

In the Lead

Leadership Blount

December 2016

Volume 1, Issue 1

Upcoming Events

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December

8 – Leadership Blount Business & Industry

January

12 – Leadership Blount Transportation

17 – Youth Leadership Blount Law & Order

31 – 1's and 6's Reunion at Barley's



February

9 – Leadership Blount – Higher Education & the Arts

14 – Youth Leadership College & Career Ready

22/23 – Youth Leadership Legislative Retreat

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Director's Report

It is a great honor to be involved again with Leadership Blount County. I loved my time in LB'91 as well as my service on that first board of directors. We worked with great passion to create an organization that would have a positive impact.



Our 27 year history shows that the program has indeed had a great impact in making Blount County a better place. And, we are far from done making an impact. We are proudly rolling on through our 27th year of adult classes and our 20th class of Youth Leadership Blount. Our programs continue to focus on strengthening our community by educating and encouraging class members to learn about our county and how they can help make it an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

I applaud the strong group of Alumni serving on the 2016-2017 Board of Directors under the leadership of Chairman Dave Lazar ('12) and Chair Elect Kevin Painter ('03). I also applaud the exceptional group of Alumni who have given generously of their time

working on our committees. They have worked diligently through the transition of leadership to deliver a strong program to insure that Leadership Blount is a stellar program. I leaned heavily on Dave and Kevin as well as all of the other Alumni serving in their various committee roles to make the transition smooth providing LB17 and YLB17 the best possible experience.

I especially want to add a big appreciation for Eliza Conatser, our new Leadership Blount Office & Marketing Coordinator. Eliza joined us in late September working each weekday in our office from 8 to noon. Her value cannot be over stated. She has had a major impact on LB from day one. We are very blessed to have her.

Delivering the promise of the Leadership Blount program remains the main event. However, the seven-month Strategic Planning Process, chaired by Kevin Painter, looks to the future of Leadership Blount. We are thrilled that Mark and Cathy Cate are the facilitators of the Strategic Planning Process. Mark ('03) and Cathy ('00) are excep-

tionally qualified to lead us through the process. Mark just finished six years as Governor Haslam's Chief of Staff and is now President and a Principal of the Stones River Group. Cathy is a past Executive Director of LB and currently the Executive Director of Leadership Tennessee.

Three strategic planning Alumni listening events facilitated by the Cates were attended by over 100 alumni. A wealth of information was gathered from those alumni on LB's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Think it over. If you were the King or Queen of Leadership Blount and money, time, and resources were not a consideration, what changes would you make to the program? The Strategic Planning Process continues. We look forward, and carry on.



Leadership Blount's Strategic Partnership with Maryville College

For nearly 200 years, Maryville College has been guided by the motto of their founder, the Rev. Isaac Anderson: "Do good on the largest possible scale."

Known for offerings its students a rigorous and highly personal experience, Maryville College is a nationally ranked institution of higher learning that successfully joins the liberal arts and professional prepa-

ration in partnership with others.

Leadership Blount is proud to be one of those partners! Since 2003, the Leadership Blount office has been located in the Alexander House on the Maryville College Campus. In addition to office space, Maryville College makes

many of their meeting spaces available to LB and YLB as an in-kind donation.

Leadership Blount alumni include fifteen current and past Maryville College faculty and staff members.

"As a graduate of Leadership Blount, Class of 2016, I greatly appreciate how the experience broadened my knowledge of Blount County businesses, education, and commerce. The in-depth exposure to all of these areas is useful to me in that it allows me to further connect the dots with regards to the relationship between Blount County and Maryville College."

Cyndi Sweet, '16

Executive Director of Admissions and Financial Aid

Maryville
COLLEGE



Youth Leadership Class Looks Back at Blount County

By Ethan Hathcock, YLB '17

Learning about Blount County's history was the objective for the Youth Leadership Blount Class of 2017 in October. The day-long event was entitled "Exploring Our Community's History and Heritage." I

A major highlight of the trip was a hayride tour narrated by Bernard Myers who had once been a resident of Cades Cove.

Following the hayride, students were provided a delicious picnic lunch by the Knoxville Area Association of Realtors, Maryville Offices.

The next stop on the journey was the Little River Railroad and Lumber Company Museum. Students learned that Col. W.B. Townsend founded the company and brought it to the Great



Smoky Mountains in 1901. The company built over 150 miles of railroads through the Smokies and sawed over 560 million board feet of timber. Students saw a logging skidder and the 70-ton Shay engine.

Traveling back to Maryville, students visited the Thompson-Brown House and Cades Cove Museum. Museum Assistant

Director Richard Anderson led students through the house identifying donated artifacts from the residents of the Cove.

Being exposed to Blount County's history and heritage gave the Youth Leadership Blount Class a better understanding of those who have provided our community with such a strong heritage.



Blount Co Realtors Sponsor Lunch

Many thanks to Tish Hickman '97 for organizing a Cades Cove Cookout!



The Board of Directors Welcomes Connie Huffman

A member of the class of 2005, Connie Huffman has recently joined the Leadership Blount board. With almost ten years at Blount Memorial and various board experience (New Hope, Tusculum College, Maryville City School Foundation, Red Cross, and Blount County Chamber of Commerce to name a few), she will bring a wealth of knowledge to the board.

"She is passionate about Leadership Blount and will be a great addition as we strategically plan the future of our organization" Chair Dave Lazar stated.

Connie and her husband John and have one son, John Wilson.

LB Non Profit Day by Eric Lewis '17



Thursday September 8th was Non Profit Day for the Greatest Leadership Blount class 2017.

In all, we met with 15 different NPO's.

- Boys & Girls Club
- Bike Elf
- The Gate
- Habitat for Humanity
- John 3:16
- Second Harvest
- Meals on Wheels
- Mane Support
- Welcome Table
- Family Promise
- New Hope
- Have House
- Good Neighbors
- Helen Ross McNabb
- United Way



Kelly Wiggins has built an inclusive community at The Gate that bridges the gap of isolation to Independence for people with disabilities. Kelly introduced us to Shelly Vance, one of The Gate's participants. Shelly broke out into song and got the entire gymnasium involved. She stole our hearts.



After eating lunch from Meals on Wheels, we learned that Blount County Community Action feeds 540 people a day. We also learned that Second Harvest Moves about 14 million pounds of food through their giant warehouse every year. They distribute this food to 18 surrounding communities.

We learned commitment, dedication and passion. We saw it first hand in every one of the leaders, directors, educators and volunteers. It is no small task to open your heart up to someone. For someone to do it everyday for their job, that is monumental.

EDUCATING LEADERS, ENCOURAGING SERVICE

Leadership Blount seeks to provide a large number of well-trained, highly motivated citizens to assume leadership roles in our civic, educational, economic development, cultural and philanthropic organizations and groups.

UPDATE YOUR LB DATABASE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE TODAY!

[DONATE / PAY DUES](#) 

[NOMINATE](#) 

[ALUMNI](#) 

[MERCANDISE](#) 

"The Alumni committee's initiative to update our LB alumni database will ensure accurate contact information for alumni to receive communications regarding upcoming events and news regarding LB," stated alumni chair Tyler Johnson.

One of the great features of the software we have started using is that it allows alumni to create and log into profile accounts to keep their information current.

It's pretty simple:

1. Go to: www.leadershipblount.com
2. Click on Alumni
3. Click on Update Your Information
4. Click Create Account

5. Register a new account and generate a password.
6. Once you do this, you will be taken to a screen that has forms open for personal information. The first step in the process is to just fill out your first and last name. Then submit the information.
7. We will then connect your log in information with your profile, so the next time you log in, your information will show in the forms and you can make sure it's current.

Please take a moment to complete the steps and register. This will ensure we have your information current and enable you to stay up to date with the latest Leadership Blount announcements.

Email office@leadershipblount.com with any questions.

Leadership Blount County, Inc.

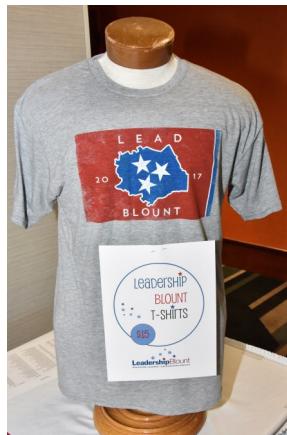
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Board of Directors

David Lazar '12, Chair
Kevin Painter '03, Chair Elect
Michael Hollenbach '12, Past Chair
Drew Miles '14, Treasurer
Robyn Blair '06, Secretary
Carolyn Forster '91
Will Hammon '15
Connie Huffman '05
Emily Palmer '12
Becky Swann '97
Charity Thompson '13
Ed Waldrop '07
Pam Young '94



T-shirts are
available for
purchase on
our website



Community Opportunities

If you have a volunteer opportunity that you would like to promote in the LB Newsletter, please send the information to Eliza, office@leadershipblount.com by the 20th of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Ring a bell...help change a life

The Salvation Army Maryville needs YOUR help this holiday season! Please consider ringing the bell at one of many locations throughout our community. This is a great event to do with family, friends and co-workers. They ask that you please consider a 2-3 hour shift and while that sounds like a lot, there's no better way to get in the Christmas spirit.

You never ask anyone for money! You simply ring the bell and wish people a Merry Christmas. To schedule a location, just contact Lt. Whitney Tomberlain.

Salvation Army Maryville: whitney.tomberlain@uss.salvationarmy.org
865-314-7190

Note: the money raised in the red kettles stays in Blount County for social services!

