



2025 Community Report



Improving our community...one gift at a time



Board of Directors 2025 2026

- O. Kermit Hobbs, Jr., President
- Sheri Anderson
- Leroy Bennett
- George Y. Birdsong
- James (Jay) E. Butler, III
- Harry Lee Cross, III (retired in 2025)
- Carl L. Farris, Jr. (retired in 2025)
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- David F. Host (retired in 2025)
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- Whitney G. Saunders (retired in 2025)
- Betsy B. Totten
- Vonda Warren-Lilly, LPC, LSATP, ACS
- Vernon M. Towler
- Joseph (Joby) N. Webb, Jr.
- Margaret (Margie) N. Wiley
- B.J. Willie (retired in 2025)

Staff

- Lorelei Costa Morrow, Executive Director
- Brenda Chamberlain, Bookkeeper and Office Manager
- Kim Landis, Community Outreach Manager

Suffolk Foundation
 110 West Finney Avenue
 Suite 100
 Suffolk, VA 23434
 757-923-9090
SuffolkFoundation.org

** Lake Drummond at Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Suffolk, Virginia. Photo by Rebecca Wynn, US Fish and Wildlife Service.*



President's Message

What a year it has been! In 2025, the Suffolk Foundation reached a major milestone: as of December, we have awarded more than \$10 million in grants and scholarships to local nonprofits and students since our founding in 2007. This achievement reflects the dedication of our board, founders, donors, and staff—and the generosity of our community.

While the total amount awarded is significant, I am most proud of how we give. At the Suffolk Foundation, we work hard to ensure that our grants and scholarships truly benefit recipients while honoring donor intent. One student's experience highlights why this matters.

In 2024, Lauren Vann, a Lakeland High School graduate, received the Ossie and Thomas Blair Scholarship—one of our most prestigious awards, providing \$5,000 per year for four years of college. An exceptional student, Lauren also earned a scholarship from her university and believed the combined support would allow her to graduate debt-free.

Instead, she received an unexpected bill. When Lauren's university received our scholarship funds, it reduced her institutional scholarship by \$5,000 rather than crediting her account, leaving her student loans unchanged. This practice, known as scholarship displacement, affects an estimated 20-50% of scholarship recipients nationwide. It undermines student success and violates donor intent.

Fortunately, Lauren's story has a happy ending. Our staff appealed the decision, successfully restored her scholarship, and implemented an innovative solution: reissuing her award through a 529 account. Once used primarily as a college savings tool for families, 529 accounts are now helping foundations mitigate scholarship displacement. Last year, we resolved every instance of displacement we identified, ensuring students like Lauren receive the full benefit of their awards.

To our knowledge, the Suffolk Foundation is the only local scholarship provider tackling displacement. This year, we'll be using 529 accounts for all scholarships—just one example of our persistence, creativity, and commitment to serving our community.

Lauren's experience is one of many stories behind the gifts, grants, and scholarships highlighted in our Community Report. I invite you to read and share it, and to contact us if we can support your philanthropy.

It is an honor to serve as president of your community foundation.

O. Kermit Hobbs, Jr.
 2025-2026 Board President

Suffolk Foundation Charitable Funds

As of February 11, 2026

- Allfirst Memorial Scholarship Fund
- AMADAS Industries Stanley A. Brantley Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Amy Phelps Art Scholarship Fund
- Ann Godwin Moore Fund
- Audrey B. Butler Memorial Scholarship Fund
- * Bradshaw Book Fund
- * Brenda Ward Bradshaw Fund
- Charity for Needy Fund
- Charles B. III and Juanita Pond Fund
- * Child Evangelism Fellowship Fund
- Chuckatuck Volunteer Fire Department Scholarship Fund
- Coach Ron Killmon PRLPT Fund
- Col. Fred V. Cherry Scholarship Fund
- Community Action Coalition of Virginia Fund
- Community Impact Fund
- Cross Family Access Fund
- Cross Family Fund
- David and Debbie Russell Family Fund
- Disaster Relief Fund
- DiStasio Family Fund
- DiStasio Health Professions Scholarship Fund
- Dottie Scott Elizabeth River Artists Fund
- Dwight and Jane Schaubach Fund
- Ella Freeman Rawls Endowment Fund

- George and Sue Birdsong Endowment Fund
- George T. Everett Memorial Fund
- Hall Family Fund
- Hampton Roads Partnership Fund
- Harrell Fund
- Harry and Lisa Cross Administrative Fund
- Harry and Lisa Cross Grandchildren Fund
- Heirs of Angus Henderson Hines Fund
- * Hensley Family Giving Tree Fund
- Host Family Fund
- Howard D. Mast Memorial Scholarship Fund
- James M. Blair Memorial Scholarship Fund
- * J. Samuel Glasscock Park Development Fund
- Judith Whitney Godwin Fund for Animals
- Katherine S. Harrison Fund
- Kay Gillette and Greg Gillette Scholarship Fund
- KGL Cross Fund
- Lewis F. Morris and William L. Whitley Scholarship Fund
- Louis and Mary Haddad Foundation Scholarship Fund
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael W. Wendel AWW Technologies Fund
- Next Step Operating Endowment Fund
- Obici Healthcare Foundation Career Pathways Scholarship Fund
- Oliver K. Hobbs, Sr. STEM Scholarship Fund
- Ossie S. and Thomas F. Blair Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund

- Otha S. Rountree Scholarship Fund
- R. Curtis and Martha Godwin Saunders Memorial Fund
- Reynoldson Baptist Church Fund
- Richard F. III and Carolyn Barry Fund
- Robert F. Brinkley III Fund
- Samaritan Internship Fund
- Scott and Heather Carr Charitable Fund
- * Sgt. AJ Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund
- * Spain Family Fund
- Suffolk Business Women Scholarship Fund
- Suffolk Education Foundation Family of Funds
- Suffolk Humane Society Fund
- * Suffolk Presbyterian Church Willis-Volper Scholarship Fund
- Suffolk Recreational and Charitable Association Fund
- Suffolk Youth Athletic Association Fund
- Thomas H. III and Constance P. Birdsong Endowment Fund
- * Thomas J. Spence and Ellis Family Charitable Fund
- Tom and Jane Birdsong Endowment Fund
- Tri-County Longbeards Fund
- White Family Fund
- William N. (Billy) Hill Scholarship Fund
- Women's Impact Fund
- * New Fund in 2025 and 2026*

New Fund Spotlight: Family-Focused Donor-Advised Funds

Every family passes down something. For some families, it's freckles. For others, a quirky middle name. Maybe your family has a secret recipe for chili.

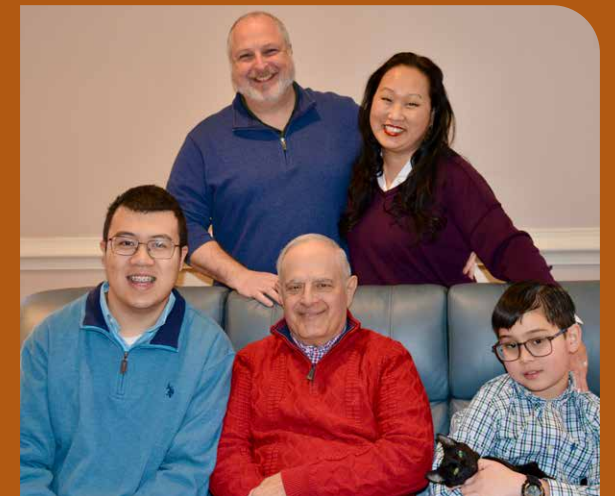
But what if you could pass down a habit of generosity?

For many families, a donor-advised fund is an inheritance of purpose, a legacy of community giving to pass down to children and grandchildren. In 2025, the Suffolk Foundation was honored to establish several new donor-advised funds with local families, including the Hensley Family Giving Tree Fund, the Spain Family Fund, and the Thomas J. Spence and Ellis Family Charitable Fund.

For these families, and for many others working with us, their gifting is purposefully intergenerational. Conversations may start at the kitchen table, and continue on a family road trip. What are the community needs? What issues are important to our family? How can we help our neighbors?

For the Spain Family, their donor-advised fund sparked a discussion about the organizations they wanted to support (such as the Western Tidewater Free Clinic, and the Suffolk Family YMCA).

For the Hensley family, their fund is a way to instill an ethic of gratitude and charity. "We wanted it to be a family fund where our kids could learn early the importance of giving back." Fittingly, the Hensleys named their fund for a favorite book: *The Giving Tree*, by Shel Silverstein.



The Ellis-Spence Family used their donor-advised fund to support a nonprofit—the Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center—that still needed some funding to meet their budget goals. Pictured here are just some of the members of this wonderful family: Standing are Chris and Kim Ellis, and seated (left to right) are Quincy Burke, Thomas Spence, and Zach Ellis, holding five-month-old Poppy.

What's your family's favorite cause? Could you use some help with your family's giving? Call the Suffolk Foundation to learn more about donor-advised funds.

Community Impact Grants

\$154,958 Awarded in 2025 to 38 Nonprofits

ACCESS College Foundation.....	\$6,800
American Red Cross of Coastal Virginia.....	\$4,000
Boys & Girls Club of Southeast Virginia.....	\$2,000
Children's Center.....	\$2,100
Children's Harbor.....	\$1,900
Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk.....	\$7,200
Communities in Schools of Hampton Roads.....	\$3,900
Community Outreach Coalition.....	\$2,500
Family 4 Eternity.....	\$1,500
Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore.....	\$7,800
ForKids.....	\$8,500
Franklin Cooperative Ministry.....	\$1,700
Friends of Foster Care.....	\$2,900
Genieve Shelter.....	\$1,000
Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast.....	\$2,500
Girls on the Run Hampton Roads.....	\$2,600
Habitat for Humanity of South Hampton Roads.....	\$3,500
Hope for Suffolk.....	\$1,200
Isle of Wight Christian Outreach Program.....	\$4,800
Meals on Wheels of Suffolk and Isle of Wight.....	\$7,200
Nansemond River Preservation Alliance.....	\$7,700
Rawls Museum Arts.....	\$1,500
Riddick's Folly.....	\$1,000
Salvation Army of Suffolk.....	\$7,500
Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia.....	\$2,500
St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum.....	\$1,000
Suffolk Art League.....	\$4,375
Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts.....	\$7,000
Suffolk Cheer Fund.....	\$2,500
Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center.....	\$7,600
Suffolk Education Foundation.....	\$2,000
Suffolk Family YMCA.....	\$6,383
Suffolk Nansemond Historical Society.....	\$2,500
Suffolk Sheriff's Office Charities.....	\$3,500
Up Center.....	\$4,000
Virginia Legal Aid Society.....	\$5,000
Western Tidewater Free Clinic.....	\$10,800
WHRO Public Media.....	\$2,500

Community Action Grants

\$199,750 Awarded in 2025 to 47 Nonprofits
from the Community Action Coalition of Virginia, a donor-advised fund in the Suffolk Foundation

ACCESS College Foundation.....	\$8,200
American Diabetes Association.....	\$1,000
American Red Cross of Coastal Virginia.....	\$1,000
BridgetheGap Outreach Center.....	\$1,000
Children's Center.....	\$1,000
Children's Harbor.....	\$1,000
Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk.....	\$6,300
Communities in Schools of Hampton Roads.....	\$2,500
Cornerstone Ballet Company.....	\$2,500
Cultured Pearls Foundation of Suffolk.....	\$3,000
Delta Research and Educational Foundation.....	\$6,000
Family 4 Eternity.....	\$650
Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore.....	\$6,000
ForKids.....	\$11,500
Franklin Cooperative Ministry.....	\$300
Friends of Foster Care.....	\$3,000
Genieve Shelter.....	\$2,000
Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast.....	\$1,000
Girls on the Run Hampton Roads.....	\$2,000
Goodz Foundation.....	\$2,000
Habitat for Humanity of South Hampton Roads.....	\$1,500
Heart of Gold Shelter.....	\$1,000
Hero Kids Foundation.....	\$1,000
Hope for Suffolk.....	\$2,000
Isle of Wight Christian Outreach Program.....	\$3,000
Meals on Wheels of Suffolk and Isle of Wight.....	\$4,800
Nansemond River Preservation Alliance.....	\$10,000
Rawls Museum Arts.....	\$1,000
Riddick's Folly.....	\$1,000
Safe House Project.....	\$3,000
Salvation Army of Suffolk.....	\$16,000
Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia.....	\$2,000
Suffolk Art League.....	\$2,000
Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts.....	\$18,000
Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center.....	\$13,000
Suffolk Family YMCA.....	\$12,000
Suffolk Nansemond Historical Society.....	\$3,000
Suffolk Public Schools.....	\$2,000
Suffolk Sheriff's Office Charities.....	\$3,000
Suffolk Sister Cities International.....	\$2,000
Tidewater Youth Services Foundation.....	\$1,000
Up Center.....	\$1,000
Virginia Legal Aid Society.....	\$10,000
Virginia Opera Association.....	\$1,000
Virginia Symphony Orchestra.....	\$1,000
Western Tidewater Free Clinic.....	\$20,000
WHRO Public Media.....	\$2,500



In 2025 Community Impact and Community Action Grants supported dozens of nonprofits across Suffolk and Western Tidewater, including (clockwise from top left) Camp25, Cornerstone Ballet, Suffolk Art League, and St. Luke's Historic Church and Museum. Last year Camp25 added football and cheer to their youth programs in Franklin and Southampton County; at Camp25, no child is ever turned away due to financial reasons. At Cornerstone Ballet, over 80% of their company dancers are on full scholarship, thanks to grant support from the Suffolk Foundation. In 2025, grants to Suffolk Art League supported school programs, classes, and public art projects, like the Festival Park Mural, completed by Jorge Miguel-Rodriguez in July 2025. Grant support to St. Luke's in Smithfield supported field trips to the site for Isle of Wight County fourth graders. Photos courtesy of Camp25, Shannon Fogle Photography, Suffolk Art League, and St. Luke's.



◀ In 2025, with support from Community Impact and Community Action, the Armed Services YMCA provided the "Operation Hero" program for home-schooled military children in Suffolk. Photo courtesy of the Armed Services YMCA.

How to Apply

The Suffolk Foundation welcomes grant proposals from nonprofit organizations in Suffolk, Franklin, Southampton County, and Isle of Wight County. Our Community Impact Grants are intentionally broad, supporting arts, culture, education, the environment, health, nutritional assistance, housing, and many other community needs. Applications open online on September 1 each year, and are due October 15.

Our Community Impact Grants are supported by our Community Impact Fund, as well as ten other undesignated and field-of-interest funds. Many of our donor-advised funds, including the Community Action Coalition of Virginia, also review these grant applications.

How to Help

Anyone can contribute to our grants program, either with a Friends contribution, or by starting and naming a new fund. Donors can establish a fund for a favorite good cause (such as child care or animal welfare), or make a donation for general grant-making. Gifts from our Friends of the Foundation are added to our Community Impact Fund, which is our largest all-purpose grant-making endowment.

To learn more, visit suffolkfoundation.org, or call our staff at 757-923-9090.

Other Grants and Distributions

Awarded in 2025 From Donor-Advised, Designated, Agency, and Other Funds

ACCESS College Foundation.....	\$5,000	Miles of Love	\$500
AES Cancer Foundation.....	\$3,333	Nansemond River Garden Club	\$1,000
Alzheimer's Association.....	\$2,000	Nansemond River High School.....	\$5,000
American Cancer Society.....	\$1,000	Nansemond River Preservation Alliance.....	\$8,000
American Red Cross of Coastal Virginia	\$600	Nansemond Suffolk Academy.....	\$81,100
Arlington Youth Sports.....	\$20,000	Norfolk Collegiate.....	\$50,000
Auburn Cord Duesenberg Auto Museum.....	\$1,000	Old Dominion University Athletic Foundation	\$13,000
Bernie's Book Bank.....	\$28,750	Operation Kindness	\$100
Birdsong Health Literacy Center of Excellence.....	\$17,000	Paul D. Camp Community College Foundation	\$500
Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia	\$500	Peninsula Community Foundation of VA.....	\$10,000
Chainbreakers.....	\$2,000	Portsmouth Museums Foundation	\$1,500
CHAS Foundation	\$5,000	Rawls Museum Arts	\$20,397
Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation.....	\$10,000	Reynoldson Baptist Church.....	\$2,000
Child Evangelism Fellowship of SC.....	\$28,750	Roc Solid Foundation.....	\$41,050
Children's Hospital of the King's Daughter	\$8,000	Rotary Club of Salisbury Foundation	\$25,000
Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk	\$13,000	Rotary Club of Suffolk Charitable Foundation.....	\$3,000
Compassion for Canines.....	\$500	Salvation Army of Suffolk.....	\$56,025
Cultured Pearls Foundation of Suffolk	\$1,000	Sentara Foundation.....	\$10,000
Deep Creek High School.....	\$2,000	St. Jude Children's Hospital.....	\$2,500
Delta Research and Educational Foundation.....	\$2,000	St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum.....	\$10,500
Diamonds in the Rough Rescue.....	\$10,000	St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children	\$5,000
Ebenezer United Methodist Church	\$20,000	St. Michaels Concours d'Elegance	\$10,000
Edge Christian Camp.....	\$5,500	St. Paul's Episcopal Church.....	\$9,000
EDMARC.....	\$7,000	Suffolk Art League	\$9,000
Elizabeth River Project.....	\$5,000	Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts.....	\$31,000
Evelyn's Wildlife Refuge.....	\$7,500	Suffolk Cheer Fund.....	\$3,500
EVMS Foundation.....	\$5,000	Suffolk Christian Academy.....	\$6,750
Family 4 Eternity.....	\$1,000	Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center.....	\$16,925
ForKids	\$37,215	Suffolk Education Foundation	\$33,762
Friends of the Animals - Greater Hampton Roads	\$6,500	Suffolk Humane Society	\$19,094
Genieve Shelter.....	\$3,000	Suffolk River Heritage.....	\$10,000
Goodz Foundation.....	\$1,000	TowneBank Foundation	\$34,000
Green Acres Presbyterian Church.....	\$15,000	Trevor Project.....	\$100
Guns & Hoses Hockey Association	\$3,000	Tri-County Longbeards Chapter	\$5,000
Habitat for Humanity of South Hampton Roads	\$1,000	Unicef	\$100
Hampden-Sydney College.....	\$25,000	United Way of South Hampton Roads	\$10,500
Hope for Haiti	\$100	Urban League of Hampton Roads	\$1,000
Hope for Suffolk.....	\$2,000	Virginia All-Female Ride	\$1,000
Hurrah Players.....	\$10,000	Virginia Slaughter House at Smithfield	\$3,500
Isle of Wight Academy	\$1,000	Vision Driven 757	\$2,500
Isle of Wight Christian Outreach Program.....	\$1,300	Western Branch Bruins.....	\$3,000
King's Fork High School.....	\$2,500	Western Tidewater Free Clinic.....	\$30,000
Lakeland High School.....	\$2,500	Wor-Wic Community College Foundation.....	\$5,000
Lynell O. Baker Scholarship Fund	\$1,000	YMCA of South Hampton Roads	\$9,750
Macedonia Baptist Church	\$30,000	Youth Readiness	\$5,000



◀ Donor-advised funds at the Suffolk Foundation support a range of organizations and charitable causes throughout Suffolk and Western Tidewater, including Suffolk Humane Society, where a grant from the Judith Whitney Godwin Fund for Animals in 2025 helped cover veterinary expenses and cat enclosures for cuties like Saturn, pictured left. Photo courtesy of Suffolk Humane Society.

A donor-advised grant to Hope for Suffolk (opposite page, left photo) supported that group's Youth Development and Agriculture Program, which provides farm-based internships for underserved teenagers. In Smithfield, a donor-advised grant to Isle of Wight Christian Outreach Program (opposite page, right photo) supported their food distribution program, which served 589 local families in 2025, thanks to dozens of faithful volunteers. Photos courtesy of Hope for Suffolk and Isle of Wight Christian Outreach Program.

Picking the Fund that's Right for You

"I want to support a specific organization."

With a **designated fund**, you can support your favorite nonprofit organization. It could be a civic group, church, food pantry, park, school, or any other type of charity. The Suffolk Foundation handles the investment, and your chosen charity receives steady and reliable income each year.

"I want to choose the grants each year."

A **donor-advised fund** is a giving fund established by a family, business, or individual, who has ongoing involvement in how the fund is used. You recommend grants to nonprofits, and our staff handles all the paperwork, accounting, and due diligence. We offer many flexible options, including timing/amount of grants, and various investment and spending choices. If you have children or grandchildren, this is a great way to get them involved in philanthropy. Donor-advised funds are an easy, tax-advantaged way to take your charitable giving to the next level.

"There's a certain community need I want to address, but I want to leave the research and work to someone else."

With a **field-of-interest fund**, you identify the cause (e.g., homelessness, mental health), and leave the grant-making to us. You specify any number of community needs, or even a specific county or neighborhood. Then our board awards grants to the nonprofits that are making a difference in the area you've selected. Your gift stays flexible enough to meet community needs within your interest area, even as they change over time.

"My nonprofit needs an endowment."

An **agency fund** is established by a nonprofit for its own organization. This is a great tool for groups that don't have the time or investment expertise to manage their own endowment. Your organization can use your fund at the Suffolk Foundation to accept large, complex, and/or planned gifts.

"I just want to help the community."

If you don't have a specific program or charity in mind, establish an **undesignated fund**. By making a gift with no strings or restrictions, you enable our experienced staff and assess community needs and award grants to the nonprofits that undertake our community's most critical and exciting work.

To learn more about establishing a charitable fund, contact our staff at 757-923-9090, or go to suffolkfoundation.org/funds.



Scholarships Awarded in 2025

Allfirst Memorial Scholarship			
Sophie Crawford	\$1,000	Kate Holland	\$10,000
Kaylee Roggie.....	\$1,000	Jacy Keith	\$10,000
Amadas Industries Stanley A. Brantley Jr. Memorial Scholarship		Taylor Legg	\$10,000
Bryce Pope	\$1,500	Kevin Nguyen	\$10,000
Amy Phelps Art Scholarship		Abby Rice.....	\$10,000
Emma Ward.....	\$2,000	> Paul D. Camp Community College Recipients	
Audrey B. Butler Memorial Scholarship		Trajure Bazemore.....	\$1,333
Maddi Bullock	\$1,500	Lakesha Bynum.....	\$2,000
Chuckatuck Volunteer Fire Department Scholarship		Mary Eesuela.....	\$2,000
Greyson Davis.....	\$4,000	Tyasia Holland.....	\$1,333
Teniya Jordan	\$4,000	Katherine Joyner	\$1,333
Col. Fred V. Cherry Scholarship		Natalya Laster	\$1,333
Lavony Russell.....	\$2,750	Alyssa Manning.....	\$2,000
DiStasio Health Professions Scholarship		Makayla Parker.....	\$2,000
Makaila Miller	\$2,000	Alexis Reid.....	\$1,333
Howard D. Mast Memorial Scholarship		Taniya Robinson.....	\$2,000
Tyler Knight	\$7,500	Christian Witt.....	\$2,000
Kenneth Oparaji	\$7,500	I-Asia Yarrell	\$1,333
James M. Blair Memorial Scholarship		Oliver K. Hobbs, Sr. STEM Scholarship	
Rain Chen.....	\$6,000	Katherine Conrod.....	\$2,500
Just Because Scholarship		Ossie S. and Thomas F. Blair Jr. Memorial Scholarship	
Amada Credle.....	\$1,000	Hannah Joyner	\$5,000
Braedon Dennis.....	\$1,000	Lauren Vann	\$5,000
Lewis F. Morris and William L. Whitley Scholarship		Otha S. Rountree Scholarship	
Emiah Keene	\$1,800	Kara Russell.....	\$1,700
Louis and Mary Haddad Foundation Scholarship		Suffolk Business Women Scholarship	
Adeline Thomas.....	\$2,500	Katherine Conrod.....	\$2,500
Obici Healthcare Foundation Career Pathways Scholarship		William N. (Billy) Hill Scholarship	
> Renewable Scholarships		Cameron Worrell.....	\$2,000
Lailani Hart	\$10,000		



This page (top to bottom, left to right): Makaila Miller, Tyler Knight, Kevin Nguyen, Amada Credle, Emiah Keene (with David Miles), and Abby Rice (with Kelvin Turner). Opposite page (top to bottom, left to right): Lavony Russell, Lailani Hart, Rain Chen, Bryce Pope (with Jonathan Graham), and Katherine Conrod (with Kermit Hobbs).

Sgt. AJ Parker — A Light That Will Never Go Out



“He was like another dad. It was so easy to talk to him.”

“He looked out for everybody. He had a giving heart and spirit.”

“He served both his country and his city with honor and distinction. He stands as an enduring example for others to follow.”

“He could light up a room as no one else could. I’ve never met a more upbeat and positive individual.”

That’s how Joan Turner, Deborah Parker, Mike Duman, and Carl Farris remember Sgt. AJ Parker—a Suffolkan, Army veteran, family man, advocate against gun violence, founder of the Suffolk Advocacy Group, and friend to a countless many. Now, he’ll also be remembered as the namesake and inspiration for a brand-new local scholarship.

Announced in the fall of 2025, at the two-year anniversary of his passing, the Sgt. AJ Parker Memorial Scholarship will be awarded each year, starting in 2026, to four students graduating from a Suffolk public high school who plan to attend trade school or college. Established by Mr. Farris and Mr. Duman, the scholarship is structured as an endowment with the Suffolk Foundation, which will ensure its perpetuity over generations—like a light that will never go out.

Most significantly, the Sgt. AJ Parker Memorial Scholarship will be renewable at \$1,250 each year, for a total award of up to \$5,000 over four years per student. Most local scholarships are one-year awards, so this multi-year

structure will motivate and support students to complete their degree—and help students through the latter years of their education, when students need help the most.

“I’m honored to have been part of establishing this scholarship in AJ’s memory,” said Mr. Farris.

The Suffolk Foundation currently manages 21 scholarships on behalf of families, businesses, civic groups, and individuals throughout Suffolk and Western Tidewater. Anyone can start a scholarship through the Suffolk Foundation, or contribute to the Sgt. AJ Parker Memorial Scholarship in his honor.

For more information, contact the foundation at 757-923-9090, or go to our website at suffolkfoundation.org. From there, you can read the full story of the Sgt. AJ Parker Scholarship, donate to the fund, or learn more about all our scholarships.



Donations to Funds

Gifts Received from January 1 to December 31, 2025

Allfirst Memorial Scholarship Fund
Hall Family Fund
Trudy Norfleet

Audrey B. Butler Memorial Scholarship Fund
Butler Charitable Giving Fund

Bradshaw Book Fund
B.L. Bradshaw Trust
Brenda Ward Bradshaw Trust

Brenda Ward Bradshaw Fund
B.L. Bradshaw Trust
Brenda Ward Bradshaw Trust

Child Evangelism Fellowship Fund
B.L. Bradshaw Trust
Brenda Ward Bradshaw Trust

Chuckatuck Volunteer Fire Department Scholarship Fund
Chuckatuck Volunteer Fire Department, in memory of

William J. Saunders
Columbia Gas of Virginia
Ann Kirk, in memory of William Rapier

Coach Ron Killmon PRLPT Fund

Felix Collazo
Alex Daniels
Nathaniel Edwards
Charles Garcia
Maize Gray

Sidney Hazelwood, in honor of Thomas Hazelwood
Thomas and Karen Hazelwood

Jamar Hicks
Donna G. Killmon
Kimberly Killmon

Rjay Manuel
Cameron Midgett
Carolina Midgett
Jeffrey Mizelle
Nicole Molina

Cassandra Peterson
Michaela Redmond-Fiorito
Willie Tucker
Tyler Warnalis
Joshua White

Community Action Coalition of Virginia Fund
Blackfin Real Estate Investors
Community Action Coalition of Virginia
Jessica and Chad Drake

Cross Family Fund
Harry and Lisa Cross
David and Kathy Rawls, in memory of Vincent Pair

DiStasio Health Professions Scholarship Fund
DiStasio Family Fund

Hall Family Fund
Allfirst

Hensley Family Giving Tree Fund
Bradley and Mary Hensley

Host Family Fund
David and April Host

J. Samuel Glasscock Park Development Fund
Anonymous

Birdsong Charitable Foundation
Hexagon Energy

Just Because Scholarship Fund
Gary Barlow

K&L Cross Fund
Lee and Kate Cross

Kay Gillette and Greg Gillette Scholarship Fund
Robert Gillette

Lewis F. Morris and William L. Whitley Scholarship Fund
Ann S. Johnson

Frank and Anne Kress
Charles and Lynn Rose, in memory of Gary N. Berard

Louis and Mary Haddad Foundation Scholarship Fund
Lou and Mary Haddad Foundation

Next Step Operating Endowment Fund
Birdsong Charitable Foundation
Harry and Lisa Cross
O. Kermit Hobbs Jr.

Obici Healthcare Foundation Career Pathways
Scholarship Fund
Obici Healthcare Foundation

Oliver K. Hobbs, Sr. STEM Scholarship Fund
O. Kermit Hobbs Jr.

Operating Fund
Birdsong Charitable Foundation
O. Kermit Hobbs Jr.
Obici Healthcare Foundation
Tom and Jane Birdsong Endowment Fund

Pass Through Donation Fund
Lou and Mary Haddad Foundation
O. Kermit Hobbs Jr.

Richard F. III and Carolyn Barry Fund
Richard and Carolyn Barry

Sgt. AJ Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Hon. and Mrs. Michael Duman
Carl and Denise Farris

Spain Family Fund
Kent and Norma Spain

Suffolk Business Women Scholarship Fund
Suffolk Business Women

Suffolk Education Foundation Harry Lee and Jean Ritchie
Cross Family Scholarship Fund
Harry and Lisa Cross

Thomas J. Spence and Ellis Family Charitable Fund
Thomas J. Spence and Kimberly J. Ellis

William N. (Billy) Hill Scholarship Fund
William and Pam Hill

2025 Fall Forum Sponsors

Platinum

Birdsong Peanuts
The Overton Group
TowneBank / Towne Insurance

Gold

Allfirst
Butler Paper Recycling
Enspire Energy
Timothy K. Palmer, P.C.

Silver

Cross Realty
Davenport
David and April Host
S. Chris Jones
Nansemond Insurance Agency
Whitney and Ellen Saunders
Southern Bank
Vernon and Susan Towler

Bronze

Anderson & Anderson CPAs P.C.
Anonymous
Carl & Denise Farris Family Foundation
Kermit Hobbs
Land Planning Solutions
Lou & Mary Haddad Foundation
Margie and Mark Wiley

Improving our Community... One Gift at a Time

With so many important and worthy nonprofits in Suffolk and Western Tidewater, and so many critical needs, it's easy to get overwhelmed. If you want to help, where do you even start?

What if there were a local hub for all community nonprofits—a fund that could help our entire local charitable sector? A trusted fund that vetted local charities, awarding grants for the most urgent causes and most promising opportunities. A local fund that you could support, knowing your gifts would help our entire community.

That's the purpose of the Friends of the Foundation, and our Community Impact Fund.

Every penny contributed by our Friends goes to our Community Impact Fund, our largest general grant-making fund, which supports dozens of local nonprofits each year. (See pages 4-5). And, the Community Impact Fund is a perpetual endowment, which means it'll remain invested for growth for generations to come.

You too can build our community endowment, and be a Friend of the Foundation. Learn more at suffolkfoundation.org/friends.

Friends of the Foundation 2025

Anderson & Anderson CPAs P.C.
Anonymous (2)
Juanita Bagnell
Robert and Marie Baker
Gary Barlow
Lynn Barlow
Patricia Barlow
Sharon Barnard
The Hon. and Mrs. Leroy Bennett
McLemore and Sandra Birdsong
Cabell and Mary Jane Birdsong
Charles and Davin Birdsong
Everett and Miriam Birdsong
George Y. Birdsong
Nora D. Butler
Lin and Martha Callis
Harry and Lisa Cross
Hugh and Lynn Cross, in honor of Kermit Hobbs
Lee and Kate Cross
Joseph Cross, in honor of Harry Cross
Darius K. and Maria Davenport
Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Davies
Anthony and Mary Alys DiStasio
Lydia G. Duke
Jack and Mary Ann Eure
Larry and Ruth Ann Felton
James and Rebecca Habel
Hall Family Fund
L. Taylor and Stephanie Harrell
Pearl Blair Harrell
Bert and Anne Henderson
JP and Sara Henry
Bob and Wendy Hosick
William and Sara Ann Johnson, in honor of Bill Oast
Charles and Linnie Jordan

Kalamoo Community Outreach
Edward L. King
Ashton Love
David and Carla Love
Jennifer Thaler McCormick, in honor of George Birdsong
Mardane McLemore
Phil and Barbara McPhail
David D. Miles
Lorelei Morrow
Rebecca S. Myers
Pee Dee Peanut, in honor of Charles Birdsong
David and Kathy Rawls
Frank and Sally Rawls
Robb, Scott, Bradshaw & Rawls, P.C., in memory of Austin Darden
Clint S. Rudy
Sentara Healthcare
Kent and Norma Spain
Mills and Gin Staylor
Suffolk Executive Offices
Suffolk Insurance
Melissa Sutherland
Gerard and Diane Thompson
Tim and Alice Lee, in honor of Harry & Lisa Cross
Timothy K. Palmer, P.C.
Daniel and Betsy Totten
Luther J. Upton III
Sarah H. Walden
Jordan and Britney Webb
Joe and Nancy Webb
James and Hazel White
Brenda Draper Winstead, in memory of Howard Mast
Thomas and Shannon Woodward



◀ Drawing names from a "hat" (rather, a bowl) is a specialty of Gary Barlow's. That, and testing grant applications. And filing paperwork. And Facebook outreach. And reading scholarship applications. And organizing the fall forum. And that's just the start.

Gary has been our volunteer for three years now, but he's more than just an office helper. Gary is the think tank and donor behind the Just Because Scholarship, which selects its annual recipient through a random

drawing of every student who applied and who did not receive any other scholarship. The Just Because Scholarship doubled our application numbers the first year we offered it—thanks to Gary!

We sure do appreciate Gary for helping the students who need it most—and for helping the Suffolk Foundation with all that we do!



Photo courtesy of Suffolk Tourism.

Women's Impact Fund

Women Coming Together to Give

"From the beginning, it was about more than money. It was about connection. Women learning together, listening together, and deciding together how best to invest in their community." ~ Mary Haddad

In 2018, the Women's Impact Fund (WIF) started as the Suffolk Foundation's first (and so far, only) giving circle. Mary Haddad served on the Suffolk Foundation Board at the time, and she recently shared her thoughts with us about the history of WIF and its creation.

As Mary said: "Women care deeply about their communities. Women give generously. What if there were a way for women to come together to learn together and to give together in a more intentional and collaborative way?"

So she and Debbie Russell (also on the Suffolk Foundation board) got to work. First, there was a luncheon, with about twenty women leaders from the community.

"The response was immediate and energizing," said Mary. "By the end of that conversation, six or seven women volunteered to serve on what would become the founding board of the Women's Impact Fund."

From the beginning, the emphasis of WIF was a little bit different. "These women didn't want simply to donate," said Mary. "They wanted to build. They wanted a structure that was sustainable, meaningful, and firmly grounded in shared decision-making. They wanted it to be about impact, not events. About stewardship, not constant fundraising. And about collaboration."

Two elements of WIF were decided early on. First, it would be structured as a giving circle, such that any member of WIF could participate in the grant-making. Second, the fund would be invested as an endowment, ensuring that current-year grants would be balanced with perpetual growth of the fund's principal.

"It was a thoughtful, long-term approach built on stability and purpose," said Mary.



Sharon Holland shares an update from the Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk with members of the Women's Impact Fund. Photo by Kevin Nguyen.

Today, WIF is over 50 women strong, and its annual grant-making has tripled since 2023. New members join each year, and we invite you to join WIF, too.

"It began with a simple but powerful idea: when women combine their resources, their experiences, and their hearts, their impact multiplies. It started with conversation. It grew through vision. And it was built on the belief that women, working side by side, could create something powerful and enduring for Suffolk." ~ Mary Haddad

Learn more at suffolkfoundation.org by clicking on Women's Impact Fund.



Members and grantees of the Women's Impact Fund gathered in November 2025 for an inspiring awards ceremony. Photo by Kevin Nguyen.

Donations to the Women's Impact Fund

Gifts Received from January 1 to December 31, 2025

A. Dodson's
Dana Adams
Trisha Beute
Adera Brooks
Garrett and Marcella Childs
Thomas and Nan Coxe
Cross Office, L.L.C.
Harry and Lisa Cross
Lee and Kate Cross
Duke Automotive
Lydia G. Duke
Rachel Eldridge, in honor of Mary Hensley
Christopher and Kimberly Ellis
Inspire Energy
Dennis and Margaret Gartman
Dawn S. Glynn
Hall Family Fund
Mary Lawrence P. Harrell
Bradley and Mary Hensley

Host Family Fund
Martha J. Johnson
Michael and Kathleen Clemens
Kathy Kretz Insurance Agency—State Farm Companies
Edward and Kathleen Keil
Lake Prince Woods
David and Beth Levin
Lou and Mary Haddad Foundation
Lauren Martinez
Rebecca McClain
Brian and Kristy McCormally
Tyler Miller
Lorelei Morrow
Douglas and Mary Jane Naismith
Rajiv and Urvi Navaty
North Shore Construction
Cheryl U. O'Connor
W. Jeffrey and Jacqueline Overton
Tim and Hope Palmer

Maryanne Persons
Gail Pruden
Sharon Raghobar and Charles W. Erdman
Frank and Sally Rawls
Samaritan Foundation
Whitney and Ellen Saunders
Christopher and Julia Slattery
Toby and Robert Stambaugh
Bettie J. Swain
Elizabeth Taraski and Paul Fisher
Lillian Taylor
Tidewater Block
Kimberly R. Waller
Kawanna Ward
Anne Wilber
Mark and Margie Wiley
Kenneth and Michelle Wren
Jeff and Terry Yates

Women's Impact Fund Grants 2025

Children's Center	\$2,000
Children's Harbor	\$2,000
Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk	\$5,000
College and Career Academy at Pruden.....	\$1,650
Girls on the Run Hampton Roads.....	\$2,550
Heart of Gold Shelter	\$1,000
Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center.....	\$4,500
Western Tidewater Free Clinic.....	\$3,700



Mary Hensley presents a WIF grant to Johnetta Vaughan, Principal of the College and Career Academy at Pruden, for scholarships for cosmetology students.



Ashley Greene (left) of the Western Tidewater Free Clinic tells attendees (right) of the Women's Impact Fund Grants Ceremony about the clinic's profound impact on women's lives in Suffolk and Western Tidewater. All photos this page by Kevin Nguyen.

Brenda Bradshaw:

Changing Lives with a Gift

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" If you're reading this story, chances are, you've asked yourself that question.

When Brenda Ward Bradshaw pondered that question, she answered with three ideas: Educate children. Share Christian faith. Provide for the poor. I wonder if she knew that she had already saved a life, and that she'd be changing many more lives after her own.

Brenda Ward Bradshaw was born and raised in Southampton County. Her husband of 49 years—Elmer "Tres" Amos Bradshaw, III—was from Franklin. A Vietnam Veteran, he served in the US Marine Corps for 12 years, and also coached golf, which took the couple to South Carolina. Devout Christians, the Bradshaws shared their faith with countless friends, including a fellow golfer named Brian Floriani, whom they met in Greenville. (More on him later.) Eventually the Bradshaws moved back home to Virginia and lived their last years in Franklin.

Before Mrs. Bradshaw passed, in February 2025, she chose the Suffolk Foundation to help her "do for others." Specifically, she left three bequests to the Foundation. First and second, she created endowments to benefit Bernie's Book Bank in Illinois, and the Child Evangelism Fellowship of Greenville, South Carolina. She instructed us to invest her gifts and send the earnings each year to those two nonprofits. (Why use the Suffolk Foundation? It simplified her estate plan, and ensured permanence for her endowments.)

"I had the honor of contacting Bernie's Book Bank to tell them about Mrs. Bradshaw's gift," said Lorelei Morrow, the Suffolk Foundation's executive director. "I wasn't sure if that group had ever even heard of Mrs. Bradshaw—what was the connection? I will never forget the email I received from the organization's founder. 'Brenda and Brad changed my life. Let's talk.'" The email was from Brian Floriani.



Two months later, Mr. Floriani was at our Fall Forum, receiving the first installment from the Bradshaws' endowment for Bernie's Book Bank. He told us how he met the Bradshaws in a dark chapter in his life, how they brought him to church, mentored him, and helped put him on the path that eventually led to him starting the Book Bank, which provides free books to over 315,000 children in need each year. Talk about changing lives.

That's just the beginning. Mrs. Bradshaw's third gift came with instructions, too: provide "relief for the poor, the distressed, or the underprivileged," she told us, and specifically "the provision of food, clothing, shelter, and medical care." This bequest seeded the Bradshaw Benevolence Grant, which we awarded for the first time this February, to the Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center.

Any one of us can change a life, through friendship, benevolence, or even a charitable gift. So, what are you doing for others? What lives will you change? Call us at the Suffolk Foundation if we can help.

◀ We awarded the first Bradshaw Benevolence Grant to the Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center, to provide heart-healthy meals for food-insecure individuals with medical challenges. Lorna Slaughter (pictured) is the Center's Co-Founder and COO.

▶ The Washington Ditch Trail starts in Suffolk and leads through the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to Lake Drummond. Photo courtesy of Suffolk Tourism.



YOUR LEGACY. THEIR FUTURE.

Ever wonder how you can help your community with a gift that endures for generations to come?

Here's How You Can Change Lives

- You identify the charitable causes you want to support. We provide expert advice and local knowledge.
- You can start your charitable fund with a gift today, or leave a gift in your will. You can donate cash, stocks, a retirement account—even real estate or a life insurance plan.
- We invest your gift and use the earnings to award grants or scholarships, in accordance with your wishes.
- You'll enjoy tax benefits and naming rights for your fund. Your family can even be involved in the grant-making.

Your legacy can begin today. It's easier than you think.

Interested? For more information, contact: **Lorelei Costa Morrow**

Lmorrow@suffolkfoundation.org

757-923-9090

suffolkfoundation.org



Our Mission

The mission of the Suffolk Foundation is to benefit the people of Suffolk and Western Tidewater by facilitating and developing philanthropy, and by awarding grants and scholarships to meet local community needs.

Partnering with numerous individuals, families, businesses, nonprofits, and other organizations, we manage a host of charitable funds to help donors achieve their goals. We are a 501(c)3 public charity, and we are growing each year with new funds, new grants, and new scholarships.

We want to work with you to facilitate your philanthropy. Join us!