



E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle

Membership Welcome Packet

WHO WE ARE

E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle is a vehicle to promote excellence in E.E. Smith attendance area schools and to provide philanthropic support to improve math and science programs for these schools.

Membership is comprised of men and women of all ages and backgrounds who are committed to enriching and improving the lives of youth in E.E. Smith attendance area schools. As a group, members learn ways to make a lasting difference for E. E. Smith High School and support excellence in math and science in its district. It is our vision that E.E. Smith attendance area schools will have a large, diverse, and committed community of individual and corporate givers.

HOW WE GIVE

Members contribute \$250 annually and commit to three years of membership. All contributions will be granted by the E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle to projects and programs that promote excellence at E.E. Smith and its area schools. The three-year commitment encourages members to consider philanthropy a lifetime pursuit and allows E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle to remain a stable source of funds for the benefit of E.E. Smith and its feeder schools.

The E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle is a component fund of Cumberland Community Foundation. Cumberland Community Foundation is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt, publicly supported organization serving Cumberland County and surrounding areas. Contributions are fully deductible to the extent permitted by law. Cumberland Community Foundation is audited annually by Haigh, Byrd & Lambert, LLP.

GIVING WISELY

Members of the *E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle* learn together about making a difference in math and science. Learning opportunities may include inviting “experts” to talk to the group, site visits to specific organizations that could “qualify” or by assigning some group members to investigate particular issues.

Consensus is important to making good choices. Each member of the circle has many opportunities to become a more inspired and informed philanthropist and participate in the grantmaking process. Assets of the circle are held and administered by Cumberland Community Foundation and the members serve in an advisory capacity to make grant recommendations regarding distribution of funds.

STRUCTURE AND GRANTMAKING PROCESS

- ❖ **General Funding Priorities-** The giving circle members determine grant priorities which may change from year to year. All grants will benefit E.E. Smith High School at its area schools.
- ❖ **Funding Restrictions-** The E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle does not make grants for: funding to individuals; sectarian purposes; political purposes; lobbying; veteran affairs; re-granting; deficit funding; or debt retirement.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- ❖ **Giving Circle Members:** Members are as active as they wish to be. You may elect to participate in the leadership of the giving circle and/or the organization, scheduling, and communication activities. Some members may elect to participate in the education events only. Others may simply write a check to be a member and not participate in meetings. It is up to you!
- ❖ **Giving Circle Support:** Cumberland Community Foundation supports the activities of the giving circle. Support includes gift administration/membership processing, bookkeeping and audit, database and membership management, storing records, providing financial information to the Treasurer, accepting grant requests for giving circle funds, and supporting communication with the members and grantees.

COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

Giving circle members have the opportunity to donate their time and talent to committee work. The giving circle members will determine future committee structure. Currently, the membership meets collectively to perform all functions and the leadership team advises the foundation staff in between meetings. Future committee structure may include:

- ❖ **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**
Expands awareness about the needs and issues of the E.E. Smith attendance area by providing information and research to circle members. Members also plan educational programs about making a difference in education through philanthropy.
- ❖ **GRANT COMMITTEE**
Leads the grantmaking process; solicits proposals to address impact areas recommended by the Education Committee. Reviews grant proposals; conducts site visits to grant applicants; selects grant finalist; recommends grant awards to membership for approval; assigns final award amounts based on member votes; and evaluates/monitors funded grantees for impact.
- ❖ **MEMBERSHIP/OUTREACH COMMITTEE**
Helps recruit and orient new members and implement public relations strategy for grant making. Develops and implements strategies for growing the membership.
- ❖ **STEERING COMMITTEE**
Committee chairs serve as the overarching body for all major circle decisions and policies.

OUR SPONSOR

The E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle is a special initiative of Cumberland Community Foundation. For more information, contact Mary Holmes, Cumberland Community Foundation at 910-483-4449 or Mary@CumberlandCF.Org. Visit us online at www.cumberlandcf.org.