

Davie Community Foundation – Article # 6

By Jane Simpson, President & CEO

This is the sixth article in a series about the Davie Community Foundation. Today I will focus on Grants because Grants are your dollars at work!

Twenty-five different non-profit organizations and churches receive a grant every year from one or more endowment funds at the Foundation. The endowments were established by people who believe in the mission of the organization and wanted to support it on a long-term basis. These organizations include a variety of Davie County churches, the Cooleemee Historical Association, A Storehouse for Jesus, Davie County Senior Services, United Way of Davie County, Davie County 4-H, and Smart Start of Davie County to name a few.

The oldest Church & Non-profit Fund is a wonderful example of the importance of endowment. In 1992 the estate of Jane McGuire left a bequest of \$463,784 to create the Mary and Jane McGuire Library Fund. For twenty-three years the fund has generated a grant for the Library. The average check sent each year was \$22,000, and the total awarded after twenty-three years reached \$508,238 in 2015! The fund has given itself away over time. The exciting part is that the Mary and Jane McGuire Library Fund still had a balance of \$494,580 in February after this year's check was sent! The fund has already begun giving itself away again and continues to grow because of earnings. Thanks to Jane McGuire's vision and generosity, the Library is able to pay a person to work in the History Room.

Grants are also recommended by advisors of Donor Advised Funds who can change the grantees every year as their interests change, or they can choose to support the same organizations. So far this year 111 grants have been recommended for organizations both in and outside Davie County totaling more than \$154,000!

Community Fund grants come from endowments that act just like the Church & Non-profit and Donor Advised Funds, but Community Funds give the Foundation Board the freedom to make the decisions about what to support in the community. Applications are accepted by the Foundation for grants from the Community Funds each year on February 1st. The Foundation Board makes the decision about what organizations and projects they will support with the money that is available. Since 2004 the Foundation's focus for Community Fund grants has been on making a positive impact on Youth and Literacy in Davie County. These were the top issues identified by a community needs assessment in 2004.

Grants have paid for elementary school summer reading camps, STEM camps, Kinder Camps, Smart Start's "Parents as Teachers" Program and Big Brother Big Sister's "Big Buddy" Program and more. All of these grants have been important investments in our children and youth.

Thanks to the creative activities and games offered at her summer reading camp at Pinebrook Elementary School, Brooke mastered the basics for reading. Now a sophomore at Davie High School Brooke is a terrific student who remains on the Honor Roll. Brooke thanks the teachers for "taking time in the summer and being so creative. It made a world of difference for her!" There are many examples just like Brooke of children who needed the extra attention in the small group, relaxed summer setting, to master reading basics. They are now successful students who enjoy reading and learning!

We believe the investments made in Youth and Literacy over the last twelve years have been very important to ensuring Davie children are reading and ready for future educational opportunities. Education of our children is at the very core of a "healthy" community – something we will talk about in more detail in next week's article. I hope you will watch for it.