



giving together

2016 | VOLUME 1

Putting Giving Into Action

When you work all day teaching college students how to understand and interpret English literature and then spend countless hours grading their writing, you may want to take a break in your down time. Not so for Birmingham-Southern English professor Fred Ashe.

Ashe, along with staff at Wenonah High School and the Birmingham Education Foundation (BEF), is developing the Wenonah College Writers Program. The program will help young students develop their reading comprehension and writing skills and improve their college opportunities.

"I originally thought I would volunteer by reading to second graders or something," says Ashe, who had wanted to get involved in local education efforts for a long time. Through a connection made

at a Community Foundation Lunch and Learn, he met J.W. Carpenter, president of BEF. "We had coffee and that is how this whole thing got started," says Ashe.

BEF works with volunteers and city schools to increase college and career readiness opportunities for students. "Fred Ashe has been an exceptional leader, teacher and volunteer in our program," says J.W. Carpenter. "He is willing to put in the sweat equity and he works so well with the students and the teachers."

Ashe worked with Wenonah teacher Nikki Machokoto to identify students for the program. The six sophomores they chose are doing concentrated work in

literature and writing, more than they would normally do in the classroom. The students have written essays and even submitted their work to a writing contest. They will complete the first year of the College Writers Program this spring.

The original intent was to mentor a group of new students each year, but Ashe and Machokoto think that by working with the same students through their entire high school career they can dramatically improve their college options and success. BEF hopes to take this model and encourage professors and educators in other fields to develop mentoring opportunities.



The entire Ashe family shares a passion for education. Fred says that much of his inspiration for this program comes from his wife, Ginny. A well-known local author

(she writes under the name Gin Phillips), she runs a nonprofit called Wordsmiths that works with students in Birmingham City Schools to improve their writing skills and college options. The family also has a donor advised fund at the Community Foundation that they have used to support education causes.

"I was excited to learn more about the Ashes' story," says Lora Terry, Director of Donor Relations at the Community Foundation. "It is inspiring to see how our donors put their giving into action," she says, "and to know that we can help provide a connection in so many different ways to our donors and the great work of nonprofits in our area."

Exclusive Opportunity for our Donors

Get the inside scoop on our region's most pressing health issues and our community's most innovative responses. Featuring Dr. Mark Wilson, Health Officer & Chief Executive of the Jefferson County Department of Health and Chris Nanni, President and CEO of the Community Foundation.

Deep Dive Luncheon: Community Health in Action

Thursday, February 11, 2016
11:30am to 1:00pm

Daxko
600 University Park Place, # 500
Birmingham, AL 35209

Hosted by Dave Gray, CEO of Daxko and Community Foundation Board member

RSVP to Lora Terry by
Monday, February 8
lterry@cfbham.org or 205.327.3808
Limited spots are available

Deep Dive Luncheons are an exclusive benefit for Community Foundation fund holders. Sector insiders discuss innovative and inspiring programs supported by the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham so that you can become a more informed and involved philanthropic investor.

Stay tuned for more Deep Dive Luncheons coming up throughout 2016. Please contact Lora Terry at 205.327.3808 if you have any questions.



Tim Blair updates Community Foundation donors on Parkside Development at a recent luncheon



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cfbham.org

Donors Support Giving Together

Giving Together is a co-investment program for donors of the Community Foundation. Through this program donors partner with us in the competitive grants process, with initiatives and with responsive grants based on CFGB community knowledge.

In 2015, 48 donors participated in the Giving Together Program, adding more than \$1 million to grant making efforts. In the seven years since the program started, donors have given more than \$5 million in additional funding to our community grant making efforts. If you are interested in finding out more about Giving Together, please contact Lora Terry at 205.327.3806 or lterry@cfbham.org.

Spring 2016 Grant Cycle Now Open

The first cycle of competitive grant making from the Community Funds is now underway for 2016, focusing on two Results:

Children are successful along the educational pipeline:

- Increase early learning opportunities for birth to 8 years old
- Increase number of career- and college-ready high school graduates

People can lead healthy lives:

- Improve nutrition and healthy food access and increase physical activity
- Improve access to care for vulnerable populations

Nonprofits who are eligible for this cycle will submit brief proposals to the Community Foundation by February 15. These proposals will be reviewed by the program staff and Grant Review Committee and selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal. Site visits will be conducted after the full proposals have been received. The final grants will be awarded in May. If you are interested in joining a site visit team, please contact Lora Terry.

Giving Together Donors accelerate the pace of the “Fastest Game on Two Feet”

Lacrosse is often referred to as ‘the fastest game on two feet’ and is one of the fastest growing sports in our area. Tom Lewis, who helped establish one of the first youth lacrosse teams in the city, knows how quickly kids can fall in love with the sport, and how it can open the door for learning opportunities, especially in underserved areas. Although there were lacrosse programs at many Birmingham City high schools Lewis realized he needed to start earlier to really have an impact on these kids.



So Lewis started **Neighborhood Academy**, a year-round program for fifth- and sixth-grade boys and girls in Ensley. At the Academy, students divide their time between extra tutoring in the classroom and learning the fundamentals of lacrosse on the field.

Lacrosse was the hook for the program, but education is the focus. In 2015, several Giving Together donors partnered with the Community Foundation to provide a grant to Neighborhood Academy. Lewis had expanded the program to Fountain Heights and wanted to start a third program at the YMCA Youth

Center in Downtown Birmingham.

There are 10 students enrolled in the new program and the kids are showing improvement in their math, reading and ‘stick’ skills. One of the dads recently told Tom, “This was the best thing that has happened to my son in years.”

Project i-STAT: Empowering the Underserved

Equal Access Birmingham (EAB) was started in 2005 by the UAB School of Medicine. The mission of the clinic is to bridge the health disparity gap in the Birmingham area. It is staffed by medical students, physicians and volunteers, and provides both short- and long-term care for the underserved.

One of the challenges faced by the patients who visited the clinic was that they often couldn’t get to the clinic for return visits. So, if a test was performed where the results could not be returned for several days to a week, the patient was often unable to get follow-up treatment.

Last spring, with the help of Giving Together donors, we provided a grant to EAB to help purchase supplies for an i-STAT machine. The i-STAT performs diagnostic blood analysis immediately, providing real-time, lab-quality results, enabling staff to treat their patients on the spot.

EAB tells us the i-STAT is making a difference in the care they are able to provide to their patients. They use the equipment at every clinic and in the words of one patient, “I can’t tell you how grateful I am, you were what I needed to start getting better. I know I am going to do this!”



For more information about Giving Together or to participate in a site visit, contact Lora Terry at 205-327-3808.

