Strengthening Mind and Body

The Beckley Area Foundation is dedicated to the enrichment of Raleigh County communities. Through the years, the Foundation has taken pride in helping with the refurbishing and building of our local community parks. These include:

- New River Park
- Word Park
- Freedom Park
- Thornhill Courts
- Marsh Fork High School Alumni Roadside Park
- Antonio Street Basketball Court
- Little Beaver State Park

The Foundation's most recent grants were awarded to the Piney Creek Watershed from the Ken Weaver Little Beaver Lake Memorial Fund to support the rehabilitation of a walking bridge at Little Beaver State Park. This project was completed by Eagle Scout Andrew Zilinski.

The second award was from the Buckner Woodford Clay III Memorial Fund to support the refurbishment of the Antonio Street Basketball Court located in East Beckley. Volunteers, Eric Garner, Cortina Mickels, and Jordie Hancock organized by visionary Vicki Webb and headed up by Damien Tunstelle, all worked together to make this project a success.
BAF's 2nd Annual Grantseekers Event

The Beckley Area Foundation is about making connections that make our community a better place. BAF held its 2nd Annual GrantSeekers Event, June 20, 2019, at the Black Knight Municipal Park, which turned out to be a BIG success. BAF’s Executive Director, Dena Cushman initiated this idea last year as a way to support our local non-profits and give community citizens a chance to learn about participating organizations. As a result of the event, $13,513.65 was awarded to 16 non-profit organizations from 6 of the Foundation's Donor Advised Funds.

Violet Burdette, who is employed at Mountain Heart Community Service, Inc. (a Community Action Agency), wrote: "I attended BAF’s 2nd Annual GrantSeekers meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2019. This was a fabulous opportunity for local non-profits to get to network and speak to the BAF staff and potential funders. The variety of organizations represented was incredible. It highlighted the breadth of the Beckley Area Foundation’s gift to Raleigh county."

Upper left: Edna Nasby-Helping Hands, upper right: Violet Burdette-Mountain Heart Community Services
lower left: Phyllis Farley and Jim Fedders-Piney Creek Watershed, lower right: Scott Miller -Just For Kid
The following non-profits participated in the GrantSeeker Event:

- Active Southern WV
- Alzheimer's Association
- Beckley Art Center
- Beckley CERT/SWVPP
- Brian's Safehouse
- Christian Evangelic Fellowship of WV New River Chapter
- Crime Stoppers WV
- Harmony's Breath
- Helping Hands
- Hospice of Southern WV
- Humane Society Raleigh County
- Just For Kids
- Marsh Fork High School Alumni Association
- MountainHeart Community Services
- Mountain State Center for Independent Living
- New River Youth Symphony & Chorus
- Operation Underdog
- Piney Creek Watershed Association
- Quota International of Beckley
- Raleigh County Animal Rescue
- Raleigh County Commission On Aging
- Sophia Christian Academy

Reminder!!!
Students First Mini-Grant applications are now LIVE!
Deadline to apply is September 30th.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."  Nelson Mandela

Let's Talk Scholarships

It is common knowledge that college tuition and student loan debt are at an all-time high. Tuition has more than doubled since the 1980s. Average student debt for the graduate who took out loans is higher than ever at $29,800.

College is expensive for many reasons, including an increase in demand for degreed and certified employees, an increase in financial aid requests, a decrease in the availability of state funding, a need for more faculty and dollars for salary cost, and ballooning student services. Donors’ generosity will continue to recognize a recipient’s accomplishments while reducing a student’s need for procuring loans. As of August 30th, Beckley Area Foundation awarded $310,544 from 109 scholarship funds to assist 162 students.
Donors continue to make a difference in lives. While graduates with debt are committed to monthly loan payments, those with little or zero indebtedness are able to move toward their financial and life goals. -As one recipient wrote, “There is more gratitude in my heart than this card will be able to express. I did not expect such a generous scholarship in my name... I hope within the next ten years, I am able to help students as you have helped me. Just like the donor, I will strive to help students to continue their education, whether it be a trade school or a college. Again, I cannot express how very grateful I am for such an astounding opportunity. It will not be wasted.”

BAF thanks our donors for influencing lives for the better.

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**Mark your Calendar**

BAF’s Community Grant Applications open Sept. 19th. Deadline to apply is November 30th.

**Informational Workshops**
- Tuesday, Oct. 1st 3 p.m.- 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 2nd 1 p.m.- 2 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 3rd 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.

BAF Conference Room

Please reserve your seat in one of these workshops

Email shirmira@bafwv.org or call 304-253-3806

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The Beckley Area Foundation Board Members and staff would like to express our sincere apology for the omission of the following Memorial Tributes and Foundation Supporters in our recent Annual Report.

**Fund Listing Correction**

**E.V. and Eleanor Bowman Memorial Scholarship Fund**

- **Ralph Beckett**
  - *Mr. Leslie Mullins and Mrs. Kerry Lilly Mullins*
  - *Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sayre*
  - *Mr. and Mrs. Pete Torrico*
  - *Lynn Goldstein and Shirley Taggart*
  - *Mrs. Nancy Sanderback*
  - *Ms. Deborah K. Cooper*

**Walker Family Fund**

- *Olivene Ziethaml*

**Andy Holland Scholarship Fund**

- *Darrell and Dixie Beckelhimer Garcia*
- *Maxine Beckelhimer*
West Virginia State Tax Credits

The Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP) is a tax credit program of $3 million each year, which allows 501(c)3 designated charitable organizations to apply for tax credit vouchers, which began in 1996 with $2 million. This year, Beckley Area Foundation, Inc. ranked # 14 out of 213 applicants and received an award amount of $44,250. At this time, $15,000 of credits are still available. Businesses and individuals can contribute a minimum of $500 to receive up to 50% in tax credit, which allows the donor to reduce their West Virginia tax liability by no more than 50%. Credits are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us today to reserve your credits!

Want to leave a Long-Lasting Legacy? BAF currently manages over 470 permanent endowments. A variety of funds may be established to meet both your needs and the specific needs of the community. Individuals, families, companies, and organizations can establish a fund with a minimum gift of $2,000 and build over a five year period, or immediately start a fund with a $10,000 donation. Named discretionary funds require a gift of $5000.

Anyone may make a contribution in any amount to any existing endowment. If your gift is for the general charitable needs of the community, it will be placed in one of the general endowments that receive memorial gifts, honorary gifts, and undesignated gifts, large and small. If you have a special charitable gift in mind, you can direct your gift to any of our funds which meet that purpose. If you would like to assist in the work of the Foundation and defray administrative expenses, you can direct your gift to the Word-Connor Fund which was created to address these needs.....GIVE TODAY!!!