



COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT | 2025

ACTIVATING GOOD



COBB COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION





Activating good starts with

PEOPLE WHO REFUSE TO SIT ON THE SIDELINES.

It starts with **donors** who want their giving to be meaningful—not just immediate.

It grows through **businesses** that invest in the well-being of the community that sustains them.

It expands when **nonprofit leaders** are equipped not only to serve—but to lead, innovate, and endure.

It strengthens when **neighbors** come together to understand challenges, share data, and pursue solutions that last.



Cobb Community Foundation exists to harness that momentum.

We steward generosity.
We empower nonprofits.
We spark collaboration.

So that every dollar, every idea, and every act of service creates ripple effects far beyond a single moment.

Across Cobb County, good is not accidental. It's activated—by people like you.

And together, we are building a thriving community for generations to come.

**ACTIVATE
GOOD**



Dear Friends,

Who would have thought that 2025 could surpass the year we had in 2024?

Then again, we shouldn't be surprised. You always show up.

You are the people and organizations who love this community. When neighbors need help, you help. When nonprofits need support, you step forward. And when Cobb Community Foundation asks you to mobilize, you mobilize.

Together, we are harnessing the power of collective giving—and there is no better example than **Match Magic**. After 2024's remarkable \$811,000 raised for 25 organizations in just two weeks, we set what felt like a stretch goal for 2025: \$1 million.

You responded with \$1.7 million.

Beyond Match Magic, your generosity continued to grow. This year, charitable assets reached nearly \$39 million, and together we granted \$6.5 million in scholarships and support—73% of which stayed right here in Cobb County.

In 2025, because of you, we were able to launch **Vital Signs**, our countywide initiative combining data, community voices, and cross-sector collaboration. Thirty-seven nonprofit and government leaders representing 25 organizations came together to build a process that helps us all to better understand what's happening beneath the surface in Cobb—and how we can respond together. We can't wait to share what we've learned.

Together, we have strengthened our nonprofit community through the **Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP)** program and **IGNITE: CCF's Nonprofit Learning Series**. Because when nonprofits thrive, communities thrive.

Strengthening nonprofits strengthens Cobb County—today and for generations to come.

Collective giving. Community problem-solving. Nonprofit capacity building.

This is what activating good looks like.

And it happens because of you.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Chris Gruehn
2024 – 2025 Board Chair,
Cobb Community Foundation
Senior VP, Pinnacle Financial Partners



Shari Martin
President & CEO
Cobb Community Foundation

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Match Magic 2025: Cobb County Gives Big, Shattering Expectations



\$1.7 Million Raised in Just Three Weeks

Cobb Community Foundation's **Match Magic Giveathon** wrapped up on December 2, 2025, with an astounding **\$1.7 million raised** for 27 local nonprofits—more than doubling last year's total and far exceeding the \$1 million goal.

Nonprofits raised approximately \$1.6 million, with another \$138,000 in matching funds raised by generous corporate and individual sponsors led by **Walton Communities**. Because of you, organizations are deepening their work across critical areas in Cobb County, including food and basic needs, education, housing, health, animal welfare, and workforce development.

Selected from more than 50 applicants, the 27 participating nonprofits were equipped with **training, storytelling tools, and multi-channel visibility** throughout the campaign. Through coordinated emails, social media, websites, and local media partnerships, Match Magic amplified each organization's reach and helped engage both new and existing supporters.

The results speak for themselves:

- 93% of nonprofits gained new donors
- 89% reached new audiences
- 78% saw larger gifts from existing supporters
- 96% expressed strong interest in returning to Match Magic next year

But beyond the dollars, Match Magic 2025 was about **community**—donors, sponsors, and nonprofit leaders working together to magnify generosity and strengthen Cobb County for everyone.



Thank you, Cobb County!



TOP FUNDRAISER!

Matthew 25:40 Car Care Ministry

Led by David and Rebecca McCoy, the **Car Care Ministry raised \$385,327** toward their \$400K goal to complete a multi-use building including a nonprofit auto repair facility on the campus of Macland Community Church. Keeping underprivileged families moving with affordable auto repairs, Car Care ensures access to jobs, school, food, and healthcare. A private donor match energized the campaign, proving the power of Match Magic to make donor dollars go even further.

When Match Magic Multiplies Giving

Through **Match Magic**, the **Cobb County Bar Association Children's Emergency Fund** raised **\$35,145** to remove economic barriers to education, helping students and families experiencing homelessness to stay on track in school. This single campaign generated more funding than any of the organization's three yearly fundraisers—another Match Magic success story!



Nonprofit Funds Raised + Match Allocation

| ARTS, CULTURE & HUMANITIES | |
|--|-----------|
| Acworth Cultural Arts Center—Creating a performing arts center for North Cobb | \$12,520 |
| ArtsBridge Foundation—Transformative arts education experiences for students | \$3,048 |
| Friends of The Strand—Helping Cobb students shine on stage | \$111,205 |
| HUMAN SERVICES | |
| Aloha to Aging—Supporting families facing parkinson's and dementia | \$25,270 |
| Blue Thanksgiving—Assisting law enforcement families in crisis | \$19,861 |
| Circles Cobb—Moving working families from poverty to financial independence | \$107,257 |
| Family Life Restoration Center—Fighting food insecurity | \$39,210 |
| Loving Arms Cancer Outreach—Supporting cancer patients in crisis | \$107,904 |
| Matthew 25:40 Car Care Ministry—Keeping families moving with affordable auto repairs | \$398,145 |
| Simple Needs GA—Providing essentials to families starting over | \$44,651 |
| The Center for Children and Young Adults—Safe housing for foster care teens | \$14,640 |
| Tillman House—Helping families remain housed and financially stable | \$33,549 |
| FOOD & NUTRITION | |
| BackPack Blessings—Feeding students over weekends | \$54,165 |
| Food Security for America—Delivering fresh produce to families in need | \$155,392 |
| Reflections of Trinity—Weekend meals for at-risk students | \$64,883 |
| HOUSING | |
| Cobb County Bar Association Children's Emergency Fund—Preventing homelessness | \$35,145 |
| LiveSafe Resources—Shelter and safety for survivors of domestic violence | \$55,636 |
| Serenade Heights—Housing support for single moms and children | \$26,749 |
| YOUTH DEVELOPMENT | |
| Cobb PAL—Youth mentorship through sports | \$4,688 |
| Four Corners Group—Restoring hope for youth in crisis | \$17,168 |
| ANIMAL WELFARE | |
| Atlanta Humane Society—Keeping pets and families together | \$29,234 |
| WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT | |
| CobbWorks—Career training and employment opportunities | \$5,475 |
| MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTHCARE | |
| Cumberland Counseling Centers—Affordable therapy for families | \$100,248 |
| Good Samaritan Health Center of Cobb—Healthcare for the uninsured | \$129,680 |
| Highland Rivers Foundation—Supporting mothers in recovery | \$15,060 |
| NAMI Cobb—A new mental health drop-in center | \$82,819 |
| YouthCentric—Helping teens build resilience | \$14,535 |

Match Pool KEY to Match Magic Success

Research shows that matching campaigns can **increase total donations by 19%–35%**, encouraging donors to give more when their generosity is amplified.

Cobb Community Foundation’s proportional match model follows this research, distributing match dollars based on each nonprofit’s share of total funds raised and encouraging greater participation and larger gifts across the community. (CCF retains none of the donations raised.)

This year’s success was anchored by our Platinum Match Pool Lead Donor, **Walton Communities**, whose **\$50,000 gift** seeded the Match Pool in both 2024 and 2025. Additional support from **Genuine Parts Company, S.A. White Oil Company**, several of our donor advised fundholders, and others grew the pool to \$138,000. Thanks to **Steve Imler** covering printing, mailing, and paid social media costs, the full Match Pool remained intact—maximizing impact for participating nonprofits.

“When our community gives together, the impact is powerful... and we’re honored to support.”

– Matt L. Teague, Director of New Development, Walton Communities

THANK YOU TO OUR MATCH POOL FUNDERS

Platinum:
\$50,000+



WALTON COMMUNITIES
APARTMENT HOMES

Gold:
\$25,000 - \$49,999



Silver:
\$10,000 - \$24,999

SA WHITE OIL COMPANY, INC.

Anonymous Family Charitable Fund

Bronze:
\$5,000 - \$9,999

Brasfield & Gorrie

Partner:
\$1,000 - \$4,999

Macallan Group | Magnolia Trust Company | Mopsy | Synovus

And numerous individual donors

Special thanks to Stephen W. Imler for his generous support behind the scenes.



Help Cobb's nonprofits make magic this holiday season

THANK YOU TO OUR PRINT AND DISTRIBUTION PARTNER



Marietta Daily Journal Partnership helped highlight the Magic

On launch day, the Marietta Daily Journal (MDJ) distributed the Match Magic Giving Guide featuring all 27 nonprofit stories to over **5,700 households**. During the three-week campaign, MDJ displayed ads and updates on funds raised. At the finale, they celebrated our sponsors and highlighted the total impact, honoring the nonprofits and their vital missions. **Thank you, Marietta Daily Journal!**

Bill and Ginger Dallas

Making Magic Turning an RMD into a QCD

Bill and Ginger Dallas have been giving through their donor advised fund at Cobb Community Foundation for more than ten years. Along the way, they've supported their church, helped build **Gracepoint School**, created scholarships at Kennesaw State University (KSU) and Marietta Country Club, contributed to **Match Magic** nonprofits, helped fund the campaign's match pool and so much more. Giving is simply part of how they show up for their community.

In 2025, Bill turned 73 and was required to start taking distributions from his IRA. "I didn't want a tax bill just for moving money," Bill says. Because CCF had talked with Bill and Ginger about Qualified Charitable Distributions, he already knew there was a better option.

In 2026, Bill is using his entire required distribution to support the causes he cares about—without increasing his taxable income. One check from his IRA flows through his new CCF Pass-Through Designated Fund to support scholarships, fulfill charitable commitments, maintain the Dallas' **Catalyst Society** membership, and help fund the 2026 Match Magic match pool.

"My advisor cuts one check, and CCF handles the rest," Bill says. "They made it easy. We'll do this every year."



Best-Kept
Giving Secret:

IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions



A **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** is a smart option for people who are already giving to charity, don't need extra income, and are required to take IRA distributions. Instead of taking your required minimum distribution (RMD), paying income tax on it, and then donating what's left, a QCD sends the money directly from your IRA to charity. That amount never shows up as taxable income, which can mean lower overall taxes, reduced Medicare premiums, and less tax on Social Security. In short, you give the same amount to charity—but keep more for yourself by avoiding avoidable taxes.

Contact us at (770) 859-2366 or CCFTeam@cobbfoundation.org to learn more.

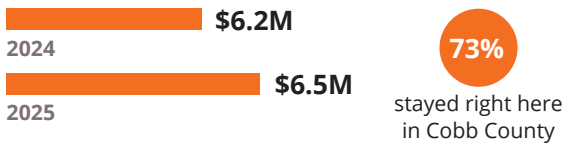


BY THE NUMBERS

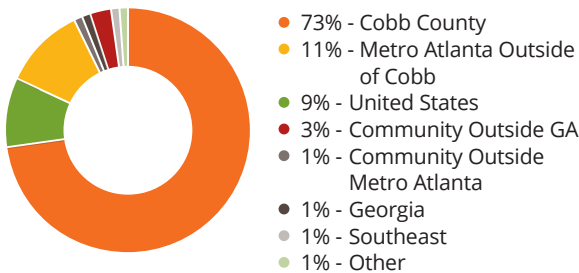
CCF CHARITABLE ASSETS



GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS DISTRIBUTED



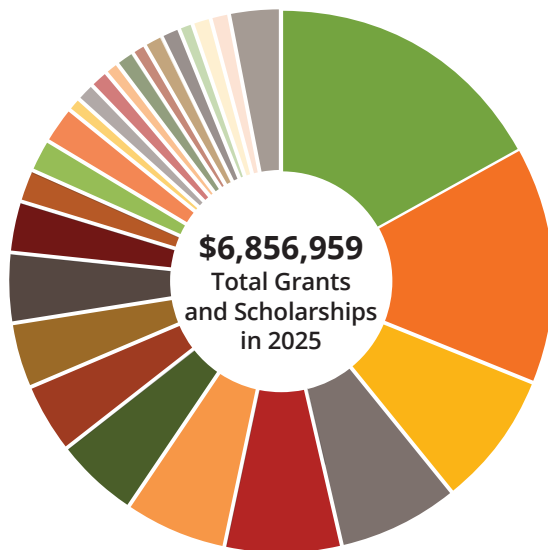
2025 GRANTS BY GEOGRAPHY



84% went to organizations serving Metro Atlanta.

2025 GRANTS BY FIELD OF INTEREST

- 17% - Education
- 14% - Faith Based
- 8% - Healthcare
- 7% - Youth Services & Development
- 7% - Community Improvement
- 6% - Human Services
- 5% - Homelessness and Poverty
- 4% - Arts, Culture & Humanities
- 4% - Housing & Shelter
- 4% - Charitable Giving, Volunteerism & Grantmaking
- 4% - Crisis Intervention and Mental Health
- 3% - Food Insecurity Prevention & Nutrition
- 2% - Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention
- 2% - Patient Support & Fundraising for Medical Causes
- 2% - Leadership Development
- 1% - Civil Rights, Social Action & Advocacy
- 1% - Family Services
- 1% - Animal-Related
- 1% - International Family & Children Services



- 1% - Military & Veterans or Public Safety Support
- 1% - Medical Research
- 1% - Law Enforcement, Crime Prevention & Legal Services
- 1% - Recreation & Sports
- 1% - Sexual Exploitation
- 1% - Mental Health
- 1% - Economic Development
- 3.0% - Others:
 - Youth Mentoring
 - Financial Assistance
 - Environment & Beautification
 - Senior Services
 - Public Safety, Disaster Preparedness & Relief
 - Social Sciences, Science & Technology
 - Single Organization Support
 - Services for People with Disabilities
 - Historic Preservation
 - Emergency Assistance
 - LGBTQ support
 - Medically Fragile Children
 - Foster Care Services and Support
 - Domestic Violence
 - Job Readiness
 - Physical, Mental or Sexual Abuse

In 2025, through your charitable funds and our community funds, we awarded more than **\$6.5 million** to organizations putting good into action, with nearly three-fourths serving Cobb County. The impact is real, and it's growing. Imagine what your generosity could make possible!

How will you Activate Good?

There are many ways to support the causes closest to your heart:

- Manage all of your family's giving tax-efficiently and easily from one account
- Invest in a student's future
- Target a specific cause you care about, and let us find the best ways to help
- Provide steady, long-term support for a specific organization that is close to your heart
- Build a legacy in a loved one's name to help meet our community's most urgent, ever-changing needs

You can also respond to urgent and emerging community needs through the **Cobb Community Grantmaking Fund**—or by becoming a **Corporate Champion or Catalyst Society** member—providing support that fuels critical grantmaking and strengthens Cobb Community Foundation's ability to serve our community for years to come.

With the exception of a DAF, IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions may be used to establish any of these funds—and every option begins with a simple form.

Michael Sute Makes Referral Magic

Michael Sute began his career in 1996 with a large Southeast CPA firm before opening his own practice in Cobb County in 2009. A specialist in personal and corporate taxation, he's quick to recommend a donor advised fund (DAF) when a client faces a significant tax liability. "If a client has a decent tax bill," he says, "whether they are an individual or a business, they usually could benefit from having a DAF."

Introduced to Cobb Community Foundation in 2013, Michael soon realized CCF did far more than administer DAFs. When Marietta Country Club wanted a memorial golf tournament to have a meaningful impact, he suggested CCF provide the structure. Today, the Annual Thanksgiving Charity Classic raises **more than \$150,000 each year!** Other clients followed—launching scholarships, employee assistance funds, and DAFs.

In 2021, Michael and his wife, Jeri, opened their own DAF, proudly donating to numerous local nonprofits introduced to them by CCF.

“*The benefits of having a donor advised fund far exceed any costs – plus, unlike many other options, our donor advised fund costs get reinvested back into our local community.*”

For Michael, that's the point. "I'm grateful that I can present my clients with a smart charitable resource through Cobb Community Foundation."

? What is a Donor Advised Fund?

A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) is a charitable giving account that enables donors to contribute tax-advantaged assets, take deductions when it's most beneficial, and recommend grants to charities over time. DAFs simplify giving while maximizing impact and can be established by individuals, families, organizations, or companies. While DAFs at Cobb Community Foundation may support public charities anywhere, we intentionally keep fundholders informed about the needs and priorities of Cobb County—and the opportunities to make a meaningful local difference.



Donor Advised Funds Established in 2025:

- Clif and Angela Poston Family Fund
- D&S Morris Family Charitable Fund
- Hakes Colon Cancer Fund
- Love with Joy and Valor Fund
- Marietta Daily Journal Community Fund
- Southern States Empowerment Fund

Delicious Potential: Creating a Solution for Local Eats and Teen Employment

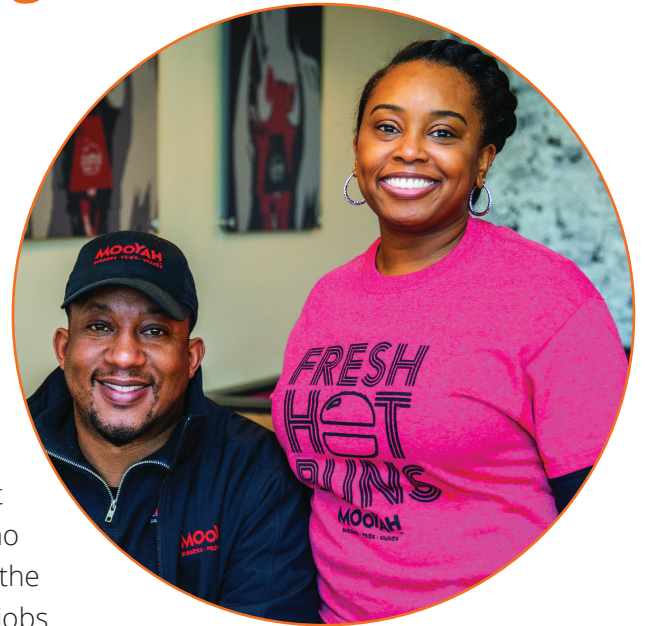
When Keylan and Erika Mitchell looked at their Mableton community, they didn't see limitations—they saw opportunity. Families were driving miles for a great meal, and local teens were driving miles for good jobs. So the Mitchells did what problem-solvers do: they **opened a MOOYAH Burgers, Fries & Shakes in their own backyard.**

They see their restaurant as “a community service organization that just happens to serve great burgers.” Inspired by their parents—who turned their childhood home into a haven for neighborhood kids—the Mitchells are investing in the next generation. They're creating first jobs behind the counter and launching a partnership with Pebblebrook High School's culinary arts program to provide students with ServSafe certifications and hands-on culinary enrichment.

Their impact doesn't stop at the grill. Through a donor advised fund at Cobb Community Foundation, they give strategically and consistently to causes they love—including the **Cobb Police Athletic League** and the **Cobb Schools Foundation.**

“I'm running a business. I need giving to be simple,” Keylan says. “CCF makes it easy.”

Big vision. Smart strategy. Lasting community impact.



Business Interests



Cash



Retirement Funds



WHAT YOU CAN GIVE

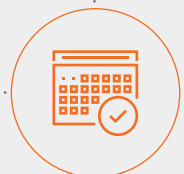
Choose the asset that lets you give more to charity and save more on taxes at the same time. We can help.



Real Estate



Appreciated Stock or Securities



Life Insurance / Annuities

From Family Foundation to Donor Advised Fund

In Conversation With Otis Brumby III and Lee Brumby Garrett | Marietta Daily Journal

Q: Can you share the origins of the MDJ Community Foundation?

The MDJ Community Foundation was established in the 1990s by our father, Otis Brumby Jr., longtime publisher of the Marietta Daily Journal. Giving back to Cobb County was always important to him and to our family. The Foundation became a way to support local nonprofits and community initiatives that strengthened the place the MDJ has proudly served for generations.



Q: Why did you begin exploring a new philanthropic structure?

While our mission remained unchanged, the administrative responsibilities of operating a private foundation had grown over time. We were spending more energy on compliance and reporting than we wanted, and we began looking for a structure that would allow us to focus more fully on impact.

Q: What led to the decision to convert to a donor advised fund at Cobb Community Foundation?

Cobb Community Foundation offered a trusted, local solution. The transition to a donor advised fund simplified operations, provided greater flexibility in giving, and kept the Fund's charitable focus firmly rooted in Cobb County. CCF's deep knowledge of the community, strong reputation, and hands-on guidance made it easy for us to "activate good" locally. Today, the MDJ Community Fund continues to honor our father's legacy while embracing a simpler, more sustainable approach to philanthropy.



CONVERTING A PRIVATE FOUNDATION TO A DONOR ADVISED FUND

Converting a private foundation to a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) at Cobb Community Foundation can significantly reduce administrative demands while preserving long-term philanthropic impact.

CCF manages compliance, grant administration, and reporting, freeing grantmakers to focus on purposeful giving. Should they ever be unable to continue in their role, CCF stewards the fund to ensure original intent is honored.

The process is straightforward—and we're here to help every step of the way.



Our Legacy Society: Where You Belong

With \$124 trillion in wealth set to transfer to the next generation by 2048, you have a unique opportunity to create a lasting impact through philanthropy. The **Legacy Society** at Cobb Community Foundation helps you support community needs and cherished causes for generations.

The Legacy Society is a distinguished group of donors who have designated a gift in their will, beneficiary designations or other estate planning documents or have created or made a significant contribution to a long-term charitable fund during their lifetime. Through planning, members strategically accomplish both financial and charitable objectives, including

honoring loved ones, providing for heirs while minimizing tax burdens, supporting the community they call home and preserving their family name.

CCF collaborates with professional advisors to help you plan a meaningful, enduring legacy that benefits both your family and your community. Let CCF help you make your lasting impact. You can give almost any asset or name us as beneficiary of any retirement plan, life insurance policy or account and support causes you love. **Plan your legacy, leave your mark, and Activate Good.**

A Legacy of Love and Giving: Venitia Smith

Venitia Smith, Director of Employee and Community Relations at Genuine Parts Company (GPC) has connected more GPC employees than she can count to local volunteer and board service opportunities—and she practices what she preaches. She’s helped build three homes with **Habitat for Humanity**, worked behind the scenes to help over 350 City of Refuge clients become certified technicians, and has spent countless hours ringing the bell for **Salvation Army**.

When it comes to money, Venitia isn’t sentimental. She’s purposeful. Legacy matters. “Someday, I won’t be here, but I can still support those organizations that have meant so much to me, and to so many others.” She has established a charitable fund at Cobb Community Foundation that will be funded through her estate to create permanent endowments for four organizations she cares about deeply.

“*Thanks to Cobb Community Foundation, I have comfort knowing that what I have worked so hard to achieve will be put to good use in the community.*”

– Venitia Smith



Your Legacy Is Closer Than You Think



You can create the legacy you've always imagined. Let Cobb Community Foundation ensure that your values continue to make a difference. Support an existing fund or establish a future fund, then name it as a beneficiary of your will, IRA, or other account. Because charities don't pay income tax on retirement assets, your impact can go even further—today and for generations to come. Leaving a legacy is meaningful. Making the gift is simple.

Contact us at (770) 859-2366 or CCFTeam@cobbfoundation.org to learn more.



Scholarships

Thank you to the families, companies and organizations who have allowed us to partner with you in honoring your loved ones, your employees and your communities by awarding **79 students with \$271,912 through 16 scholarship funds**—bringing your total scholarships since 2015 to \$1.2M awarded to 253 students.

Thank you to our scholarship reviewers and committee members, as well as the companies, civic organizations, and families who have created and donated to these scholarship funds. Your support is changing lives!

Want to start a scholarship fund or support an existing one? Let's connect and create lasting change together.



“

I aspire to become a pediatric nurse in the future. Thank you so much once again for this opportunity and I hope I can actively represent the values and wonderful characteristics of your son throughout my life. - **Lexy Brown, Chris King Memorial Scholarship**



“

As a student-athlete who also hopes to serve others through a career in healthcare, I am inspired by Zach's story and grateful to be part of something that reflects his spirit. - **Reago Hutson, Zachary Harrison Harden Memorial Scholarship**

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS HELD AT COBB COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:

- Allison Carroll Forever 14 Scholarship Fund
- Atlanta Country Club Charlie Luckey Fund
- Chris King Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Fostering Education Scholarship Fund
- Feldberg Family Scholarship Fund
- Kim Escoe Watson Heart of a Hoya Memorial Scholarship Fund
- La Parrilla Mexican Restaurant Marietta City Schools Scholarship Fund
- La Parrilla Mexican Restaurant Employee Scholarship Fund
- Larry Nelson High School Invitational Scholarship Fund
- Marietta Country Club Scholarship Fund
- Metro Marietta Kiwanis Morgan Thomas Scholarship Fund
- Olivia Kate Pugh Strength and Shield Scholarship
- Our Legacy's Future Scholarship
- Southern States Empowerment Scholarship
- Strategic Health Partners Scholarship
- Zachary Harrison Harden Memorial Scholarship Fund



Good Deeds, Great Business

Corporate Community Champions

The **Corporate Community Champion Program** offers corporations and local businesses a meaningful way to support initiatives that create lasting impact in our community. Corporate Champions provide essential resources to advance our mission while fueling much of our community grantmaking—aligning corporate giving with documented community needs and maximizing the return on impact for both Champions and the community they serve.

PINNACLE **\$100,000**



ELITE **\$75,000**



DIAMOND **\$50,000**

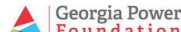
PLATINUM **\$25,000**



GOLD **\$15,000**



SILVER **\$10,000**



BRONZE **\$5,000**



PARTNER **\$2,500**



Philanthropists of the Year: Barry and Debbie Abernathy

Cobb Community Foundation proudly honored Barry and Debbie Abernathy, founders of E. Smith Heating and Air, with the 2025 **James L. Rhoden, Jr. Visionary Philanthropist Award**. Established in 2003, this award recognizes business and community leaders who demonstrate exceptional vision and dedication to improving Cobb County.

As second-generation recipients of this honor, the Abernathys continue a powerful family legacy of philanthropy. Debbie is the daughter of Earl and Rachel Smith, after whom Marietta Square’s **Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theatre** was named, and she carries forward their commitment through her leadership on the Strand Theatre’s Board of Trustees, the **Center for Family Resources**, and numerous other community organizations.

Together, Barry and Debbie have fostered a culture of giving through E. Smith Heating and Air, supporting initiatives such as the Center for Family Resources’ Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive and organizations including **Calvary Children’s Home, SafePath, Good Samaritan Health Center of Cobb**, and local **Kiwanis** programs. With you, we celebrate the Abernathys’ generosity, humility, and enduring impact on our community.



VISIONARY PHILANTHROPIST AWARD

Named for CCF Founder Jim Rhoden, this award is chosen annually by CCF board members to honor a Cobb business and community leader making significant contributions to our community through their gifts of time, talent, and treasure.



- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 2024 Mark and Rhonda Jacobson | 2019 Bob Kiser | 2013 Doug Hertz | 2009 Sam Olens |
| 2023 Jay Cunningham | 2018 David and Brittney Bottoms | 2012 Bob Prillaman | 2008 Jerry Nix |
| 2022 Shelley Elder | 2017 Governor Roy Barnes | 2011 Doug Chaffins | 2007 Earl Smith |
| 2021 Skip Harper | 2016 Valerie Voyles | 2010 Fred Bentley, Sr. | 2006 Larry Freeman |
| 2020 Howard Koepka | 2015 Ron Francis | | |

Ignite: Navigating Funding Uncertainty

In 2025, Cobb Community Foundation continued our **Ignite Nonprofit Learning Series**, as part of our commitment to strengthen the nonprofit sector with relevant learning and connection opportunities. The program addressed potential federal budget cuts, funding uncertainty, and increased competition for philanthropic dollars—and equipped nonprofit leaders with tools to think strategically about sustainability and long-term impact.

Presented in partnership with the **Georgia Center for Nonprofits** (GCN), this Ignite session was designed as more than a one-time workshop. In addition to the in-person learning experience, participating organizations received follow-up support, led by GCN experts and fully funded by Corporate Champions, including a Rapid Sustainability Assessment, customized insights into their organizational profile, and cohort-based advisory sessions.

Thanks to your generosity, through the Ignite Nonprofit Learning Series, we are able to convene nonprofit leaders throughout the year to explore timely challenges, gain insights from experts, and build stronger connections across the sector.



Checking Community Vital Signs

In 2025, Corporate Champion support allowed us to begin developing **Cobb Vital Signs**, a long-term, countywide initiative that understands local needs and drives collective action in Cobb County. Building on the 2019 Human Needs Assessment, Vital Signs moves beyond a one-time study to deliver ongoing, data-informed insights paired with community voice—designed to drive sustained action over time.

Developed in partnership with Kennesaw State University, Neighborhood Nexus, and a broad coalition of community stakeholders, Cobb Vital Signs combines public data, surveys, and local engagement to identify urgent challenges and opportunities. Findings will be shared through accessible reports, interactive tools, and convenings that help nonprofits, funders, governments, and community leaders align strategies, guide investment, and coordinate solutions—laying the foundation for stronger collaboration and long-term community well-being across Cobb County.

To learn more about **Cobb Vital Signs**, contact Director of Programs, Lisa-Ruth Karnes (Lisa-Ruth@cobbfoundation.org), who is leading the initiative.



Circles Cobb: A Pathway to Thriving

Circles Cobb sparks economic mobility by pairing participants with volunteer Allies who help them as they build skills, confidence, and stability—whether launching a business, budgeting smarter, pursuing education, or tackling countless other goals. Since launch, 30 families and 131 individuals have been empowered across multiple cohorts. In 2025, six Cohort 1 graduates finished the two-year program with a 91% average monthly income boost! Newer participants are making steady progress, and 35 Allies are lending support every step of the way. Circles Cobb proves that with community and guidance, survival can turn into thriving!

Way to go, Circles Cobb!



Investing in Childcare and Education to Empower Families

As part of its commitment to educational access and family stability in Cobb County, Cobb Community Foundation invested in several impactful programs in 2025. All of these grants were funded by our Corporate Community Champions.

Fast Start Academy is a free, four-week summer literacy program where Kennesaw State University (KSU) students tutor elementary learners reading below grade level. CCF awarded **\$38,000** to help cover transportation and instructional support for up to **125 students** on KSU's campus. Not only did no student experience the "summer slide," seventy-five percent of participants returned to school in the fall at a higher reading level!



YMCA Little School at Green Acres Church serves Spanish-speaking children ages 3–5. This **\$22,000 grant** resulted in 100% of the children showing remarkable gains in their ability to communicate in both Spanish and English, and significantly increased engagement with books and storytelling. New this year, parents joined literacy training days, and children participated in YMCA's Safety Around Water program.

Los Niños Primero and **Marietta City Schools** partner in this program to help prepare Spanish-speaking children with no prior classroom experience for kindergarten. Our **\$4,000 grant** helped to provide transportation. The results? Program administrators reported an average improvement of 20% in literacy skills and 22% in math skills across all grade levels in just four and a half weeks.



CCF also partnered with **Marietta City Schools** to launch the **Be Somebody Savings Program Fund**, helping high school students earn up to \$1,000 by graduation for completing key milestones. The program was driven by research that showed that students with even small savings accounts are 4X more likely to graduate from high school. CCF supports the initiative by managing the fund, mobilizing resources, and building community awareness to amplify impact.



Five Talented Professionals Selected for This Year's Certified Nonprofit Professional Cohort

In 2025, our Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP) program kept powering up nonprofit leaders with the skills and tools to strengthen their organizations. This year, we welcomed a fresh cohort from Cobb to this nationally recognized program, offered in partnership with Kennesaw State University (KSU). Over the first six months of 2026, participants will balance about 10 hours a week of online courses and hands-on workshops led by KSU's Dr. Jennifer Wade-Berg—all while managing their day-to-day nonprofit work. Graduates gain essential leadership skills and, importantly, their organizations receive a **\$5,000 unrestricted grant** to fuel their mission.

2025 Success Story:

Janet Graham of **Loving Arms Cancer Outreach** (which supports cancer patients facing crisis) used her CNP grant to launch the nonprofit's first fundraising texting campaign, raising nearly \$108,000 in 2025 during **Match Magic**. Janet's success shows exactly how CNP transforms training and funding into real, lasting community impact.



ANDY GAINES

Executive Director

Friends of The Strand / Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theatre



LAURA KRAUS

Executive Director

Marietta Schools Foundation



KRISTEN THOMPSON

Executive Director

Mentoring for Leadership



CAROLYN TURNER

Founder & Executive Director

HOPE Family Resource Center



JODY VANE

President

Cobb Moms Helping Cobb

Kidz2Leaders Receives 2025 Howard Koepka Award

In 2025, we proudly presented the **Howard Koepka Collaborative Spirit Award**, as well as a **\$10,000 check**, to **Kidz2Leaders**, honoring their dedication to partnership and community impact. Established in 2022 to celebrate Howard Koepka's legacy and belief that "we achieve more together," the award recognizes a Cobb nonprofit that unites people and resources to meet critical community needs.

Kidz2Leaders supports children of incarcerated parents through a holistic network, partnering with **Prison Fellowship/Angel Tree**, local churches, and community groups to help break the cycle of generational incarceration.

The award was presented at Cobb Collaborative's 32nd Annual Human Services Awards Luncheon, where CCF also recognized eight outstanding nominees exemplifying Koepka's spirit of collaboration: **Chattahoochee Nature Center, Kids Care, Keystone Village, LiveSafe Resources, MUST Ministries, Skye Precious Kids, The Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theatre, and Waymark.**



HOWARD KOEPKA COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT AWARD

This annual award honors a nonprofit that embodies the life spirit of the late Howard Koepka, a much-loved community organizer known for asking everyone everywhere, "How can we help you?"

- 2024 – Acts 6 Ministry of Stonebridge Church
- 2023 - First Christian Church of Mabelton
- 2022 - Sweetwater Mission

Ignite: Board Engagement and Effectiveness



On January 29, 57 nonprofit CEOs, executives, and board members came together to explore how boards can maximize their strengths, align passion with mission, and boost engagement to drive organizational success. Led by **Elizabeth Burdette, Philanthropic Advisor at SignatureFD**, participants dove into an interactive workshop packed with practical strategies and actionable tools for stronger board leadership.

The session earned a **99% positive rating** and sparked lively cross-sector discussion. Many thanks to our Ignite Presenting Sponsor, **Mauldin & Jenkins**, for making this program possible.



Helping to Secure Your Organization's Future

Agency Funds are created by nonprofits to steward and grow their financial resources while also availing themselves of the services provided by Cobb Community Foundation. The nonprofit maintains access to its fund assets while receiving:

- Professional investment management guided by CCF's investment committee
- An easy-to-use online giving platform
- Cost-effective administrative support
- Greater community visibility
- Credibility of association with Cobb Community Foundation.

Most importantly, these services help charitable organizations spend less time on administration and more time advancing their mission.

Agency Funds at CCF

Funds created in 2025 are in **bold**.

- 10 Women of Hope
- 2nd Century Invictus Fund
- Acworth Performing Arts Complex Fund
- Acworth Special Needs Development Fund
- Adult Disability Medical Healthcare
- Advocates for Children Endowment Fund
- Aloha to Aging Fund
- Atlanta Angels Fund
- **Atlanta Humane Society Fund**
- Aviation Museum of Cobb Fund
- Blue Skies Ministries Fund
- Blue Thanksgiving, Inc.
- **Bridge Communities Fund**
- Bullock Hope House Fund
- Chattahoochee Nature Center Endowment Fund
- Circles Cobb Fund
- Christina Diaz Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Cobb Bar Association Children's Emergency Fund
- Cobb Collaborative, Inc.
- Cobb County Cemetery Preservation Fund
- Cobb County Public Safety Foundation Fund
- Cobb Sheriff's Foundation, Inc. Fund
- **Cobb Sheriff's Foundation's Care, Compassion, Fallen Fund**
- **Cobb Sheriff's Foundation's Greatest Need Fund**
- Cole Family Root House Endowment
- Devereux Georgia
- Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theatre Fund
- **Emmanuel's Village**
- **Exceptional Futures Corporation Fund**
- Extension Foundation Fund
- Family Promise of Cobb County
- Food Security for America Fund
- Four Corners Group Fund
- Friends for the East Cobb Park Endowment
- Friends for the East Cobb Park Fund
- Georgia Symphony Orchestra Fund
- Good Mews Kitty Care Fund
- Goshen Valley Fund
- GRACEPOINT School Fund
- Highland Rivers Foundation Mothers Making a Change Fund
- Jeri Barr Legacy Endowment Fund
- Kidz2Leaders, Inc.
- Keeler Root House Fund
- Leadership Cobb Alumni Association Fund
- Life Roads Fund
- LiveSafe Resources Endowment
- Loving Arms Cancer Outreach Fund
- Marietta Arts Council Fund
- Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art Endowment
- Marietta Garden Center Investment Fund
- Marietta Kiwanis Foundation Scholarship Fund
- Matthew 25:40 Car Care Ministry Building Fund
- **Mission 1:27 Fund**
- MUST Ministries Agency Fund
- Noonday Association of Churches Fund
- One Cumberland Fund
- Power Family Cabin Fund
- Reflections of Trinity Growth Fund
- SafePath Children's Advocacy Center Fund
- SAE School Fund
- ServeComm Fund
- Simple Needs GA Fund
- Smith-Gilbert Gardens Foundation Capital Fund
- Southern Center for International Studies Fund
- Special Needs Cobb Fund
- **STEAM Generation Fund**
- Stensland Family Fund for the Georgia Symphony Orchestra
- Strand Theatre Strategic Fund
- Student Help at Life Foundation
- Sweetwater Mission Fund
- Tillman House Resource Center Fund
- Tommy Nobis Legacy Scholarship Fund
- Waymark Foster Fund

Helping Families Celebrate With Dignity

The holiday season is a time for joy and connection, but providing gifts can be a challenge for many families in Cobb County. **Mission 1:27** hosts a Christmas Market where parents purchase new toys at deeply reduced prices, empowering them to choose gifts while fostering pride and dignity.



Tiny Homes, Big Hope

Cobb County has long faced challenges providing affordable housing. **Emmanuel's Village** began with Luke Holm, son of Glory Haus founder Molly Holm. Moved by the struggles of Tim, a homeless employee, Luke started **Pickles with a Purpose**, raising enough to house Tim for four years. This act inspired the **15 tiny homes** that will provide stability, community, and hope for unhoused students and their families.

Building a Bridge to Stability

With more than **2,600 students** unhoused in Cobb County, **Bridge Communities** is working with local churches to build small cottage villages on unused property to house these students and their families. Wraparound support will be provided, helping families move from crisis to stability. Bridge Communities gives families the space they need to breathe, grow, and thrive.



Supporting Pets and People

The **Atlanta Humane Society Fund** helps ensure pets and families in Cobb County receive vital services and access to care. This fund continues the Humane Society of Cobb County's legacy after their December 2024 merger with Atlanta Humane Society and provides expanded adoptions, low-cost clinics, emergency sheltering, and service dog programs.



Professional Advisor Rooftop Sunset Social | Sept. 25

Presenting Sponsor:  **WAVERLY ADVISORS**

On September 25, more than 50 of Cobb's leading attorneys, accountants, and financial advisors gathered high above Truist Park for a **Sunset Social** atop the Comcast building. Hosted by Cobb Community Foundation with Presenting Sponsor **Waverly Advisors**, the evening featured rapid-fire insights from Waverly and associated firm Bennett Thrasher, on Georgia education tax credits, donor advised funds, and creative giving beyond cash. Smart content met lively connection—complete with sunset views, a raffle, and great conversation—all designed to strengthen partnerships and spark tax-savvy generosity that truly activates good in our community.





Georgia Community Foundations Summit | July 21-22

On July 21–22, Cobb Community Foundation proudly convened 75 community foundation leaders from across Georgia for the **2025 Georgia Community Foundations Summit**—and it delivered. Over two energizing days, leaders dug into AI, donor storytelling, scholarship strategy, and emerging best practices through hands-on workshops and candid peer exchange. Shared dinners in The Battery Atlanta and a Braves vs. Giants game capped the experience, reinforcing what made the summit special: meaningful collaboration, real relationships, and momentum that will shape philanthropy across Georgia.

Many thanks to the **Atlanta Braves** for hosting attendees at Truist Park and to **Cobb Travel and Tourism** for their planning expertise.





Activate Good | May 1

Presenting Sponsor: SIGNATUREFD

On May 1, nearly 200 community leaders, donors, nonprofit partners, and fundholders filled The Foxglove in downtown Marietta for Cobb Community Foundation’s second annual **Activate Good**—and the energy was unmistakable. The evening celebrated generosity in action while unveiling CCF’s 2024 Impact Report and a year of remarkable milestones: **\$6.2 million granted** (with two-thirds of that invested locally), a record-breaking **Match Magic Giveathon**, and powerful stories of community impact. With gratitude to presenting sponsor **SignatureFD** and emcee Condace Pressley, the night captured what’s possible when people come together to activate good across Cobb County.







The Catalyst Society is for individuals who want to advance Cobb Community Foundation’s mission as a community catalyst by supporting program leadership and operations, enabling us to:

- Promote generosity and charitable giving across the community
- Foster collaboration on key issues
- Respond to urgent community challenges

With an annual donation, donors join the CCF Catalyst Society and are recognized in CCF’s impact report, newsletter, website, and events. Join the Catalyst Society today with a gift to the Catalyst Fund and become part of this transformative movement!

INNOVATOR (\$5,000)

- Bernie & Snookie Brown
- Bill & Ginger Dallas
- Matthew Teague Charitable Fund
- Helms Family Fund
- Morris Henderson
- Red Ryder Fund
- Stephen W. Imler Fund
- Todd & Linda McMullen Family Fund
- Torras Blue Sky Foundation

ACCELERATOR (\$2,500)

- Bonstein Charitable Fund
- Lance Craig
- Kim Gresh
- King Bunten Guthrie Family Fund
- Tillery Charitable Fund

IGNITER (\$1,000)

- Lauren Abernathy
- Charlie Barnwell
- Rick Bennett
- Fondo de la Familia Buyers
- Carole Cox
- Chris and Allison Gruehn
- Frank & Melodie Howard
- Heather & Andrew Johnson
- Sid & Leslie Jones
- Dr. Leana Kart
- Allen & Kelly Krivsky
- Donna Krueger
- Dr. Gilles LaMarche
- Al & Christina Martin Family Fund
- Tom & Shari Martin
- Sharon Mason
- Sam Olens
- Condace Pressley
- Cheryl Richardson
- Carlos Rodriguez
- Heather Ross
- Sanders Family Fund
- Larry Stevens
- Michael & Jeri Sute
- Casey Tanner
- Reid Weigle

SPARK (\$500)

- Terri and Teresa Dewitt
- Andy and Catherine Floam
- Garner Family Fund
- Dan Lee

MEET OUR TEAM

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ENGAGE WITH US. BE THE CHANGE WITH US.



OUR VISION FOR THE COMMUNITY

A thriving community of engaged, charitable citizens—where all people can access opportunities and achieve their greatest potential.

OUR MISSION

Be a catalyst for a thriving community—mobilizing people, ideas, and resources to improve quality of life in and around Cobb.

WHAT WE DO

We fuel community solutions, connect donors with causes they care about and equip nonprofits with the resources they need to serve.

WAYS TO ENGAGE

Create your own charitable fund to support the nonprofits you love with flexibility, tax-efficiency, and even legacy opportunities. Maximize your giving, reduce administrative burdens, and create lasting impact.

Respond to pressing community needs through Strategic Giving Funds that champion causes like mental health, childcare, and local journalism, as well as impact initiatives like Vital Signs and impact investing.

Keep us growing and going through campaigns, events, and community leadership: join our Catalyst Society, become a Corporate Champion, or participate in signature events like Match Magic, the Professional Advisor Sunset Social, or Activate Good.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO ACTIVATE GOOD ACROSS COBB COUNTY

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