

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
of Shelby County

Build Today...Dream for Tomorrow

Retired Teacher Leaves Estate Gifts to Benefit Charities, Scholarships

The late Kent Smith of Sidney was widely known as a caring Sidney High School teacher, dedicated volunteer and talented performer. He also quietly planned how he would provide lasting gifts to benefit organizations he valued and Shelby County students intending to follow his career path.

Smith, who died February 28, 2017 after a lengthy battle with prostate cancer, left the majority of his estate to the Community Foundation of Shelby County to establish the Kent R. Smith Fund. The Fund will provide annual grants to ten local organizations and several scholarships to education majors. Grants and scholarship awards are expected to begin in 2018.

“Kent contacted me in 2004 after his cancer diagnosis, wanting to get his affairs in order,” recalls Marian Spicer, Community Foundation executive director. “Over the years, he kept reworking a dormant fund agreement until our lunch last July when he told me he didn’t want to make any more adjustments. He felt comfortable with what he was going to do.”

The Kent R. Smith Fund will provide annual grants to the following organizations:

- Agape Distribution,
- Alpha Community Center,
- Compassionate Care of Shelby County,
- Munch Bunch program at First Presbyterian Church, Sidney
- Gateway Arts Council,
- New Choices, Inc.,
- Shelby County Historical Society,
- Shelby County United Way,
- Sidney Civic Band, and
- Wilson Health Foundation for the Hospice program

The Fund will also award scholarships to Shelby County residents who have surpassed college freshman status and are pursuing a Bachelors or Masters degree in education. Smith’s wish was that several \$1,000 awards are issued each year from the Fund.

“Kent was practical about his mortality, yet he persisted to volunteer and help others, despite set backs,” said Spicer. “His positive nature and witty humor made him such a pleasure to know. He is missed, but will always be remembered through his ongoing gifts to the community.”

The Community Foundation of Shelby County administers 168 charitable funds with a combined value of more than \$30 million. Information is available on their website at www.commfoun.com or by contacting Jessica Fortkamp, donor relations director at (937) 497-7800.