted to attend U.S. Marine Corps Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Quantics, Virginia in the summer of 2019. Upon his graduation from the program, he will be commissioned into the United States Marine Corp as a second lieutenant. He has also signed a contract with the Marine Corp to serve as a Judge Advocate General upon successful completion of his training with the Corps and passing the North Carolina Bar Exam following his graduation from Campbell. With his sights set on a future in the Marine Corps, Samuel's foremost goal in life is to do the Lord's work and accomplish that which he has put him on earth to do. He also dreams of becoming a proficient legal professional and meaningfully contribute to the field of law: When not studying, Samuel enjoys waterfowl hunting, hiking, and he participates in competitive shooting as a hobby. You will forever find him cheering on NC State’s Wolfpack!

"Davie County will always be where I consider home to be, no matter how many years removed my residency becomes. Indeed, whenever I am asked where I'm from, I answer with “Davie County” (or DCAW depending on the context)."
Davie Community Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 546
107 N. Salisbury Street
Mocksville, NC 27028
336-753-6903 | info@daviefoundation.org