



# *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 will learn ways to make a lasting difference for E. E. Smith and support excellence in math and science. 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 feeder 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. ***All donated funds will be matched by Cumberland Community Foundation up to the first \$50,000.*** 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* will 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 the choice that is right for the entire circle. As a result, each member of the circle has many opportunities to become a more inspired and informed philanthropist. Assets of the circle are held and administered by Cumberland Community Foundation and the members serve in an advisory capacity to make recommendations regarding distribution of funds.

### STRUCTURE AND GRANTMAKING PROCESS

- ❖ **General Funding Priorities-** To be determined by the giving circle members.
- ❖ **Funding Restrictions-** The E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle does not make grants for: funding to individuals; sectarian purposes; political purposes; veteran affairs; deficit funding or debt retirement.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- ❖ **Giving Circle Members:** Members will be 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. It is up to you!
- ❖ **Giving Circle Coordinator:** Cumberland Community Foundation has named Kimmie Teague Nettles as the E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle Coordinator. Kimmie has a B.S. in Business Administration / Marketing from Troy University and seven years of experience in coordinating group work.

Kimmie Teague Nettles will support the activities of the giving circle. Her support will include gift administration/membership processing, maintaining a master list of confirmed circle members, maintaining committee lists and records, providing financial information to the Treasurer, accepting grant requests for giving circle funds, supporting committee chairs, and scheduling meetings to be held at CCF.

## COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

Committee structure will be determined once Phase I of membership development is complete. Giving circle members will have the opportunity to donate their time and talent to committee work. The giving circle members will determine committee structure, which 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 in partnership with NCGives ([www.ncgives.org](http://www.ncgives.org)). For more information, contact Kimmie Teague Nettles, Giving Circle Coordinator at 910-483-4449 or [kimmie@cumberlandcf.org](mailto:kimmie@cumberlandcf.org). Visit us online at [www.cumberlandcf.org](http://www.cumberlandcf.org).