



Celebrating 40 Years

The East Tennessee Foundation is a public 501(c)(3) nonprofit community foundation established in 1986 through a merger of the Community Foundation of East Tennessee and the Business Trust for the Arts. The Foundation is a collection of hundreds of individual charitable funds and supporting organizations established by individuals, families, businesses, and other nonprofits and foundations to make the region we love a better place, today and for future generations.

The East Tennessee Foundation does three things:

Receives
contributions
from generous,
community-
minded donors

Responsibly
manages and
invests assets

Awards grants
and scholarships
thoughtfully and
with intention

Proudly serving 25 counties in East Tennessee!



East Tennessee Foundation

525 Portland Street | Knoxville, TN 37919
865.524.1223 | etf@etf.org



OUR VISION

Thriving communities powered
by thoughtful giving.

OUR MISSION

We provide philanthropic
leadership inspiring donors
to make lives better and
communities stronger
in enduring ways
across generations.

WE VALUE

Trust
Leadership
Community
Stewardship
Philanthropy

Dear East Tennessee Friends,

In 2025, the East Tennessee Foundation (Foundation/ETF) remained true to our mission: to provide philanthropic leadership which inspires donors to make lives better and communities stronger in enduring ways across generations.

We continued to provide successful programming strategies that led to almost \$30 million in grants and student support being distributed throughout the region. We reviewed our day-to-day internal procedures to maximize external output and impact. We stressed top performance for our investment portfolios. And we seized opportunities to engage philanthropists and nonprofit organizations at deeper levels, resulting in over \$15 million raised for the year and over \$35 million committed in estate gifts – all to make more impact in our communities. None of this was done in a vacuum.

Early in the year we welcomed a new board class that represented the region geographically as well as added to our expertise in key areas such as finance, marketing, and industry leadership. Listening to, learning from, and leaning into our local community fund advisory boards, we stayed the course to ensure we understand the needs, build the funds, and distribute grants with a community-based focus. We worked with nonprofit organizations to help them grow their designated dollars and expand their reach. We held true to our promise to invest in our neighbors and their communities as they continued to heal from the flooding of Hurricane Helene.

In 2025, with your guidance and input, we created a new strategic plan. The board and staff were committed to a blueprint with measurable and accountable objectives, but one that would be organic and could evolve as we progress. With that in mind, three strategic goals quickly became evident: increase impact across East Tennessee, multiply assets under leadership, and demonstrate philanthropic leadership. We implemented this plan in August and began to immediately experience results.

The impacts of 2025 are more clearly viewed from a historical lens. For the Foundation's first 39 years, it leased office space. On September 30, 2025, the ETF Board of Directors conducted a historical vote to purchase property and move to a permanent location. Perkins Place is a 100-year-old former public school building that has been completely modernized, is easily accessible for our constituents, and is exceptionally accommodating for a multitude of nonprofit opportunities. Perkins Place is reflective of the East Tennessee Foundation: it is iconic; it is historic; and it has impacted countless lives and influenced hundreds of families and the community it has served. This building has been significant throughout its history, emulating the efforts and impacts of the Foundation. Perkins Place will provide ETF the right atmosphere and opportunities for many generations to come.

Thank you for your work, your wisdom, and your walk with us this past year. These types of big accomplishments are not possible without one another and a shared vision. The encouragement we receive from your engagement does not go unnoticed, and it is always appreciated. The inspiration you share is invigorating and contagious. As we reflect on 2025 and look to the future, we are better because of you.

Sincerely,
Dr. Keith Barber, President & CEO



**Click here to view the
digital flipbook version of
this report.**

A Decade of Firsts | 1986-1995



For four decades, the East Tennessee Foundation has been a trusted philanthropic leader in making lives better and communities stronger in our region. Our story is one of vision, growth, stewardship, and a deep commitment to the people and places we serve in East Tennessee.

Decade Highlights

The Community Foundation officially announced its merger with the Business Trust for the Arts at a June 30 reception at Club Le Conte. The merger had been approved by both boards at meetings on June 12, 1986.

The Foundation board, including new members from the Business Trust, voted on June 30 to change the group's name to the East Tennessee Foundation in recognition of the merger. The new name also emphasizes the Foundation's broad scope.

The six new board members are John Cooper, Jim Martin, Patricia Posma, Harwell Profit, Lawrence Whalen Jr. and Patsy Williams.

June 30, 1986: The East Tennessee Foundation is formed through the merger of the Community Foundation of East Tennessee and the Business Trust for the Arts, creating the only existing public foundation to benefit East Tennessee.



1987: ETF hosts the first of five annual "Flamingo Stakes" croquet tournaments to raise funds for the new Arts Fund for East Tennessee.



1993: The Fund for Greene County is born from a vision of donors who believed in restoring and renovating their historic downtown. It provides a mechanism to fund the restoration of the General Morgan Inn and the revitalization of Morgan Square in downtown Greeneville.

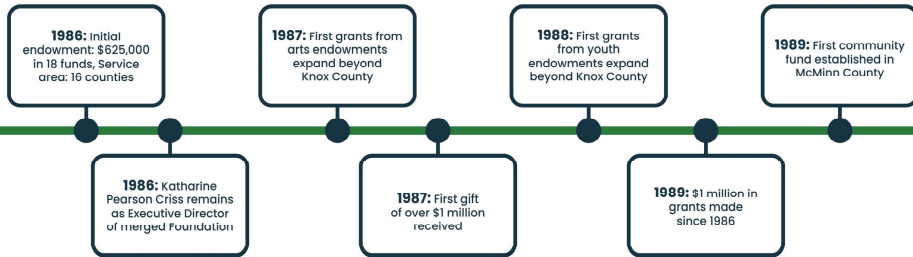


1993: ETF establishes the Affordable Housing Demonstration Fund in partnership with KCDC and the City of Knoxville. Now the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the fund has provided 6,112 families and individuals with housing and critical home repairs.

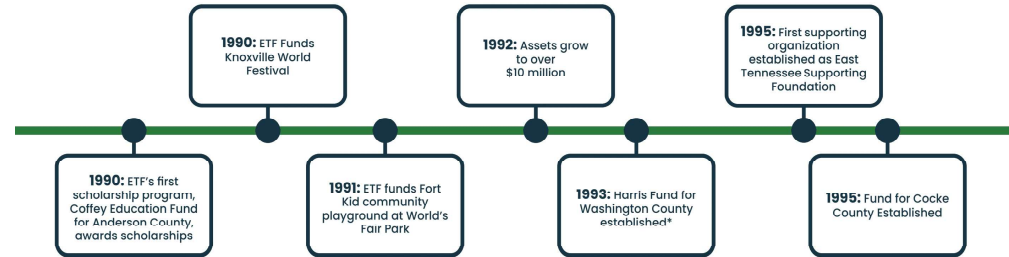


1994: The fountainhead at Fountain City Park is restored with funding from the Mr. and Mrs. Roy J. Brown Sr. Fund, established for the beautification of Fountain City.

*see current fund name on p. 26



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A Decade of Establishing Growth 1996-2005



Decade Highlights



1999: Nine Counties, One Vision, a public planning process to create a unified vision, with broad participation from residents, for Knox and 8 surrounding counties, is launched with funding from ETF's Nine Counties, One Vision Fund.



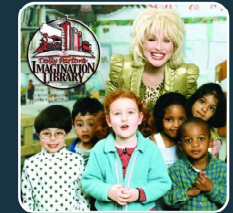
2001: Project GRAD, a program to work with Knoxville at-risk children to increase graduation rates and prepare them for college, is launched with funding from ETF's Project GRAD Knoxville Fund.



2003: ETF raises funds for and constructs the James Agee Park in the historic Fort Sanders Neighborhood of Knoxville. The park is dedicated to honor Agee, a Knoxville native and American novelist, screenwriter, journalist, poet, and film critic.

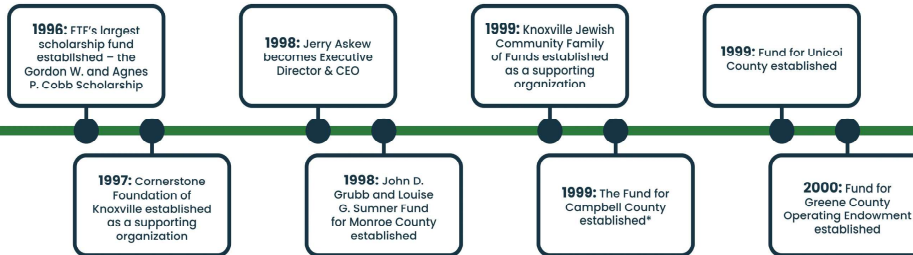


2004: ETF serves as fiscal sponsor for the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Greeneville, a 39,000 square foot, 1,150 seat venue enriching performing arts in the region, during its construction and opening.

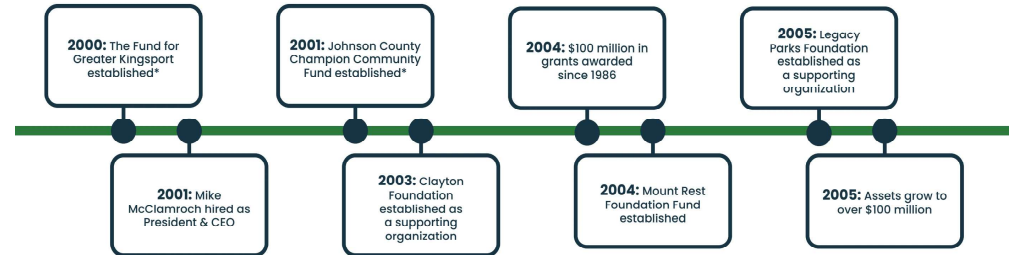


2005: ETF partners with Knox County through the Knox County Foundation Fund to support initiatives throughout the county, most notably Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a book gifting program that mails free books to children.

*see current fund name on p. 26



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A Decade of Sustaining the Region 2006-2015



Decade Highlights



2006: ETF's Women's Suffrage Coalition Fund honors the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage with dedication of the Tennessee Woman Suffrage Memorial statue on Market Square, Knoxville.



2009: ETF partners with Knox County, the City of Knoxville, and private donors to administer KnoxAchieves and TNAchieves, a precursor to TN Promise, initially providing 500 students from the Class of 2009 up to \$2,000 in tuition assistance to attend community college.



2011: ETF's Kingsport Community Foundation concludes its "Spirit Campaign" by raising over \$3.5 million to renovate and build recreational facilities in Kingsport.



2011: The Neighbor to Neighbor Disaster Relief Fund is created to immediately respond to the damage caused by flooding, hailstorms, and tornadoes in the region as well as providing an ongoing vehicle for future disaster response.



2015: ETF's Elizabethton/Carter County Community Foundation launches a special project to restore the historic Bonnie Kate Theater in Elizabethton.

2006: ETF achieves the Council on Foundations' National Standards Certification

2006: Elizabethton/Carter County Community Foundation established

2010: Women's Fund of East Tennessee established by ETF Board of Directors

2006: Service area grows to 25 counties with more than 300 funds and 10 supporting organizations

2009: Bonnaroo Music Festival establishes its charitable arm at ETF

2010: Union County Community Foundation established

2011: Trinity Health Foundation established as a supporting organization

2013: \$200 million in grants awarded since 1986

2014: Assets grow to over \$250 million

2015: Ted and Drama Russell Family Foundation established as a supporting organization

2012: Pat Summitt Foundation Fund established at ETF

2014: Jefferson Memorial Foundation Fund, ETF's largest fund to date, established

2014: Norris Area Community Foundation established

*now Jefferson Healthcare Foundation Fund

A Decade of Building Resilience 2016 - Present



Decade Highlights



2016: ETF renews the Neighbor to Neighbor Disaster Relief Fund and creates the Sevier County Community Fund in response to the destructive wildfires in the region, specifically in and around Gatlinburg. In total, over \$1.9 million is granted from all ETF funds for emergency and long-term recovery efforts.



2018: ETF's Women's Suffrage Coalition Fund dedicates second woman suffrage statue, the Burn Memorial, in downtown Knoxville.



2020: ETF activates the Neighbor to Neighbor Disaster Relief Fund in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. ETF mobilizes \$2.4 million from all ETF funds for COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts and moves all grantmaking processes and services online, making applications easier, speeding up funding, and removing barriers.



2024: Hurricane Helene hits East Tennessee and Western North Carolina, causing massive flooding and infrastructure damage. ETF plays a primary role in mobilizing philanthropy for the region, receiving an unprecedented 7,800 disaster-related gifts from around the world, resulting in more than \$5.5 million granted into recovering communities through 2025.



2025: ETF engages in an extensive planning process and launches an ambitious strategic plan, providing us with a blueprint to increase impact across East Tennessee, multiply assets under leadership, and deepen our role as a philanthropic leader in the region.

2016: Blount Community Fund established

2017: Sevier County Community Fund established

2017: Tellico Community Foundation established

2021: ETF ranks in Top 50 Community Foundations for assets under leadership

2017: Oak Ridge Fund for Achieving Excellence established

2017: Loudon County Community Fund established

2019: 4th Purpose Foundation is established as a supporting organization

2022: Morgan County Community Foundation established

2023: ETF receives a legacy gift to establish its largest designated fund to date for the benefit of Remote Area Medical and Knoxville Habitat for Humanity

2025: Assets hit \$705 million

2022: The first Safe Haven Baby Box in the state of Tennessee was installed in Knoxville with grant from ETF

2023: ETF welcomes its fourth leader, President & CEO, Dr. Keith Barber

2025: Pat Summitt Foundation launches as an independent nonprofit organization

2025: ETF purchases permanent office space!

40 Years of Impact

Hope for Parents & Children Through the Safe Haven Baby Box

In August 2022, Laverne Craig decided that it was time to bring Tennessee's first Safe Haven Baby Box to fruition in Knoxville. Through her generosity and collaboration with the East Tennessee Foundation, the City of Knoxville, churches, community leaders, and local fire stations, she made it a reality. The very first Safe Haven Baby Box was installed at the Northwest Knoxville Fire Station thanks to Jim and Laverne Craig's generous gift from their ETF Craig Foundation donor advised fund and the work of numerous community leaders.

The Safe Haven Baby Boxes offer a safe, anonymous option for a parent in crisis to surrender their newborn. Installed in an exterior wall, the Baby Boxes are temperature-controlled, safe compartments at facilities where staff are trained to quickly respond 24 hours a day. Soon after the initial box was installed, it was used and provided Safe Haven for the first time in Knoxville and in the state of Tennessee!



Jim and Laverne Craig's continued commitment through their ETF Craig Foundation Fund reflects their generous hearts and their enduring dedication to partnership, service, and community focused philanthropy.

FIRST SAFE HAVEN
BABY BOX in the state of
TENNESSEE!

Cancer Support Community East Tennessee & ETF Partnership Sustains Cancer Care



Since 1990, the Cancer Support Community East Tennessee (CSCET) has strengthened and uplifted more than 20,000 East Tennesseans facing cancer through compassionate support, complementary care programs, and a community built on shared experience. One source of CSCET's resilience is their organizational endowment established in 1993 through the East Tennessee Foundation, a forward-thinking investment that has grown alongside their mission.

Over the years, ETF has supported CSCET by stewarding their endowment and providing

multiple grants to meet essential programming and operating needs. This ongoing partnership has helped CSCET sustain vital programs, strengthen day to day operations, and remain responsive to the evolving needs of those with cancer in East Tennessee.

In 2021, CSCET's endowment became a catalyst for transformation, enabling the organization to relocate to an expanded forever home in Knoxville. This move increased their ability to serve more patients and families across their 26-county service area.

"Our partnership with the East Tennessee Foundation strengthens our mission. ETF not only manages our organizational endowment but also provides grants that help us serve members of the community we might not otherwise reach. Guidance from ETF staff has informed fundraising initiatives, and their stewardship allows CSCET's small staff to focus less on administration and more on care for those with cancer. The East Tennessee Foundation has been instrumental in helping CSCET grow, adapt, and continue meeting the needs of our community," shared Jennifer Harrell, Executive Director of CSCET.

CSCET's story is a powerful example of how a thriving partnership, and a well built endowment can expand impact for generations to come.



\$476.3
MILLION
GRANTED
since
1986

From
**SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENT**

to
**COMMUNITY
LEADER**

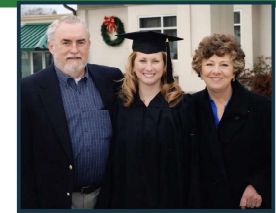
her story is the
ripple effect

of
**PHILANTHROPY
IN ACTION**

\$14.2
MILLION
in scholarship
awarded since
1986

Full Circle: A Scholarship Story that Keeps on Giving

From scholarship recipient, to evaluator, to nonprofit leader supported by ETF grants, Logan Hull's journey demonstrates the enduring power of thoughtfully invested philanthropy and the remarkable ripple effects that begin when someone chooses to believe in a student.



In 2001, Logan Hull was selected to be a scholarship recipient of the Knox Central High School Class of 1950 Alumni Association Scholarship through the East Tennessee Foundation. "When I was finishing high school, I had a plan, but the main question was how I was going to make it possible. My scholarship through ETF helped me fulfill my goal of graduating, and I knew that I had to make it meaningful," said Logan.

After completing college at the University of Tennessee, Logan began her professional career and joined the Junior Service League of Maryville in 2019. As a surprise to Logan, she discovered that ETF held the Reuben Louise Cates Mount and the Junior Service League of Maryville Memorial Scholarship Fund and needed scholarship evaluators. "As a member of the Junior Service League of Maryville, I had the privilege of participating in scholarship evaluations for students within my community. I found the chance to give back to my community and bring the assistance that I once needed," she shared.



But that wasn't all of Logan's history with ETF. From 2016-2024, Logan worked at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center (GSMHC), holding roles as Director of Special Events and later as Director of Operations. GSMHC is a longstanding partner and grant recipient of ETF. This experience showed Logan the powerful impact that grants can have on a nonprofit.

Logan has seen, felt, and been a recipient of the work ETF is doing in East Tennessee to make lives better and communities stronger. Her story is a vivid example of why scholarships matter. Scholarships create legacies and sometimes, as in Logan's case, those legacies come home again through service, leadership, and a commitment to preserving the communities that shaped them.

"I am grateful that the East Tennessee Foundation gave me the chance to grow into the person I was meant to be," she said. Logan has now embarked on a journey of owning a business with her husband. Pursuing her love of nature and animals, you can now find her and all your pet supply needs at Smoky Mountain Feed and Pet Supply in Alcoa, Tennessee.

ETF and ADFAC Make a Difference in Appalachia

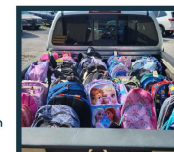


For more than three decades, Aid for Distressed Families in Appalachian Counties (ADFAC) has been a vital resource for families in Morgan, Anderson, Roane, and Campbell Counties. Since its founding in 1987, ADFAC has worked tirelessly to provide essential support to local families in need through their Household Assistance Program, Appalachian Housing Partners Program, and School Supplies Program. The East

Tennessee Foundation is proud to partner with such a dedicated organization by providing grants to support the School Supply Program and managing ADFAC's organizational endowment.

ADFAC's School Supplies Program equips students from Pre-K through 12th grade with new backpacks and school supplies to provide them with the best opportunity for success during the school year. This wouldn't be possible without the generosity of the community and three community funds of ETF. Over the years, the Morgan County Community Foundation (MCCF), the Norris Area Community Fund (NACF), and the Campbell Enhancement Fund (CEF) have cumulatively granted nearly \$34,000 to ADFAC's School Supply Program. In 2025, ADFAC coordinated the largest distribution in its 32-year history by partnering with 51 schools and impacting the futures of 5,824 students in the region. By investing in education and easing the financial burden on families, ETF has played a key role in fostering a brighter future for Appalachian communities.

Becky Hook, School Supplies Coordinator, says, "I know how important it is for students to walk into the classroom and have the same things that others have. Because of our partnership with the East Tennessee Foundation, we can provide needed resources so that our students can be successful from the start."



In 2015, ADFAC partnered with ETF to establish the ADFAC Bow Tie Endowment. By establishing this endowment, ADFAC created a stable financial resource that will strengthen their ability to serve local students and families for generations to come.

"The continued support of the East Tennessee Foundation, through grants and the management of the Bow Tie Endowment, provides ADFAC with funds to meet current needs in our community and long-term stability for our organization," said Annie Cachero, ADFAC's Executive Director. "Contributing half of the proceeds from our gala each year to the Bow Tie Endowment gives our donors the confidence that ADFAC isn't just raising funds for now, but also for the future. I think it's similar to your own personal long-term financial plan - every little bit helps grow that fund for your future needs. ADFAC is committed to helping our neighbors on their own path to stability. With the Bow Tie Endowment, we are working on our organizational long-term stability too, and the East Tennessee Foundation makes the process incredibly easy."



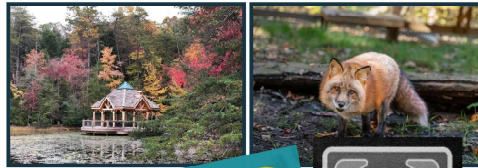
Bays Mountain: Investing in Natural Resources to Make an Impact

The East Tennessee Foundation has always demonstrated a deep commitment to preserving and strengthening the natural resources that make our region such a remarkable place to live. Through the Kingsport Community Foundation, a community fund of ETF, this commitment has taken tangible shape at Bays Mountain Park & Planetarium, one of East Tennessee's most treasured natural assets.

Bays Mountain, a 3,800-acre nature preserve in Kingsport, is among the largest city-owned parks in the nation, more than four times larger than New York City's Central Park. It serves as a vital educational, ecological, and recreational hub for the community. Recognizing its significance, the Kingsport Community Foundation has partnered with the park on a multi-year investment designed to enhance animal habitats, expand educational opportunities, and strengthen the park's long-term sustainability.

From an initial grant supporting the park's Join the Adventure capital campaign to a three-year \$100,000 commitment that includes naming the new Fox Den enclosure, the Kingsport Community Foundation's support has been steady, strategic, and community driven.

"The Kingsport Community Foundation is proud to partner with Bays Mountain Park to support what we all know to be true – Bays Mountain Park is a treasure for our region," said Greg Perdue, 2025 Chair of the Kingsport Community Foundation. "By partnering with the East Tennessee Foundation to assist in funding the capital campaign and the new fox den enclosure, these funds, along with support from other private and public partnerships, will ensure that the park remains a critical asset in our community for generations to come."



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2025 | Celebrating our 40th Year of Making Lives Better and Communities Stronger

The Road to Recovery from Hurricane Helene

Considerable progress has been made in rebuilding after Hurricane Helene, but the road to recovery continues. Communities are still healing since the hurricane in September 2024. Some of the most pressing unmet needs include housing and infrastructure repairs, appliances, technically skilled volunteers, mental health support, household water system repairs, and funding for mobile homes and essential items.

Typically, the most difficult, yet least funded needs after a disaster involve long-term recovery efforts. ETF made the strategic decision to focus on this aspect to help our communities rebuild and recover. Engaging in ways that other agencies could not, long-term recovery groups were funded by the East Tennessee Foundation. These groups actively work on case management, rebuilding homes, volunteer coordination, and community outreach, while also addressing survivor emotional health and preparing for seasonal needs.

The Foundation has awarded over \$5.5 million in disaster recovery grants and will continue to support initiatives to help rebuild communities. These investments have supported urgent needs like food security and temporary housing as well as long-term recovery efforts such as construction and community capacity building.

While significant recovery work lies ahead, this year has demonstrated the power of neighbors helping neighbors.



7,800
DONATIONS

from 6,900
generous donors

\$5.5M

DOLLARS GRANTED
to 88 organization via 128 grants

\$9.8M

DISASTER RELIEF
DOLLARS GRANTED
since 2011

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SINCE 1986

Top 10 Grantmaking Program Areas Over 40 Years

1. Education Institutions
2. Youth Development
3. HUMAN SERVICES
4. Religion & Spiritual Development
5. Arts, Culture, & Humanities
6. Disease, Disorders, & Medical Disciplines
7. Health - General & Rehabilitative
8. Animal Related
9. HOUSING & SHELTER
10. Community Improvement & Capacity Building



ETF Goes to Bristol, Baby!

The East Tennessee Foundation was on the ground at Bristol Motor Speedway during the NASCAR Cup Series in September 2025. We were proud to partner with NASCAR and Speedway Children's Charities to share stories about Tennessee communities that are still feeling the impacts of Hurricane Helene and our continued efforts to help these families rebuild.

At the Speedway, ETF was able to interact with community members and fans to share about our Neighbor to Neighbor Disaster Relief Fund and how they can join us in the recovery process. Over 1 million people learned about ETF's recovery efforts through our promotional activities at the race.

Great things happen when communities come together to make lives better and communities stronger. It was a great joy and honor to be at Bristol, Baby!



Vols for Neighbors: Turning Class Projects into Community Warmth

In the wake of Hurricane Helene, when headlines faded and temperatures began to drop, many families across East Tennessee were still facing an urgent need for warmth.

During the fall 2025 semester, a group of students from the University of Tennessee chose to support the East Tennessee Foundation's Neighbor to Neighbor Disaster Relief Fund. Calling themselves Vols for Neighbors, John, Mitchell, Gunner, Tanner, and Aiden ran a multimedia crowd-funding campaign for Dr. Erin Smith's Public Writing class.

Vols for Neighbors chose to raise funds to provide propane for areas that were still in need of heat after Hurricane Helene. Together, they raised over \$2,500 to bring warmth and hope for those still recovering from the devastation.

Beyond the dollars raised, their project demonstrated something even more powerful: compassion has no age requirement, and leadership can begin in a classroom.

Thank you, Vols for Neighbors, for making a local impact and choosing to help make lives better and communities stronger.



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Building a Legacy in McMinn County



Glenn Trusley and his late wife, Thelma, shared a lifelong belief in the power of community. That deeply held value shaped their life together in East Tennessee and ultimately inspired Glenn to include a bequest in his will to the East Tennessee Foundation.

Glenn built a 40-year career in the automotive care industry, earning a reputation for treating everyone he served with dignity and respect. Thelma worked for three decades as a laboratory analyst at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Known for her discipline and foresight, Thelma believed in planning ahead and saving diligently. Together, they built a life grounded in responsibility, generosity, and compassion.

When Glenn began planning his estate, he wanted to honor the partnership that he and Thelma shared and continue their legacy of giving back. On the advice of his trusted professional advisor, he turned to ETF. With the Foundation's guidance, Glenn established a bequest in his will to create a field-of-interest endowment. The Lee Glenn Trusley and wife, Thelma Coleman Trusley, Endowed Fund will support economically disadvantaged children in their beloved McMinn County.

The bequest allows Glenn to support a cause that he and Thelma were passionate about without affecting his immediate financial security. Most importantly, the endowment will support children at a local level for generations to come, as the endowment will be invested and managed by ETF in perpetuity.

"It's a wonderful thing to see a child smile just because they have clean clothes and nourishing food," Glenn said. "There are kids out there who need basic things to live, and I can help."

PLANNED GIVING 2025

Future Expectancies Documented:

18 Expectancies totaling \$35 Million

Planned Gifts Realized:

\$3.95 Million

Generosity Abounds on First-ever GivingTuesday

The East Tennessee Foundation participated in our first-ever GivingTuesday in December 2025 with excitement about what the campaign could bring to East Tennessee communities! GivingTuesday is an international philanthropic movement that encourages giving and community, making it a perfect fit for ETF's community funds.

ETF rallied our community fund advisory boards to help spread the word and make our first-ever GivingTuesday campaign, EastTNGives, a great success! The response was almost immediate. Neighbors chose to give where they live, and generosity spread across our region. Each of our 18 community funds received gifts to help make impacts in East Tennessee. By the end of our campaign, more than \$50,600 had been raised to support local nonprofits!

Every dollar raised stays local to help make lives better and communities stronger. Our first-ever GivingTuesday was exciting, powerful, and a great reminder that when East Tennessee comes together to give, real impact follows.

ETF Receives Foundation of the Year Award



In a room filled with community champions, the East Tennessee Foundation was deeply honored to be named Foundation of the Year at the National Philanthropy Day Luncheon hosted by Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee (Second Harvest) in November 2025.

This recognition celebrates a long-standing partnership with Second Harvest and a continued commitment to support their mission of feeding the hungry in Northeast Tennessee.

This award wouldn't be possible without our community funds that are invested in hunger relief and give generous grants in support of Second Harvest's mission. The Kingsport Community Foundation, Johnson County Community Foundation, Washington County Community Foundation, Youth and Opportunity Endowments, Neighbor to Neighbor Disaster Relief Fund, and numerous donors advised funds have all provided grant support to Second Harvest.

We're grateful to facilitate thoughtful giving for stronger communities and are proud to support Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee in the fight to end hunger in Northeast Tennessee.

GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE!



POWERED BY THE EAST TENNESSEE FOUNDATION

www.etf.org/giving-tuesday

TOTAL RAISED
\$50,600

All 18 of our community funds received gifts!

224 GIFTS **180 DONORS**

2025

Top 10 Grantmaking Program Areas in 2025

1. Disease, Disorders, Medical Disciplines
2. Education Institutions
3. Public Safety, Disaster Preparedness and Relief
4. Human Services
5. Religion, Spiritual Development
6. Health – General and Rehabilitative
7. Youth Development
8. Arts, Culture, and Humanities
9. Mental Health, Crisis Intervention
10. Housing, Shelter

1,481 GRANTS AWARDED **\$28.8M TOTALING**

\$627M
ASSETS UNDER LEADERSHIP

\$15.7M
IN NEW GIFTS

471
FUNDS UNDER MANAGEMENT

64 SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AWARDED **\$1.1M** TO **86 STUDENTS**

Perkins Place: A Building with Past, Purpose, & Promise

A new home for the East Tennessee Foundation is the perfect way to celebrate 40 years of making lives better and communities stronger! Perkins Place, originally Marble City Elementary School then Perkins Elementary School, was built in 1926 and later named for Angie Vilette Warren Perkins, the first female to serve on the Knoxville City Board of Education. After decades of educating Marble City students, the school closed in 1982.

Its future changed in 1992 when Pershing Yoakley & Associates (PYA) made the bold decision to purchase and restore the building. Their firm was small at the time, but Ed Pershing and his partners saw beyond the numbers. Instead of choosing a traditional office complex, they invested in preserving a historic school and created a headquarters that reflected PYA's values, vision, and commitment to doing things differently. Original doors, transoms, high ceilings, exposed brick, and even the gymnasium were preserved, maintaining the building's character while giving it a new life, as well as some legendary pickup basketball games and incredible workspaces.

As PYA grew and later relocated, the building continued its reinvention, eventually serving as headquarters for Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union. In 2025, a partnership between Ed Pershing of Pershing Enterprises and the East Tennessee Foundation once again brought new life to the historic space, now becoming the Foundation's permanent home.

The move to Perkins Place marks an exciting new chapter for ETF! The building reflects the same stewardship, vision, and long-term commitment that have defined the Foundation for 40 years. "This building served as a kind of logo for PYA. It told people who we were without us saying a word," Pershing said. "I believe Perkins Place can do the same for ETF. It will be a home where ETF's philanthropic leadership flourishes and a place where nonprofits grow, collaborate, and change the trajectory of our region."

Like many historic places, Perkins Place even carries a touch of mystery. Some say a "friendly spirit," believed to be a former teacher, gently closes doors at night. It's a small reminder to staff of the lives and legacy held within its walls.

The East Tennessee Foundation is excited to start its next chapter in Perkins Place alongside Pershing Enterprises. Having a permanent home will allow ETF to take a deeper role as the center for philanthropic leadership in East Tennessee. It will serve as a place designed to bring people together to strengthen organizations and a promise to help make lives better and communities stronger for generations to come across East Tennessee.

The next chapter starts now...



Consolidated Financial Statement

ASSETS	2025 UNAUDITED	2024 UNAUDITED
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$10,083,979	\$16,984,095
Accounts Receivable, NET	\$44,620	\$772,759
Unconditional Promises to Give	\$242,830	\$236,746
Loans and Notes Receivable, NET	\$1,178,582	\$1,193,073
Investments	\$594,964,211	\$609,015,757
Other Assets	\$149,439	\$225,814
Property and Equipment, NET	\$20,307,227	\$19,914,470
TOTAL ASSETS	\$626,970,888	\$647,842,722
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$195,925	\$258,592
Grants Payable	\$3,178,814	\$3,605,199
Notes Payable	\$2,558,000	\$2,721,760
Annuity/Unitrust Liability	\$577,764	\$578,797
Lease Liability	\$1,312,454	\$1,573,007
Liability for Amounts Held for Others	\$66,283,187	\$57,057,778
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$74,105,514	\$65,795,123
NET ASSETS		
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$552,865,374	\$582,047,599
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$626,970,888	\$647,842,722

Strength in Financial Leadership

ETF Investment Committee

The East Tennessee Foundation's long-term investment pool comprises approximately \$300 million of ETF's total \$627 million assets under leadership. Established to steward the majority of the Foundation's assets for long-term investment, the pool is designed to preserve and grow the value of endowment funds over time while supporting annual grantmaking at a sustainable level. The ETF Investment Committee, which is comprised of disciplined investment industry professionals with a variety of experience and skill sets, oversees investment of the long-term pool, ensuring that the portfolio remains aligned with the Foundation's mission.

As ETF approached its 40th anniversary, and in alignment with its strategic plan, leadership determined that a comprehensive review of the long-term pool was both timely and prudent to ensure continued philanthropic leadership.

In mid-2025, ETF staff and Investment Committee initiated an in-depth evaluation of the portfolio. The group engaged in a performance and asset allocation analysis, reading through countless documents and 40 years of investment history. The result, a 60-slide information deck of detailed analysis, ultimately led the Investment Committee to begin a request-for-proposal process to explore best investment firms for the years ahead.

"As Head of the Investment Committee, I am motivated by the goal of laying the groundwork that enables this and future Investment Committees to succeed — in support of ETF's mission and the advancement of the Foundation's strategic goals." — Richard Dapaah, ETF Investment Committee Chair

2025

Investment Committee Members

Richard Dapaah, Chair
John Apperson
Veenita Bisaria
Grant Boyd
Andy Chalache
Larry Mauldin
Rip Mecherle



Strength in Philanthropic Leaders & Partners

Community Funds

Community funds are how the East Tennessee Foundation turns local passion into lasting impact. With local advisory boards and a local presence, community funds engage in endowment building, fundraising activities, grantmaking, and other types of initiatives to promote local philanthropy and community building. The Foundation listens to, learns from, and leans into our local advisory boards to stay informed of trends and needs in each community. Our community funds are our "secret sauce" to drive our mission locally and increase our capacity for community-driven impact. Since the first fund was created in McMinn County in 1989, ETF community funds have granted over \$12 million to East Tennessee nonprofits.

McMinn Community Fund (1989)
Washington County Community Foundation (1993)
Cocke County Fund (1995)
John D. Grubb and Louise G. Sumner Fund for Monroe County (1998)
Campbell Enhancement Fund (1999)
Fund for Unicoi County (1999)
Fund for Greene County Operating Endowment (2000)
Kingsport Community Foundation (2000)
Johnson County Community Foundation (2001)
Elizabethton/Carter County Community Foundation (2006)
Union County Community Foundation (2010)
Norris Area Community Foundation (2014)
Blount Community Fund (2016)
Oak Ridge Fund for Achieving Community Excellence (2017)
Sevier County Community Fund (2017)
Loudon County Community Fund (2017)
Tellico Community Foundation (2017)
Morgan County Community Foundation (2022)

2025 Board Officers

Karen Walker, Chair
Barrett Simonis, Vice Chair
Sam Albritton, Treasurer and Budget Committee Chair
Dr. Keith Barber, President & CEO
Angelia Nystrom, Vice President of Advancement & Chief Legal Counsel, Board Secretary

2025 Board of Directors

Sam Albritton (Knox)
Jerry Bodie (Knox)
Lauren Bowman (Knox)
Bob Cantler (Washington)
Amy Cathey (Knox)
Richard Dapaah (Knox)
Denise Dean (Jefferson)
Harry Gross (Knox)
Bruce Hartmann (Knox)
Susanna Hoskins (Knox)
Rocio Huet (Knox)
Trudy Hughes (Sevier)
Diondre Jackson (Jefferson)
Adrian Jay (Knox)
Drocella Mugorewera (Knox)
Donda Plowman (Knox)
Stephen Rosen (Knox)
Matt Schaefer (Knox)
Jennifer Sapaniak (Knox)
Nathaniel Shelsa (Knox)
Barrett Simonis (Knox)
Kiran Singh Sirah (Washington)
Karen Walker (Blount)
Paul Willson (McMinn)

Honorary Lifetime Members
Bobbie Y. Congleton*
Sam Fowler, Jr., Esq.*
Natalie L. Haslam*
A. David Martin
Col. William M. Slayden*
David V. White
Stuart R. Warden
Lindsay Young, Esq.*

*deceased



"I am proud to be part of the East Tennessee Foundation at such a transformational time. It was a privilege to engage in such a meticulous strategic planning process last year and help the Foundation secure a permanent home at the historic Perkins Place. I can't wait to see this hard work translate into impacts in East Tennessee communities."

-Karen Walker, Chair



Community Funds

\$458.5K

Granted in 2025

\$12M

Granted since 1986

Supporting Organizations

During 2025, the East Tennessee Foundation was proud to partner with and provide services for eight supporting organizations whose missions align with ours.

4th Purpose Foundation
Clayton Foundation
East Tennessee Supporting Foundation
Education Consumers Foundation
Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds (KJCF)
Ted & Drama Russell Family Foundation
Trinity Health Foundation of East Tennessee
Women's Fund of East Tennessee

Celebrating Community Champions

Community Catalyst Fifth Third Bank

An individual or organization that finds themselves in a position to further ETF's mission and rises to the occasion to make it happen.

Fifth Third Bank became East Tennessee Foundation's very first Corporate Impact Partner in 2025. Through their leadership and commitment to East Tennessee, they're helping drive thriving communities, support local solutions, and inspire other businesses to join in creating lasting impact. "Fifth Third is proud to be the East Tennessee Foundation's first corporate partner. As we expand and invest across East Tennessee, we're equally focused on uplifting the communities we serve. Partnering with ETF turns that commitment into action—strengthening communities, improving lives, and building a brighter future for our region," said Ryan White, Market Executive at Fifth Third.



Community Catalyst Appalachian Funders Network

An individual or organization that finds themselves in a position to further ETF's mission and rises to the occasion to make it happen.

One of the core values of the Appalachian Funders Network (AFN) is believing that long-term efforts lead to long-term successes. AFN recognized that ETF has the same belief and demonstrated it with our Neighbor to Neighbor disaster recovery strategy. Because of these efforts, AFN provided a significant grant to the Foundation, helping build local infrastructure that is responsive to both immediate crises and the long horizon of rebuilding. Ryan Ellor, AFN Executive Director, stated: "From our perspective, this is not only a responsible use of philanthropic resources but a necessary one. [ETF's approach]—anchored in long-term partnership, local leadership, and flexible responsiveness—represents precisely the kind of structure this moment calls for."



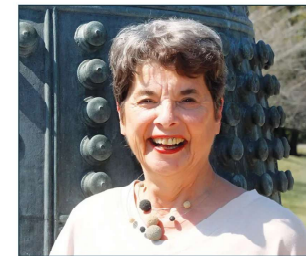
Community Connector - Dr. Pat Postma

An individual who, with intention and purpose, points us in the right direction to make an impact on the community to expand ETF's mission.

Dr. Pat Postma's engagement with the East Tennessee Foundation began through her work with the Business Trust for the Arts, one of two organizations from which the East Tennessee Foundation was created in 1986. Pat served on the first-ever ETF Board of Directors and continued her involvement by serving on this board again a quarter of a century later.

Pat also played a key role in establishing the Oak Ridge Fund for Achieving Community Excellence (ORFACE), one of ETF's community funds. Since its establishment in 2017, this fund has impacted the Oak Ridge community through grants that strengthen and encourage the unique role of science in Oak Ridge, the city's educational system, and arts and culture in the community.

Because of her unique ability to connect and inspire community members, Dr. Pat Postma is the East Tennessee Foundation's 2026 Community Connector.



Natalie L. Haslam Community Champion David Martin

A partner who has demonstrated consistent passion and contributed investments for our community over time.

David Martin served on ETF's first Investment Committee, cementing the Foundation's long-standing wise investment and financial management practices. He has served in countless volunteer leadership roles over the years and remains steadfast and unmatched in his efforts to aid the East Tennessee Foundation.

As an honorary lifetime board member, David is a trusted advisor to Foundation leadership, and a generous and consistent donor, making him a model for all. He is thoughtful with his philanthropic ventures and kind in his leadership acumen. David is willing to invest in ideas and initiatives that he believes will impact lives. His reputation in Knoxville and throughout the region is impeccable.

David Martin is the definition of Community Champion.



Remembering Community Leaders



Katharine Pearson Criss (1948-2026)

We proudly remember our first Executive Director, Katharine Pearson Criss, whose vision helped shape the very foundation of the East Tennessee Foundation.

Joining the Foundation in 1985, Katharine steered our course through the merger with the Business Trust for the Arts that created ETF. She led a dedicated board and strong team that helped build an endowment worth \$35 million. During her tenure, \$14.7 million was awarded to nonprofit community development projects which strengthened communities across the region.

Katharine led ETF until December 1997. She was a visionary and a force for rural and regional philanthropy both nationally and internationally. Following her time at ETF, Katharine led the Ford Foundation's East Africa office in Nairobi for seven years and returned to Knoxville partially retired and as Vice President for the Center for Rural Strategies. She was an active volunteer for many local organizations and a cherished friend and mentor to many.



Natalie Haslam (1931-2026)

Mrs. Haslam served as President of the East Tennessee Foundation's Board of Directors in 1987 and 1988, offering extraordinary leadership, generosity, and vision during some of the Foundation's formative years. Throughout her service and beyond, Natalie freely gave both her time and resources to advance ETF's mission and strengthen philanthropy across our region.

Mrs. Haslam was instrumental in helping the Foundation grow its assets and expand its impact. She helped organize ETF's first-ever Flamingo Stakes croquet tournament to raise funds in support of the Arts Fund for East Tennessee. Her influence helped shape the Foundation we know today.

We are grateful that Natalie remained actively engaged through our Past Board Chairs meetings and proud to have honored her as an Honorary Lifetime Board Member. Her legacy of generosity will live on through the permanent endowment funds she established at ETF, supporting her passions for the arts, education, environment, and countless other philanthropic causes.

We are truly blessed to have known Mrs. Haslam, to be guided by her leadership, and to carry forward her commitment to making lives better and communities stronger across East Tennessee. It is an honor to steward her legacy for generations to come.



Looking to the Future

2026 marks the beginning of a new decade for the East Tennessee Foundation, and we are thrilled to welcome inspiring new members to our Board of Directors.

Their expertise, leadership, and deep commitment to service will help us in our mission to make lives better and communities stronger for generations to come in East Tennessee. We are excited about the impact we will create together moving forward!

2026 Board Officers

Barrett Simonis, Chair

Diondre Jackson, Vice Chair

Nathaniel Shelsa, Treasurer and Budget Committee Chair

Dr. Keith Barber, President & CEO

Angelia Nystrom, Vice President of Advancement & Chief Legal Counsel, Board Secretary



As the East Tennessee Foundation turns 40, we are as encouraged today as we have been for the past four decades! Throughout its history, ETF supporters, volunteer leaders, staff, and benefactors have joined together to make East Tennessee better every day. This purpose remains true. As in the decades since its founding we will continue to call upon our neighbors to help one another, learn from our fellow East Tennesseans, and build upon our success to be strategic in making impacts in the region. We pledge to provide philanthropic leadership that inspires donors to make lives better and communities stronger in enduring ways and across generations. Thank you for joining the journey.

2026 Board of Directors

Jerry Bodie (Knox)
Lauren Bowman (Knox)
Claudia Byrd (Sullivan)
Bob Cantler (Washington)
Amy Cathey (Knox)
Wade Creswell (Roane)
Richard Papaiah (Knox)
Mark Freeman (Knox)
Bryan Goldberg (Knox)
Harry Gross (Knox)
Susanna Hopkins (Knox)
Trudy Hughes (Sevier)
Diondre Jackson (Jefferson)

Mark Kinser (Washington/
Carter/Sullivan)
Greg Perdue (Sullivan)
Matt Schaefer (Knox)
Jennifer Sepaniak (Knox)
Nathaniel Shelsa (Knox)
Barrett Simonis (Knox)
Kiran Singh Sirah (Washington)
Karen Walker (Blount)
Chris Whaley (Roane)
Sue Whitener (Loudon)
Paul Willson (McMinn)
James Frank Wilson (Anderson)



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