

AT A GLANCE

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!

CHARTER ISSUED BY THE STATE
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FEBRUARY 5, 1999

\$1,000,000 CHALLENGE GRANT
RECEIVED FROM THE ESTATE OF
WILLIAM LAW WATKINS

JULY 17, 2000

FIRST GRANT MADE
TO CANNON MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL FOR \$9,000

OCTOBER 9, 1999

TOTAL GRANTS SINCE INCEPTION

\$30,000,000 +

TOTAL ASSETS
1999 – 2000

\$2,700,000

TOTAL ASSETS
2023 – 2024

\$40,000,000+

FOUNDING PRESIDENT

TOM ERVIN

FOUNDING BOARD CHAIR

CORDES SEABROOK

LONGEST SERVING PRESIDENT

ROBERT M. RAINEY
(16 YEARS)



FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the Foothills Community Foundation (FCF) was getting established **Twenty-Five years ago**, charter and founding board members along with interested community volunteers reached out to the Southeastern Council on Foundations (SECF) for guidance and counsel. Cordes Seabrook, the Founding Chairman of our Board, was able to secure an on-site visit from the President & CEO of SECF at that time. From all reports, the visit was very helpful as FCF was getting established. Over our Twenty-Five year history we've maintained our membership in the SECF, now known as Philanthropy Southeast, the largest Philanthropy-serving organization in the South. From our earliest days up until today, our affiliation with this professional organization has been beneficial to our growth and development. It has kept our focus on industry standards for community foundations.

I recently learned that the current President & CEO of Philanthropy Southeast, Janine Lee, passed away on February 29, 2024 after a short illness. Janine began her duties at Philanthropy Southeast in 2011. Our paths crossed a few times over the last few years. She was a quiet leader- a light in every room she was in. She was never loud but always prepared. Janine was one of the handful of black professional women leading in philanthropy in the American South. Janine will be greatly missed. She took on tough issues like equity in Board Rooms, racial diversity and justice. Most will not know of her but she helped change the trajectory of Philanthropy in the South. Her life made a difference. I was saddened to learn of her death at a relatively young age but I took great joy in the legacy she left behind.



Sincerely,

R. Dean Woods

Dean Woods, President



Bob Austin with FCF Board Member and AnMed CEO, William Kenley
at our Donor Appreciation Luncheon March 17

2023 RAINEY PHILANTHROPY AWARD

Bob and Kristi Austin Honored with Rainey Philanthropy Award

Since arriving in Anderson in 1985, the Austins have led various community initiatives, such as the Civic Center playground and bus shelter installations. They founded a pioneering free dental clinic at the Anderson Free Clinic in 1991. Their volunteer work includes events like the Anderson County Arts Center auction, and they have served on numerous charities and boards. Dr. Bob Austin emphasized their philosophy: “You make a living by what you take out of the community, but you make a life by what you put back into it.” Kristi Austin adds, “Helping others has just been a way of life for us.”

Dr. Bob and Kristi Austin recognized the need for dental services in underserved areas of Anderson County when they opened their dental practice in 1985. They strategically located their practice and partnered with the Anderson Free Clinic to establish the community’s first free dental clinic. Since retiring from their practice after 37 1/2 years, the Austins continue their commitment to service. Bob serves on the Free Clinic’s Board of Directors, and they recently co-chaired the 2024 Camellia Ball for the AnMed Foundation, raising funds for community health initiatives.

Kristi, a Williamston native, and Bob, a veteran of the United States Air Force with a Doctorate of Dental Medicine from the Medical College of South Carolina, have three children and six grandchildren. Their dedication to service has made an indelible mark on the community, and their legacy is poised to positively impact future generations to come.

The Rainey award is presented to a philanthropist in the Anderson, Oconee and Pickens County area who has made significant contributions to the betterment of the community by raising awareness for charitable causes, selflessly contributing personal resources, advocating for needs in the community and inspiring others to have the same benevolent spirit.

2017 Rainey Award Recipient: Dr. Marshall L. Meadors, III

2018 Rainey Award Recipient: Danielle K. Roberts

2019 Rainey Award Recipients: Irvin L. and Jorene J. Cauthen

2020 Rainey Award Recipient: Steve Kay

2021 Rainey Award Recipients: Charles and Libby Dalton

2022 Rainey Award Recipient: Robert S. Fagg

2023 Rainey Award Recipient: Dr. and Mrs. Robert G. Austin



*Kristi and Bob Austin
with Maril Yeske*



*Current and former Foundation Staff:
Dean Woods, Cindy Kibler,
and Mary Pickens*



*Donor Appreciation Luncheon
table decoration*



*Rainey Philanthropy Awards Recipients,
Bob and Kristi Austin with their family*

FUNDHOLDER CORNER: GIFTS OF STOCK

Donation of appreciated stocks represents a savvy tax-efficient strategy. This method allows you to avoid capital gains taxes, claim a charitable income deduction, and direct the proceeds to support your fund or other charitable initiatives through the Foothills Community Foundation. BUT, it is important to note that unlike conventional methods like checks or wire transfers, stock transfers lack sender instructions or identification. **Our procedures for stock donations have recently changed and gifts should be directed to Charles Schwab instead of TD Ameritrade.** Instead of sharing our Charles Schwab account information here, I ask that you reach out to me directly for the updated instructions for your broker. This ensures a smooth processing of your contribution and its proper allocation to your chosen fund.



*Mary Pickens
Donor Services Director*