

Cherokee County Educational Foundation Announces Official Nonprofit Status



The Cherokee County Educational Foundation Board of Directors met on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at Hasty Elementary School Fine Arts Academy in Canton and heard the good news that the organization has been awarded official 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity status. From left to right: President William “Billy” G. Hasty Jr.; Barbara Jacoby, Cherokee County School District Director of Public Information, Communications and Partnerships; Fundraising Chair Kevin Williams; Ben Looper; Rod Drake; back row: Debbie Rabjohn, Cherokee County Council of PTA President; Secretary Amanda Arnold; Mike Chapman; Debi Radcliff; and Candler Howell, CCSD Assistant Superintendent for Financial Management.

The Cherokee County Educational Foundation Board of Directors heard good news that was more than a year in the making: the organization has been awarded official 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity status from the Internal Revenue Service.

The announcement was made on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 during the Board’s regular meeting, which this month was held at Hasty Elementary School Fine Arts Academy in Canton, a past recipient of a Foundation \$2,000 special projects grant to provide scholarships to students who could not otherwise afford extra-curricular activities and field trips.

The Foundation, which raises funds and awareness for the Cherokee County School District, applied for the official designation more than a year ago after its initial organization in the fall of 2012, and IRS officials reviewed its structure, bylaws, mission and budget as part of the approval process.

“A little more than a year ago, a new nonprofit foundation was established to support the Cherokee County School District and its outstanding teachers and students, and you joined us in our mission,” Board President William “Billy” G. Hasty Jr. said. “Since then, the Cherokee County Educational Foundation has awarded more than \$20,000 in grants to teachers and students... and we’ve only just begun.”

The news comes just as the Foundation launches its second annual community fundraising campaign, For the Love of Education. Money raised by the Foundation is distributed to the School District and its schools through

grants to teachers for classroom innovation, assistance for students and funding for CCSD initiatives such as the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Academies.

Donations from business, organizations and individuals may be made online via the Foundation's website at www.cherokeecountyeducationalfoundation.org or may be mailed to P.O. Box 4754, Canton, Ga. 30114. All donations are tax deductible.

Donors who give \$100 or more are recognized on the Foundation's website. Recognition levels are: Platinum, \$5,000 or more; Gold, \$2,500-\$4,999; Silver, \$1,000-\$2,499; Bronze, \$500-\$999; and Friend, \$100-\$499.

"A high-quality public education system is vital to the success of our local businesses and our community as a whole," Mr. Hasty said. "Please join me in showing our community that we're in this together 'For the Love of Education!'"



The Foundation Board of Directors, following its meeting at Hasty Elementary School Fine Arts Academy, presented a \$100 donation to the school in appreciation. The school in December also received a \$2,000 grant from the Foundation to provide scholarships to students who could not otherwise afford extra-curricular activities and field trips. From left to right: Board Secretary Amanda Arnold, Fundraising Chair Kevin Williams, Principal Izell McGruder, President William "Billy" G. Hasty Jr., Debbie Rabjohn, Cherokee County Council of PTA President and Foundation Board member Mike Chapman.