THE POLK COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION,
INCORPORATED

Number One Depot Street
Tryon, North Carolina 28782
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Pioneering Foundation Marks Its First Decade

It is just chance that I am occupying the post of Chairman of the Polk County Community Foundation on its Tenth Anniversary.

But it gives me opportunity to use our organization's birthday to pen this page to the public.

We've said it before—we'll say it again! A Community Foundation—**this** Community Foundation—is a channel, not a charity. There are no Polk County Community Foundation programs! We help already existing organizations, and assist worthy new ones with start-up money.

These organizations must be: (1) tax exempt, (2) local, and (3) helping to improve the quality of life in our area.

When you give us some dollars for our Unrestricted Fund, you can go out in a short time with your camera and take a picture of just what your dollars have helped accomplish.

You'll see school books, trees, walkways, parks, fire fighting equipment, a senior citizens' van, kitchen appliances, recreational equipment, a ball field, medical tools at St. Luke's Hospital, remodeling of interiors of buildings — and more.

The dollar amount of our grants for such projects, from our Unrestricted Fund, depends on what money we have available. And money available depends on how much we draw in interest and dividends from the assets contributed by Polk County and area citizens.

Some funds take special aim

Many gifts to the Foundation are designated, not unrestricted. The income from Designated funds goes to ventures that also enrich the community.

Friends of education have given the Foundation enough money so that we can offer 15 scholarships to seniors of Tryon, Polk Central, Saluda Township and Landrum high schools. We began with only three scholarships. Enthusiasm is such that this spring we have 49 applicants for the 15 awards.

As you add dollars to these scholarships, or establish new ones, we are able to make more awards. As I write this, our Scholarship Committee is in the middle of its selection process, which includes interviews with all applicants. Winners will be introduced at our Annual Meeting April 3.

Designated Funds also go to help the Fine Arts Center, Hospice, Habitat, FENCE, American Field Service, Sheltered Workshop, Rescue Squad, St. Luke's, Roseland, Red Cross and other local groups.

Thinking positive about the future

Our total assets are now more than a million dollars. But remember — we're not spending a nickel of these assets on grants—just the income from them.

Part of that million came from over 400 donations to the Foundation in 1985.

We love small gifts. Each one gives us more of a rapport with someone in the community.

And we are constantly hopeful for big ones. The Foundation, we believe, makes the ideal focal point for lifetime, memorial, testamentary, and other philanthropic gifts that might otherwise leave the community, or never be made at all.

What we want most in this world is more money for more truly worthwhile grants, to "help improve the quality of life"—our organization's stated aim.

Our first 10 years have sped by. We're still in our small office in the Depot, where all conversation ceases when the train goes by. Loyal volunteers work for us. All our capital equipment has been donated except for one electric pencil sharpener which we bought. And our rent averages a dollar a day.

We hope that you will be our friend.

We'll surely try to keep on being yours.

Sincerely ~~yours~~,

Larry Pexton

Larry Pexton, Chairman