



FRONT PAGE

Capacity-Building News to Use for Wiregrass Organizations



HOT TOPIC **A \$22,000,000** **Construction Project**

By now, the news about WF funding the major cost of construction for the Dothan Regional Public Safety Training Center (DRPSTC) has been widely circulated. As our grantee partners, you may have a few questions. What makes this project worth an investment of this amount? **AND** Will this financial commitment stifle the ability of WF to make grants to other area programs and organizations?

At its core, a community that is not safe cannot move forward. Providing the focus and support for the kind of safety we need for our homes, businesses, families, and persons is markedly different in 2017 than it was just a few years ago. Training and education for professional responders, regular opportunity for inter-agency and inter-jurisdictional training, strong recruiting programs, and continual community-first responder engagement and dialogue all are part of the mission this center is designed to fulfill. The mission of the DRPSTC says it all: *To be the model of excellence in public safety preparation and response through integration of training, development, communication, collaboration and community engagement.* To WF, that is worth the investment we are making.

As for the impact on the Foundation's future grantmaking, before making this commitment, WF Board and staff very intentionally reviewed our funding history and capacity. For those of you who do not know, a private foundation must give away approximately 5% of the fair market value of its assets every year---it is called the "minimum required payout." Without getting more technical than a single column allows, for WF that means we invest about \$4-5 million in grants and other qualifying distributions each year. WF felt secure that even with approximately \$1 million per year, for 20 years, allocated to the DRPSTC, we still will have the ability to review projects and partnerships on an individual basis, just as we do now.

GRANTS UPDATE

Our Annual Report for 2016 will be released soon. Copies will be on our website, as always. But as an early copy for our local grantees, below is an estimated summary of grant funds invested in 2016.

Program Grant Awards	\$1,002,644
Capital Grant Awards	\$1,980,452
Micro-Grants	\$ 93,298
Other Grants	\$ 171,000
Direct Charitables*	\$ 886,639
TOTAL	\$4,124,033

*These are programs that are supported directly by WF like CapCONNECT, Bright Key, and others.

2017 and Forward



Wiregrass Foundation has been very vocal about the fact that we do not make grants; we partner with our grantees to try to identify the best combinations of our resources and your talent, ideas, and energy. Working with grantees on a partner level has become one of the most inspiring parts of my position at Wiregrass Foundation. Through the years I have been very privileged to have the opportunity to work with each of you and assist in every way I can to help tell your story, and hopefully contribute to your successes. Our current CapCONNECT program has been a true testament to the positive impact that we, together, can have on the community. The bond we share has made us a nonprofit family. In the last three years of the program we have lost two very supportive CapCONNECT leaders whose impact on their own organizations will be deeply felt. With the passing of Mary Hill and Robert Crowder we were left with a void in our community and we will miss them greatly. The grant season is upon us and all the information needed to submit your application is available on the WF website. It is our pleasure to work with each of you to help the Wiregrass be all that it can be.