Forever Mississippi
NEWSLETTER
Second Quarter 2019

Mississippi Book Festival
A Fund at the Community Foundation for Mississippi
Strengthening Charitable Giving in Mississippi

A Note from Jane Alexander, president & CEO

It's an exciting time for philanthropy in our state. Already recognized as one of the most charitable states in the nation, Mississippi has a new incentive to help our state's rich history of giving continue — forever.

Under the new Endow Mississippi state income tax program, signed into law in April, Mississippians will be eligible to receive a tax credit for charitable gifts made to endowed funds held by community foundations in the state. People who make a qualified donation will receive a tax credit of 25 percent of the contribution.

As part of our 25th-year celebration, we are working with several nonprofit partners with challenge grants, to help them build their endowment funds and secure their futures. Some of these include Operation Shoestring, the Mississippi Council on Economic Education, Mississippi Children’s Museum, and the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. Others may be added as our anniversary continues — stay tuned! As part of the challenge, we're also providing expert coaching on planned and major gift development to these organizations. And, we've focused our competitive grants cycle on endowment fund and capacity/sustainability building for our nonprofit community.

We hope to spread the word about Endow Mississippi and our work into our 19 new counties, as well. We thank our state's leaders, especially sponsors Sen. Joey Fillingane and Rep. Jeff Smith, Lt. Governor Tate Reeves, House Speaker Phillip Gunn, and Governor Phil Bryant, for passing this important legislation, to help our churches, schools, soup kitchens, and symphonies endure — For Mississippi. For good. Forever.

Jane Alexander
President and CEO

Learn more about Endow Mississippi at www.endowms.org.
Our Board of Trustees recently announced a new slate of officers and several new trustees. The officers for the Board of Trustees include Jon C. Turner, chairman; Will Crossley, vice-chair; Ashley N. Wicks, treasurer; and Larry Edwards, secretary. Newly elected members of the Board of Trustees include Deidra Bell, Mark Fields, Mark Hosemann, Robbie Kemp, and Robert Lampton.

Our board is a talented group of leaders who are responsible for the governance, policy setting, and direction for the foundation. Each member has demonstrated a deep commitment to organizations and causes that create positive, transformational change in Mississippi. We are thankful for each board member for their time, talent, and leadership. To learn more about these leaders visit www.formississippi.org/board-members.
Literary lovers of all ages will have yet another opportunity to be engaged and enthralled by stories, novels, poetry, essays, and books at the annual Mississippi Book Festival on Saturday, August 17. We are excited to support the festival with a $50,000 grant and serve as the fifth-anniversary funder.

Last year's book festival drew more than 7,500 people to hear from award-winning authors, interact with other bibliophiles, and support Mississippi’s rich literary history. This year's event will feature more than 40 panels, conversations, and interviews with authors and experts. We are thrilled to continue our support of the Mississippi Book Festival and look forward to celebrating literacy, learning, and creativity in our state. For more information about the book festival visit msbookfestival.com.

Community Foundation News

Nissan and BankPlus Support Local Teachers

Education grants to Madison County and Canton schools reward innovative projects

For over a decade, Nissan and BankPlus have worked with the Community Foundation to give back to the community. Each year, teachers in the Madison County and Canton Public School districts are invited to apply for one-year grants to enhance classroom learning. As part of this innovative partnership, the Community Foundation administers the grant program from application to award, and in turn, the two corporate partners raise the funds necessary for the grants.

Since 2007, Nissan and BankPlus have raised and granted more than $787,000 to educators through the Nissan/BankPlus Teacher Education Grant Program, housed at the Community Foundation.
Sponsored by Nissan and BankPlus, the annual Drive for Education was held in June at Lake Caroline Golf Club. Proceeds from this popular event will support the Nissan/BankPlus Teacher Education Grant Program.

This fund at the Community Foundation creates an easy way for corporate partners to reach their charitable giving goals without adding additional duties to administrative staff.

Connect with us

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