Lake Area Foundation Offers New Opportunities for Community Giving

The Lake Area Foundation (LAF), a community foundation, was officially formed in July 2012 with the approval of by-laws, followed by the creation of a regional board of directors and the creation of advisory committees in each of the ten counties served -- Adair, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, McCreary, Pulaski, Russell, Taylor and Wayne.

Statistics show that in 2009, charitable contributions in the United States totaled $303.75 billion. Many people have the misconception that individuals can’t give enough money to make a difference. What might be surprising to learn, however, is that individuals actually contributed $227 billion of that $303.75 billion. The average gift was $250.

Individuals, indeed, are very generous…and when their money is pooled, individuals will find that their small contributions can add up to make significant differences in their communities.

What if the citizens of the entire region pooled their resources and used the earnings to provide good things for current and future needs? The Lake Area Foundation was created in faith, knowing that the need existed for this “framework for giving,” and that dozens, even hundreds of funds would come with time.

The Foundation is staffed and managed by the Lake Cumberland Area Development District. With facilities, staff and a framework in place, this effort is being undertaken as a service to the region.

The Foundation began with a simple idea: charitable giving should be easy, flexible and effective. The Foundation plans to develop a permanent, yet flexible, collection of endowment funds contributed by people from all walks of life who want to give something back in a way that matters to them.

The principal of these funds remains intact forever; with the income generated annually invested back into the community through grants that tackle today’s needs and prepare for tomorrow’s challenges.

To learn more about the Lake Area Foundation, go to www.lakeareafoundation.org; visit and “like” the Lake Area Foundation Facebook page; send an email to lakeareafoundation@lcadd.org; or call 270-866-4200.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?

A community foundation is a tax-exempt public trust available to individuals, companies and organizations to facilitate fund development, fund management and grant making. Serving as the area’s largest pool of charitable endowments, the Lake Area Foundation offers ease, convenience and expertise for parties who wish to make a lasting impact upon the charitable needs of non-profit organizations and programs.

LAF ONLINE

In September, LAF launched a new website offering information about the new community foundation.

It contains information about the formation of the foundation, a question and answer section, foundation bylaws, as well as contact information.

The website address is www.lakeareafoundation.org. A Facebook page is also available and can be found by searching for Lake Area Foundation.
On September 20, 2012, Donna Diaz, Executive Director for the Lake Cumberland Area Development District (LCADD), welcomed Lake Area Foundation (LAF) board members to LCADD’s office in Russell Springs for the foundation’s first board of director’s meeting.

As LAF’s consultant, Susan Landis, who is Executive Director for the Beckley Area Foundation in West Virginia, gave an excellent and informative presentation about community foundations. She shared personal experiences, gave real-world examples of community foundation funds, and offered insights and advise about operating a community foundation.

During the business session of the meeting, board officers were nominated and elected as follows: Yevette Haskins, Chairman; Janet Clark, Vice Chairman; Blaine Staat, Secretary; and Randy Conyers, Treasurer. All board members drew one, two or three-year terms, and members are allowed to serve on the board two times.

On September 21, the local advisory committees from all 10 counties came together in Russell Springs. Again, Landis spoke enthusiastically about community foundations. One advisory committee, composed of five members, from each of the 10 counties participate in the LAF. See back page of this insert for additional board and advisory committee member information.

Folks who attended the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Lake Cumberland Area Development District on September 27, 2012, heard more about the LAF from Donna Diaz, LCADD Executive Director. Attendees also received two brochures designed to answer questions about the new organization and about community foundations.
Board, Committee Members, Staff Attend Community Foundation Trainings

Planning for the creation of the Lake Area Foundation began in the fall of 2010. Since then, board, advisory committee members and staff have participated in a number of workshops and educational training sessions to prepare to operate the organization.

- **2012** — West Virginia Grantmaker’s Conference, Parkersburg — Yvette Haskins, LAF Chairman; Janet Clark, LAF Vice Chairman; Ann Melton, Adair County Judge and LAF board member; Donna Diaz and Luanne Adams, staff.
- **2012** — The Kentucky Summit on Philanthropy, Lexington — Clarissa Hart, staff
- **2012** — Governor’s Local Issues Conference, Louisville — Philanthropy in Kentucky session — Judy Keltner, staff.
- **2011** — The Kentucky Summit on Philanthropy, Lexington — Donna Diaz, Judy Keltner, and Waylon Wright, staff
- **2010** — The Kentucky Summit on Philanthropy, Lexington, Judy Keltner, staff.

**KINDS OF FUNDS**

- **Discretionary or Unrestricted Funds:** Address your community’s most pressing needs.
- **Donor Advised:** Make recommendations regarding distributions of gifts from your fund.
- **Designated Funds:** Support specific charities.
- **Scholarship Funds:** Provide access to education to deserving students.
- **Agency Endowments:** Non-profit organizations create endowments to support their operations or programs.
- **Field of Interest:** Benefit an area of need, such as arts, rather than a specific charity.
- **Contribute to Existing Funds:** Gifts meet the general charitable needs of a community.
Board of Directors

Yevette Haskins, Chairman
Janet Clark, Vice Chairman
Blaine Staat, Secretary
Randy Conyers, Treasurer
Dan Antle
Barry Bertram
Devi Bradshaw
Jeff Choate
Ann Melton
Carolyn Mounce
Bill Norris
Dr. Carol Pedicord
Frank Phillips
Susan Stephens
Mickie Jo Tarter

Adair County: Dan Antle, Gale Cowan, Blake Martin, Cindi Waggener and Linda Waggener
Casey County: Blaine Staat, Leanne Coffey Davis, Gina Goode, Steve Sweeney and Ronald Wright
Clinton County: Randy Conyers, Lisa Beard, Willard Johnson, Steve Tallent and Dr. Robert Williams
Cumberland County: Bill Norris, Misty Dubre, Becky Radford, Hazel Smith and Vickie Wells
Green County: Devi Bradshaw, Jonathan Meadows and Kacey Milby
McCreary County: Susan Stephens and Kay Morrow
Pulaski County: Carolyn Mounce, Christie Adams, Linda Bourne, Lacey Cundiff and Lois Hatfield
Russell County: Mickie Jo Tarter, Brooks Bates, Tonya Meece, Lisa McDonald and Dr. Jerry Westerfield
Taylor County: Barry Bertram, Jann Aaron, Eddie Hazelwood, Karen Patton and Wanda Washington
Wayne County: Frank V. Phillips

*Each committee will be composed of five members. Some committees are still in the process of formation at press time.