Give back to your community

Kernersville Foundation seeking donations from the community

The Kernersville Foundation, Inc. is embarking on their Annual Campaign to support their mission "to provide financial assistance to non-profit organizations that serve the Kernersville community," and they need your help.

As part of their ambitious campaign, Jim Bland, Kernersville Foundation Annual Campaign chairman, met with Mayor Dawn Morgan on September 12, and was presented with a proclamation declaring September as Kernersville Foundation Month.

"The Campaign's goal is to meet the human needs found right here in Kernersville. Your support, along with others in our community, makes this goal possible each year," said Bland. "We've all seen Kernersville neighbors in need – a homeless person or hungry child, an elderly friend who needs a ride to an appointment, a person who can use a helping hand to find a job and other situations where help is needed. My life is better knowing that I am giving to deserving people."

The Kernersville Foundation was founded in 1999 with the mission to provide financial support to local charities making a difference in Kernersville. Those organizations, which have to be 501(c)(3) status, include CareNet Counseling, Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden, Crisis Control Ministry (CCM), Friends of the Paddison Memorial Library, Kernersville Cares for Kids, Kernersville Christmas Stocking Fund, Kernersville Downtown Council, Kernersville Family YMCA, Kernersville Little Theatre, Kernersville Museum, Körner's Folly, Lamb Foundation, Next Step Ministries (NSM), Mayor's Council for People with Disabilities, Kernersville Cycling Club, and The Shepherd's Center of Kernersville.

In the 19 years the Kernersville Foundation has supported Kernersville's non-profits, they have provided grants to allow these non-profits to help them to meet their goals in providing for those in need in the community.

"We have an aggressive goal that we'd like to meet this year, in order to serve the community," Bland stated. "These donations are important because the dynamics in the community are so important and we need to be cognizant of that need."

Without funds donated by caring citizens through organizations such as the Kernersville Foundation, non-profits such as NSM could not help women escape abusive relationships; The Shepherd's Center could not continue to support local adults who are aging or disabled; the Kernersville Christmas Stocking Fund could not supply a joyous Christmas to numerous underprivileged children and their families; and CCM would not be able to provide the food and services needed to help the many individuals and families who are without power, food or other daily necessities.

Bland noted that the Kernersville Foundation is an all-volunteer organization.

"Every dollar contributed goes to one of our (non-profit) agencies," he said, as he explained that donors can designate the specific non-profit agency or agencies to receive their contribution or contributions can be given as an unrestricted gift. "These unrestricted gifts are allocated based on recommendations from an advisory board of community leaders."

Bland noted that while the Campaign officially runs from September 1 through October, donations can be made at any time and in various forms, though financial contributions are the primary donations at this point.

"Real estate and stocks donations are an option," Bland added. "These transactions are becoming commonplace and are gaining popularity. We want individuals and businesses to be aware that

the Kernersville Foundation can assist with certain aspects of estate planning and can help facilitate these types of transactions."

Along with reaching out to the community through media, the Kernersville Foundation has also done a massive direct mailing to residents and sent emails to businesses.

"The Kernersville Foundation gives to the community and I want to urge the community to give back to the Foundation, so we can continue to help these non-profit agencies," Bland remarked. The Kernersville Foundation accepts donations by mail at P.O. Box 921, Kernersville, NC 27285 or online at info@kernersvillefoundation.org.