



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM

GIVING TOGETHER

ONE FAMILY, LASTING IMPACT

If ever a family personified the saying “the gift that keeps on giving,” it’s Cathy and Tom Adams and their children Jenny and Jeff.

Tom, chairman of insurance provider Autotec, and Cathy, a writer and self-described “professional volunteer,” raised Jenny and Jeff to care for others. “We strived to live out the parable in Luke, ‘much will be required of the person to whom much is given,’” Cathy says. It was in this spirit that Jenny, then a student in her 20s, decided her Christmas present to the family would be a donation to Heifer International. She laughs, recalling the card she placed under the tree. “It said ‘I bought you part of a llama.’”

Jenny wasn’t satisfied with a one-off gift. She proposed a new tradition: each year one of the Adams clan would make a charitable contribution on behalf of the rest. Her father Tom saw in Jenny’s suggestion an opportunity to bring his loved ones even closer together. In 2010, instead of writing a check to a specific cause for Christmas, he set up a donor-advised fund with the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, so the Adams could pursue philanthropy year round—together. “The foundation was able to offer Tom a way to create a lasting family legacy and realize income and estate planning benefits at the same

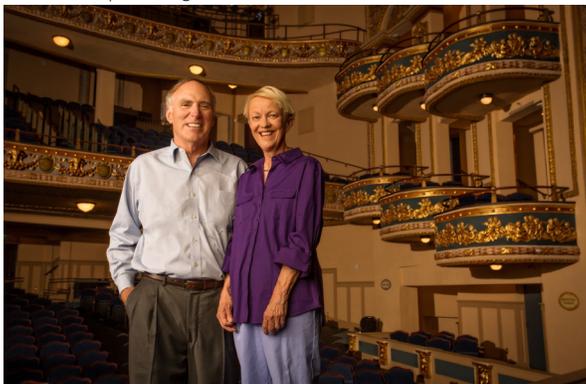
time,” says Director of Gift Planning, Brooke Coleman.

The Adams Family Advised Fund has largely focused on disaster relief and programs to help disadvantaged children, but the flexibility of the donor-advised arrangement allows family members to bring their individual passions to the table. Jenny, a globe-trotting travel writer, is drawn to organizations working in the developing world. Jeff, who lives with his wife and daughters in Colorado, is an outdoorsman and supporter of the Children’s Hospital of Denver. Cathy champions projects that reflect her deep connection to the Birmingham community, like the renovation of the Lyric Theater.

This diversity of interests makes for lively conversation when deciding where the fund should direct its resources. “We pitch a case for sure,” Jenny says. “I wouldn’t send an e-mail without links, a synopsis I’ve written and photos.” Cathy credits Community Foundation staff with providing research to help ensure grants go to sustainable, get-the-job-done nonprofits.

What started with a llama has grown into a gift that will benefit the community beyond Tom and Cathy for generations to come. “My kids are only eight, so if we asked them what they could do to

make the world a better place, their perspective would be something different,” Jeff says. To Cathy, the fund is the perfect way to bring her granddaughters into the family tradition of giving. “With the Community Foundation,” she says, “we know there will always be careful stewardship.”



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SAVE THE DATE

We invite you to join us as we kick off programming for 2017 with a lunch and exclusive update on legislative efforts for Payday Lending Reform. Learn about efforts to reform payday lending practices in Alabama and why the Community Foundation is involved.

Panelists will include Rep. Danny Garrett, and Rep. David Faulkner. Kim Rogers, Community Foundation Program Officer will moderate.

Monday, February 27, 2017

11:30am to 1:00pm

YWCA of Central Alabama
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GIVING WITH GRACE

Rescuing food may not require a superhero like Batman with his Batmobile but it does help if you have a really big truck.

What is rescued food? It's the food that community volunteers pick up, right before it finds itself in the dumpster, behind local stores in our community. It's the food that is close to expiration that is still safe to eat, like day old bread or bagged lettuce past its "sell-by" date, but not the excellent quality that a store would sell to customers.

Grace Klein Community is a local nonprofit that provides food to hundreds of families in need. They do this by 'rescuing' food from generous grocery stores and restaurants. Transporting the donations has been a struggle because they had to rely on volunteer vehicles. Often they had to

GO2U BRINGS HOPE TO STUDENTS

According to the NAMI, the National Alliance for Mental Illness, one in five young people live with a mental health condition, but less than half receive the services or support they need to cope with it. So when Gateway came to the Community Foundation with a grant request to expand Go2U, a school-based mental health counseling program, to students at two local elementary schools it, was approved.

Since expanding the program this fall, Gateway's school-based therapists have provided regular, ongoing counseling to 36 students and have also provided one-time crisis counseling to 35 additional students.

Ms. Pat, Gateway's Go2U therapist, shared an encouraging story with us about one second grade student who had been suffering anxiety and was regularly mocked by fellow students. "With counseling and therapy, this student is now showing positive results," says Ms. Pat, "and for the first time is actively participating in class and making new friends."

reschedule trips because of weather or plan multiple trips to transport larger donations.

Last spring Grace Klein submitted a grant request to the Community Foundation under our "Access to healthy food" results strategy. They wanted to invest in a box truck that would allow them to expand their ability to rescue more food and provide healthy meals to more families in need.

Thanks to the additional help of our Giving Together donors, the grant was approved and Grace Klein purchased their truck this summer. According to Director, Scott Elliott, Grace Klein's staff and volunteers have been able to use the box truck to pick up more food than ever before in a single trip. Their reach and the number of families they serve on a monthly basis tripled in the last few months of 2016.

Because of the additional donations they were also able to open a food pantry called the Community Market. that now serves more than 100 families per week. This is in

addition to the 230 families who are served through their monthly food delivery program. "We now have a distributor who donates daily due to our new ability to pick up large quantities of food using the box truck," says Scott Elliott. "Thanks to the Community Foundation and our incredible volunteers who help to preserve and distribute food, we are now serving 630 families per month."



"YOU DON'T THINK, RIGHT IN YOUR BACKYARD, THERE ARE PEOPLE GOING WITHOUT MEALS, BUT THEY ARE THERE"

Scott Elliott,
Director of Ministry
Grace Klein Community

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GIVING TOGETHER OR TO PARTICIPATE IN A SITE VISIT, CONTACT SARAH EDWARDS AT 205.327.3827

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