



## FRONT PAGE

### Capacity-Building News to Use for Wiregrass Organizations



#### **HOT TOPIC** **Mysteries Surround Us**

As I type this, two amazing phenomena are in the news. One, the December super moon, is eerily beautiful and mysterious. The other, Congress working on tax reform, is simply mysterious, particularly in regard to the potential impact on nonprofits. Will donors who no longer itemize deductions continue to give as they have in the past? Will tax reform result in a multi-billion dollar reduction in charitable giving? Some of your national organizations are filling your in-boxes daily with updates, predictions, and calls to action. Many of you do not have that kind of constant contact. Either way, what can you do? Pay attention and stay informed. Understand which predictions resonate for your organization, and do what is allowable based on your IRS classification and policies. And always remember that as CEO's we are responsible to our Boards. They should never be surprised by our advocacy and public statements.

So is that all we can do? Just read, worry, hope and (maybe, for some of us) speak out? As a private foundation, Wiregrass Foundation cannot and does not lobby or make statements for or against legislation. But WF is a big believer in self-direction and internal locus of control. And we know that the goal of every thriving nonprofit is always to grow its support base, and that outcome is largely under our control. Who are our constituents, what do they know about us, have we strengthened our relationships with them this year, what will we do to strengthen them next year, who are the stakeholders that we have yet to reach and how are we going to draw them in to our mission and vision? These are questions worth pondering as we end one year and approach another. And the good news is that a lot of the answers to these questions are actionable by us. They don't depend on a vote of a congressional body, just the innovation and determination of us, our Boards and our staff. Call it strategic planning, or market development, or just good business. But the direct correlation between donor revenues and the strength of donor relationships is not a mysterious phenomena. It's a known fact. It may be hard to predict or control how tax reform could impact someone's will to give. But we can predict, and impact, how the work of our organizations influences opinions that can lead to giving—of time, money, and support.

Let's not forget that part of a **Happy New Year** that is in our own hands.

#### **GRANTS RECENTLY AWARDED** **(October Meeting)**

Alabama Giving—Networking Support  
\$15,000

House of Ruth—VOCA Match  
\$74,298

Southeast Alabama Youth Services—Water Heaters  
\$16,088

Sav-A-Pet---Animal Transport  
\$30,000

Sight Savers—Eyesight Intervention Wiregrass Children  
\$25,000

\$23,202 in Microgrants to six organizations

Ongoing support for Foundation programs:  
Bright Key and CapCONNECT



#### **ALMOST A NEW YEAR!**

2017 has been another amazing year for Wiregrass Foundation and we hope it has been for all of you as well. Our community has come together for

fundraisers, collaborations, and exciting programs. We hope that CapCONNECT has played a role in some of these achievements. We completed the second year of workshops and we look forward to the next three years with dynamic presenters bringing relevant information to local nonprofit leaders. Thanks to the 27 CapCONNECT organizations for their hard work and dedication.

WF is grateful to be able to partner with the community. Combining our grants and our direct-programs (like CapCONNECT, Bright Key, the Regional Safety Training Center, and others), WF has invested nearly \$4 million dollars in health, education and quality of life in the Wiregrass this year. However, we are ever-mindful of the fact that despite our resources, we can only scratch the surface of needs, opportunities, and innovations. Every year, we learn of good projects and great ideas that we cannot fund. However, we will always try to bring partners together, even if our grants are not involved. Our Grant Applications are considered in April, June, August, and October, with deadlines and instructions on submitting applications posted on our website. Please remember that our deadlines are the same for program applications, capital grants, or micro-grants. See you in the New Year!

