



FRONT PAGE

Capacity-Building News to Use for Wiregrass Organizations



HOT TOPIC **Late, Late, Late**

This quarterly newsletter was scheduled to go out on Sept. 1st. Obviously, I missed that deadline. I would love to be able to blame the eclipse, or Irma, or some event beyond human control. But the truth is, I simply let time get away from me. However, there is a silver lining because it gave me a chance to substitute the planned topic with something more important. In the last several weeks, Dothan, Houston County and the Wiregrass have been the safe-haven for hundreds of families escaping the ravages of a monstrous, unpredictable storm. Our community was mostly spared, but we were fully engaged with Irma through those who sought safety here.

Anyone who was following the news or social media could not help but be impressed by, and proud of, this community's response. City and County professionals and volunteers, churches, our extremely robust and caring non-profit sector, businesses... all pulled together to make guests welcome, and try to lessen the impact of Irma on their lives. It was truly AMAZING!

Here in Dothan/HC, citizen safety is always at-the-ready and in good-hands. Our government agencies have incident protocols and command structures. And they work very well in our community because of the leaders we have in place. But when so many visitors are seeking help, and hundreds of local volunteers are ready to engage, that structure is not so easy to define. Someone has to step up and pull all the threads together to make a blanket. And although he will scold me for printing this here, our community service "weaver" was David Duke. We are truly blessed to have this leader here with us.

Next edition, we'll get back to writing about tax reform, the Johnson Amendment, state and federal budget issues, and socio-economic issues making the news, but not necessarily making it to everyone's desktop. But today—all that Wiregrass Foundation needs to say is THANK YOU to those who were, and who are always, ready to help!

GRANTS RECENTLY AWARDED **(August Meeting)**

Exchange Center for Child Abuse--*Baby Whisperer*
\$30,142

Alfred Saliba Family Services Center—*HIPPY*
\$105,540

SE AL Child Advocacy Center—*VOCA Match*
\$66,376

Wiregrass Habitat for Humanity--*Capacity Build*
\$70,000

\$12,000 in Microgrants to four organizations

Ongoing support for Foundation programs:
Bright Key and CapCONNECT

CapCONNECT Continues



Wiregrass Foundation has just completed CapCONNECT, year-2. In 2016-17, CC members heard from three dynamic speakers:

Workshop 1: Gail Perry, *Fired Up Fundraising*, focused on fundraising and donor stewardship, with emphasis on engaging and building long-term donor relationships. Workshop 2: Farra Trompeter with Big Duck - *Smart Communications for Nonprofits*, continued to develop the topic of fundraising through dynamic marketing plans. Workshop 3: Andrea Mills with FMA – *Fiscal Strength for Nonprofits*, provided advice on the use of audited financial statements and annual budgets to better gauge an organization's financial health and to direct financial planning. CC members left each session with application strategies specific to their organization.

Feedback and assessment of CapCONNECT was so strong that the WF Board authorized its continuation. To start cycle 2, we offered an opportunity to participate to several organizations that were unable to join two years ago. For those who accept, their initiation into CapCONNECT will begin with a specially-designed Boot Camp and an organizational self-assessment. As CC members know, commitment to the program is a key to success. Workshop 1 for 2017-18 is planned for Oct. 26. We look forward to a relevant and exciting year.