



FRONT PAGE

Capacity-Building News to Use for Wiregrass Organizations



HOT TOPIC HAPPY, EXCITING NEW YEAR!!!

Like many of you, Wiregrass Foundation tries hard to be a “learning organization”—to learn from our past, acquire new knowledge, and transform our vision and strategies to meet the needs of our community. Over the last few years, one of the many things we have learned is that good things really can come in small packages. In our case, that means Micro-Grants. While our larger investments often grab headlines, there is a tremendous amount of excellent work being done everyday by local organizations aided, in part, by the Foundation’s Micro-Grant program. As stated by Micro-Grant Committee Chairwoman and WF Director Addie McKinzie, “Small amounts of money placed into the right hands can make a huge difference to area organizations, their staff and volunteers, and the people they serve.” Twenty-seven local organizations improving education, health, and quality of life in the Wiregrass, proved her right again this year.

The WF Board of Directors reviews Micro-Grant impact each time they meet. Based on those successes, the Foundation has hit a “reset button” for Micro-Grants effective January 1st. The individual organizational limit has been raised from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year. WF also has tripled the annual allocation to the Micro-Grant program from \$100,000 to \$300,000. Our application will remain simple and straight-forward, although the questions asked may be slightly different. We are going to want to know what your organization is doing with the money---an unexpected opportunity or challenge, something new, something that elevates your organization’s ability to serve. And while this program is not closed to funding operations (as are WF major grants), Micro-Grants still cannot be used to supplant funds previously received for normal functions and activities.

We will have more details on our website within a few weeks, along with a revamped application. So please be on the look-out for the new Micro-Grant program details and application in the **New Year!**

GRANTS RECENTLY AWARDED (October Meeting)

Sight Savers--Children’s Vision Program
\$25,000

SE AL Child Advocacy Center--VOCA Match
\$35,024

Habitat for Humanity--Truck Purchase Match
\$20,000

Hurricane Michael Special Assistance
\$64,791

\$39,786 in Microgrants to ten organizations.

Ongoing support for Foundation programs:
Bright Key, CapCONNECT, the Arts Initiative, and
Wiregrass Public Safety Center



HAPPY NEW YEAR, AGAIN!

Micro-Grants are not the only programs at Wiregrass Foundation that will have a new focus in the New Year! In 2019, we also are hitting the “reset button” on our signature

capacity building initiative, CapCONNECT. For three consecutive years, we have enjoyed bringing nationally renown talent to Dothan to work with us on a wide range of nonprofit topics. But with changes in participant staff and board members, we realized the need to be more responsive. So we have decided to lose the three-workshops-per-year formula and redesign CapCONNECT. We are working on a major workshop, still with nationally credited talent, on a key topic of interest, with work differentiated for staff and directors. We then will invest less in large group sessions for the year and allocate resources to professional coaching directed by each individual organization, according to their needs. We hope to achieve the best combination of collective learning and individual development. CapCONNECT’ers, be on the lookout for more info.

*Christmas doesn’t come from a store.
Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.
Dr. Seuss
Wishing you find **all** the Joy of Christmas!!!*

