



for BETTER

a publication of the North Georgia Community Foundation

Five New Board Members Join the Team in 2018

Our Board of Directors is comprised of community experts across the region committed to providing responsible governance to ensure we continue to advance our mission. This year we are pleased to announce the addition of **five new board members to the NGCF team as well as the appointment of Lona Pope as chair of the 2018 Board of Directors.**



Michelle Prater, CEO and Lona Pope, 2018 Board Chair

Lona moves into the position of Board Chair after serving on the Board for the past four years. During her tenure as a board member, Lona has been instrumental in moving forward our marketing and community outreach initiatives. Diving into ways she can help us spread our message comes naturally to Lona as she spent 25 years in marketing and public relations for community banks. We are fortunate to have her dedicate her time to serving the Community Foundation and look forward to a great 2018 under her leadership.

Welcome 2018 New Board Members:

- Mary Hart Wilheit, Hall County** Community Volunteer, Past Board Chair
- Ann Nixon, Hall County** Retired Non-profit Executive
- Linda Foster, Jackson County** Executive Director, Family Connections
- Brian Whalen, Hall County** Financial Advisor, Raymond James
- Tammy Caudell, Habersham County** Senior Project Manager, Global Commerce

Endowment Partner since 2003: **Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier**



Although many things have changed over the years, one thing remains the same since the Gainesville-Hall County Boys Club was founded in 1954 – the need for a fun and safe place for children in our community. That was the vision more than 60 years ago, and it remains a driving force for the organization today.

What started humbly as a way to entertain young boys in the community has grown into an organization that serves nearly 900 youth daily with programming aimed at academic success, character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. These are young people in our community who otherwise would have no place to go after school. Because of the services provided at the Boys & Girls Clubs, these kids have a safe place to learn and grow, experience life-enhancing programs, build enduring relationships with caring adults and be introduced to opportunities they may have never experienced.

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North Georgia
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Endowment Partner continued:

The need for after school and summer programs only continues to grow, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier is leading the way in programming for young people across our region by constantly looking ahead to ways it can serve even more youth who need it most. We are proud to play a small part in the organization's work in our region by having them as a partner for the management of their endowment.

"Knowing our endowment is being well managed allows us to spend our time and effort on growing our programs to advance our mission and better serve families in our community who need us," said Steve Mickens, CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier. "Plus having an endowment with NGCF shows financial sustainability and helps us plan for the future."

To learn more about the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier visit www.boysgirlsclubs.com.

4-Star Rating on Charity Navigator



NGCF recently received a 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest and most-utilized evaluator of charities. CRatings range from 0-Stars to 4-Stars, with 4-Stars meaning an organization is operating at an exceptional level. This

4-Star rating further exemplifies our commitment to operational excellence to donors and the community. We are proud to announce this recognition with our valued donors and hope you will help us spread the news.

New Tax Laws & Charitable Giving

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (The Act), signed into law Dec. 22, 2017, includes several provisions relevant to charitable giving. Each provision took effect Jan. 1, 2018, and terminates at year-end 2025 unless extended by further legislation. Contact Michelle at **770-535-7880** if you have any questions about the law and your philanthropy.

Foundation Updates



2018 SCHOLARSHIP CYCLE NOW OPEN

Graduating seniors are encouraged to check out scholarship opportunities made possible through NGCF by our donors. We provide hundreds of scholarships each year to students through a variety of scholarship funds. All eligibility criteria for each scholarship are available on our website so interested students can see which scholarships are the best fit for them and learn more on how to apply. Applications must be submitted by March 15.



MORE THAN \$7.5 MILLION AWARDED IN GRANTS TO NONPROFITS IN 2017

Last year we were able to help donors make a difference in the community by facilitating more than \$7.5 million in grants. From the arts to education and the environment to human services, NGCF works to help people like you transform our region - *for good; for ever.*

Visit ngcf.org/scholarships to learn more about our scholarships or call Megan Martin, Director of Marketing & Development, at 770-535-7880.

MICHELLE R. PRATER, President & CEO
LISA WARWICK, VP, Finance | MEGAN MARTIN, Director, Marketing & Development
MARGAUX DOLENC, Director, Grants & Community Partnerships
TAMMY PAUL, Manager, Administrative Services



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THE NORTH
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SUPPORTS
NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS
AND DONORS
BY BUILDING,
DISTRIBUTING
AND PRESERVING
PHILANTHROPIC
ASSETS TO
ENHANCE THE
SPIRIT OF
COMMUNITY AND
QUALITY OF LIFE
IN THE NORTH
GEORGIA REGION.

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