FOUNDATION
FORUM
Number 78
Winter 2000

THIS YEAR THE POLK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IS CELEBRATING ITS 25TH YEAR

A lot has changed over those twenty-five years. Our assets have grown from $6,000 in 1975 to $16,000,000 in 1999. We have gone from an all-volunteer organization operating two days a week, to one requiring three full-time employees, a variety of part-time and seasonal workers, and over 80 board, committee and office volunteers.

In 1979, the Foundation administered five funds which provided grants totaling $10,000. Two decades later, the Board is responsible for over 90 funds which granted $780,000 to the community in 1999.

Our office has traveled from a kitchen table in 1975, to the ground floor of the Lanier Library in 1976, to the Depot in 1978, to our current location in 1993 and, in 2001, we are preparing to move again. Thanks to our friends at First Citizens Bank and the support of our donors, the Polk Community Foundation has purchased the former First Union Bank building in Tryon.



Sid Stembridge, PCF Vice President and Chair of Building Task Force, meets with Ronnie Reid, First Citizens-Tryon Branch Manager, and Bob Worsnop, PCF President, in front of the new building.

"This move will be a significant one for us," remarked Bob Worsnop, the Foundation's President. "With the additional space, we will be able to provide better services to our community's donors, non-profits, students, educators and volunteers. We will not only have more space for our own work, but we will also be able to make space available for community groups to meet and to store their files, as well as provide a designated space for community members to access the Foundation's non-profit library resources. We believe this is one more step forward in our efforts to advance philanthropy and improve the quality of life for all citizens in Polk County and the immediate surrounding area."

The Foundation hopes to be in the new space by the spring.



The first Foundation volunteer staff, 1978. (L to R): Andy Haynes, Secretary; Bud Slater, Vice Chairman; John Landrum, Chairman, Jim Flack, President; Paul Culberson , Executive Director and (front) Adair Wagner, Administrative Director.