



# E.E Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle Newsletter



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## The E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle

2008 A year in review

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Cumberland Community Foundation

### Who We Are

The E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle is a vehicle to promote excellence in E.E. Smith attendance area schools and to build philanthropic support to improve math and science programs for these schools. Members contribute annually and commit to three years of membership.

### Our Vision

- Our vision is that E.E. Smith area schools will have a large, diverse, and committed community of individual and corporate givers
- E.E. Smith area schools will be known for excellence in math & science.

### Our Giving Circle

The E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle has made tremendous progress since we began in February 2008. Comprised of seventeen members, we awarded our first grant in July to Ferguson-Easley Elementary School. We have held four members meetings and one principals meeting. In September we held a series of informative meetings called "**Learn and Lead**" to announce the giving circle and build support for schools in the E.E. Smith attendance area.

### What is a Giving Circle?

A giving circle is formed when individuals come together and pool their dollars, decide together where to donate their collective contributions, and learn together about their community and philanthropy.

For more information about the giving circle movement visit, [www.givingforum.org/givingcircles](http://www.givingforum.org/givingcircles)

### Making a Difference

The E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle members made our first grant this summer to Ferguson- Easley Elementary School to cover transportation cost for two summer camps focused on science and mathematics activities designed to increase student engagement and achievement. Supporting this camp is just one example of how our giving circle is already having an impact.

Read this article:

[www.fayobserver.com/print?id=298323&type=article](http://www.fayobserver.com/print?id=298323&type=article)



### Staff photo by Cindy Burnham

From left, Kimmie Teague, Les Griffin, Marny Penix, Glenn Adams and Dan Griffin III present a check to Mellotta Hill, principal of Ferguson-Easley Elementary, and Jami Inman, magnet schools assistance program grant coordinator. In the center is Penix's 6-year-old daughter, Kennedy.

### In This Issue:

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- Great News
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## Our Members

Our members make an annual financial commitment and oversee the grantmaking for the giving circle. Our "Founding Members" are:

Attorney Glenn Adams  
Attorney Harold Lee Boughman  
Mr. Chris Harris  
Dr. Jeannette Council  
Mrs. Dorothy Fielder  
Dr. Sam Fleishman  
Dr. John R. Griffin, Jr.  
Mr. Daniel Griffin, III  
Mr. Les Griffin  
Mrs. Tammy Holland  
Dr. Jamale Johnson, Pastor  
Mr. Thaddeus Jenkins  
Mr. Donald LaHuffman  
Mrs. Marny Penix  
Mr. Clinton Robinson (E.E. Smith High School)  
Mr. Leon Robinson, Jr.  
Ms. Frances Wesley

## Our Friends

We now have twelve "Friends" of the giving circle and one Employer Match. A Friend is any person, organization, business or civic group that makes a donation of any size to the circle. Our "Friends" are a very important part of our efforts in building support. Our "Friends" are:

Anonymous Donor  
Mrs. Mildred Braxton  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Bullard  
Mr. James R.D. and Mrs. Ruby Currie  
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Dobbins, Sr.  
Mrs. Quay Bell Elliott  
Lucile Souders Elementary School  
Mrs. Wilhelmena McKinnon  
Ms. Julia Ford  
Mrs. Marilyn Sanford  
Seabrook Community Watch  
Smith Chapel Church  
Wachovia Foundation (Employer Match)

## Our Commitment

Our members and friends are committed to making a difference in our community. Since we started in February 2008, we have donated over 350 hours of service and raised over \$ 9,000 dollars. That will be matched by the Cumberland Community Foundation to become \$18,000 which can be used to grant to programs and projects that the Members decide.

## Program Support

The E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle is hosted by Cumberland Community Foundation. **All donated funds will be matched by Cumberland Community Foundation up to the first \$50,000** through 2009. Cumberland Community Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempted, publicly supported organization serving Cumberland County and surrounding areas. All this is made possible by a generous grant from NCGives.



In 2008, the Founding Members launched the giving circle with gifts of \$500 or more. We are mindful of the economy and its impact on philanthropy and charitable giving, so in 2009, the annual membership contribution amount has been set at **\$250 dollars**. We hope that this change will encourage engagement from more givers in the community.

## "Thank You"

Special thanks go out to our 2008 officers for their leadership, time, and talent:

- Attorney Glenn Adams, Co-Chair Steering Committee
- Dr. Sam Fleishman, Co-Chair Steering Committee.
- Mr. Dan Griffin, Treasurer
- Mrs. Marny Penix, Secretary and spokesperson

Their contributions have made our first year a huge success.

We would also like to acknowledge the hard work of Mrs. Mildred Braxton. Mrs. Braxton is a "Friend" of the giving circle and has made several donations. She works continually at recruiting friends and family members to help support the giving circle one friend at a time.

## **Activities**

We hosted three **“Learn and Lead”** meetings in 2008. **“Learn and Lead”** events are informal meetings structured to inform others about the needs in our schools and help them to become more informed philanthropists. We held four members meetings in 2008 which are held as needed.

## **WHAT’S NEXT FOR OUR GIVING CIRCLE?**

In 2009 our main goal is to continue to build support for E.E. Smith area schools. In the Spring, we plan to host a celebration reception for our Members and “Friends”. We will resume our **“Learn and Lead”** series to further increase awareness of the circle and our vision with the hope of building membership. With the growth in membership we look forward to our first grant cycle in the Summer or Fall 2009. Also in 2009, we will publish a monthly newsletter to Members and “Friends” of the E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle. This newsletter will include upcoming events, activities, and updates about programs and projects with the giving circle. Watch for details on these and other exciting developments of the E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle.

## **Members Speak Out**



*“Given the ‘No Child Left Behind’ mandate, many children are being left behind. It is easy to express our opinions as what we feel needs to be done. However, we speak volumes when we exercise action behind our opinions. It is imperative that we touch as many students as we possibly can with all resources available.”*

*“The E. E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle is one resource that is worth your investment of time and talent to ensure that students in the E. E. Smith attendance district will begin at the starting line and successfully cross the finish line in the areas of math and science.”*

Mrs. Marny Penix, Founding Member

A child miseducated is a child lost.

**John F. Kennedy**

Too often we... enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.

**John F. Kennedy**

## **LEARN MORE!**

You can check us out on the web at: [www.cumberlandcf.org/giving\\_circles.php](http://www.cumberlandcf.org/giving_circles.php) . Learn more about how the E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle works, how to join or become a “Friend” with downloadable forms that make it easy to use and easy to share with friends and family. If you are interested in hosting a “Learn and Lead” meeting, or know of an organization or group that would be interested in knowing more about the E.E. Smith Academic Excellence Giving Circle, please contact Kimmie Teague Nettles at 910-483-4449 or at [kimmie@cumberlandcf.org](mailto:kimmie@cumberlandcf.org).

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