Here at the Beckley Area Foundation we love to show supporters like you how much your community benefits from your time and your treasure. Don’t take our word for it – see for yourself.

BAF Believes  Reading is Fundamental

“Reading is to the Mind, What Exercise is to the Body”-Sir Richard Steel
The Beckley Area Foundation took great pleasure in assisting with the Raleigh County Public Library summer reading program held Monday through Friday for 8 weeks, more than 3,000 Raleigh County children participated. The mission of the Raleigh County Public Library is, "to assemble, preserve, organize and provide access to educational, recreational and informational material in a variety of formats and technologies." The Library provides a place where inquiring minds may encounter the original, sometimes unorthodox, and often critical ideas so necessary to a society that depends upon the free circulation of ideas for its health and survival.” The Beckley Area Foundation was honored to be a part of this mission.

2018-2019 Students First Award Presentation

The Beckley Area Foundation, in collaboration with the Carter Family Foundation offers a special grant program for Raleigh County Pre-K through 12th grade classroom teachers. This year we were honored to give over $35,000 dollars to 68 Raleigh County teachers in 22 schools. Teachers could apply for grants up to $500 for supplementary programs showing innovation and educational merit. Each project must directly involve and benefit students, support the overall goals of the classroom, support science, technology, engineering and math-based education, reading achievement
goals, and/or the arts. Award-winning teachers must complete the project within the next school year. 110 projects were awarded out of 280 applications received (most ever received to date) from 103 educators. 21 public and 4 private schools were represented. Awards totaled $35,182.43. Total awards for the program's 22 year history exceed $279,000.00.

**Teachers**

*Take a hand*

*Open a mind*

*Touch a heart*

*Shape the future*

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**The Art of Dance**

"Dance is the only art in which we ourselves are the stuff of which it is made." - Ted Shawn

Beckley Area Foundation and Raleigh County Schools partnered with the West Virginia Dance Company to provide an art education project titled "Adventures around the Big Blue Marble," traveling through steAm. The performance was
brand-new for the students that attended the performance. The West Virginia Dance Company has built a reliable reputation for providing inspiring educational performances for children of all ages. The company is composed of skilled and established dance artists.

New Funds established at BAF since April 2018

**Margaret Ann and Jerry L. Bays Scholarship Fund** - This scholarship is to assist students in furthering their post-secondary education and becoming employable. Applicants must be a matriculating seniors at Independence High School in Raleigh County, WV pursuing a engineering course of study at West Virginia University or West Virginia Institute of Technology.

**Wayne and Diana Bennett Family Fund** - Unrestricted Fund to support the Community Grant Program which offers nonprofit charitable organizations an opportunity to submit proposals identifying a current need.

**Robert Manning Memorial Scholarship Fund** - This scholarship is to assist students in furthering their post-secondary education. This scholarship is available to matriculating seniors of Independence High School in Raleigh County, WV, with no restrictions on the field of study.

**Stephen Mullens Scholarship Fund** - This scholarship is to assist students, who show a desire to give back to Webster County, in their post secondary education. Student must be an matriculating senior attending Webster County High School located in Webster County, WV. No restrictions on field of study, must attend a school in WV.

**Raleigh County Historical Society Fund** - An endowment to provide support for the Raleigh County Historical Society's many projects, including adding landmarks to the National Register of Historic Places and the state historical marker program.

**David Alan Wills Scholarship Fund** - This scholarship assists students in furthering their post-secondary education and becoming employable. Recipient must be a matriculating senior at Shady Spring High School enrolling at Concord University and pursuing a teaching career or a career centered on helping.

**Woodrow Wilson High School Class of 1956 Fund** - Unrestricted Fund which honors the Woodrow Wilson High School Class of 1956 to be used according to the discretion of the Board of Directors of the foundation to support the Community Grant Program.

**Woodrow Wilson High Class of 1968 Scholarship Fund** - This scholarship is to assist students in furthering their post secondary education and becoming
employable. Limited to matriculating seniors of Woodrow Wilson located in Beckley, WV or its successor school.

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**A Letter from the Director's Desk**

Season's Greetings!

On behalf of our staff and the board of directors, we want to take a moment to say **thank you**. Your generosity, continued support, and love for this community make what we do at the Beckley Area Foundation possible. We exist for the betterment of the community we serve and for the people who call it home.

**Here are a few highlights from 2018:**

- Surpassed $43 million in charitable assets
- Over $1.4 million in grants and scholarships awarded
- BAF distributed grants and scholarships to 207 nonprofits and educational institutions
- 16 new charitable funds created to support Raleigh County
- Donors have contributed more than $589,000 in support of their community

**We look ahead to 2019 with great excitement as your Community Foundation enters its 35th year.** What started as an idea in 1985 has led to over $15 million distributed in grants and scholarship through 35 years of donor generosity and endowment development. During 2019, we will celebrate, thank, and give back to the community we love. We hope you and your family will join us in celebrating what has grown into a vital philanthropic organization that supports a variety of people, activities and nonprofit organizations serving the many needs our community.

We know that together with you, we're making a positive impact in not only Raleigh County but other counties we serve; Fayette, Greenbrier, McDowell, Webster and Wyoming counties.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Warm regards,

Dena Cushman
Executive Director

Want to leave a Long Lasting Legacy ........The BAF currently manages over 460 different funds. 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.....GIVE TODAY!!! Click the Donate Now button below .