



2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Making Lives Better, **TOGETHER.**

Leaders Education Foundation is a non-profit 501 c3 organization that Gives Forward to our community. The Foundation unites community members and organizations to bring educational resources and opportunities to educators and students of all ages in West Tennessee.

Leaders Education Foundation provides educational grants, scholarships, and resources to our community that supports lifelong learning, workforce development, and education.

We believe in empowering our community for good.

GIVEFORWARD



MEETING AGENDA

April 18, 2023

CALL TO ORDER & INVOCATION

Ron Hill, Board Chair

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ron Hill, Board Chair

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ron Hill, Board Chair

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Leigh Anne Bentley, President

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Spencer Pratt, Nominating
Committee Chair

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

Ron Hill, Board Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the President of Leaders Education Foundation, I am proud to share the progress toward our mission of Making Lives Better, Together.

Over the past year, we have continued to work tirelessly towards this goal, and I am pleased to report that we have made significant strides in expanding our reach and impact. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteer board, staff and community partners, we have provided access to education and resources to even more students, educators and community members.

One of our major accomplishments this year has been launching our new workforce readiness scholarship program. Through this initiative, we have been able to award scholarships to deserving students working on completing CTE programs and helping offset the cost of attending school. This is in addition to \$25,000 to collegiate scholarships distributed last April.

In addition to our scholarship programs, we have expanded our outreach efforts to include support for more organizations in our area of focus—programs such as The READ team, WestTeach, and the Future Star Youth Summit. We hosted the Creative Expressions Contest in February with the Jackson-Madison County Bicentennial Commission and spoke at the Education Summit held at the Ag Center. We partnered with The Jackson Arts Council to support their art box initiative, which provides students with free art supplies to use as tools for creativity and expression. And, of course, we continued our LEADS educator grant programs and awarded over \$20,000 to local teachers and their classrooms. These programs provide critical resources and support to those who need them most, and we are proud to see their impact on our communities.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of our donors, sponsors, and partners. Your generosity and commitment to our mission have been truly inspiring, and we are grateful for your continued support. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of countless students and families across our community.

We remain focused on our mission as we look ahead to the coming year. With your help, we are confident that we can continue to expand our reach and make an even greater impact in the years to come.

Thank you for your continued support of the Leaders Education Foundation.

Kind regards,

Leigh Anne Bentley

LEADERSHIP

The leadership of Leaders Education Foundation is comprised of a volunteer board of directors, officers, and staff donating their time, talent and treasures. The Foundation is grateful for their service and commitment to help provide resources and opportunities to help launch educational opportunities for community members.

OFFICERS & STAFF



LEIGH ANNE BENTLEY
President



LEIGH O'NEILL
Vice President



SHEA BROWN
Director of
Community Impact



TAYLOR RISLEY
Assistant Treasurer



EDIE WHITMAN
Assistant Secretary



CATHERINE TEEL
Accounting



KYLE WEST
Accounting



SCOTT HEIT
Marketing

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



RON HILL
Board Chair



EDDIE HAYES
Vice Chair &
Secretary



KAREN TAYLOR
Treasurer



MARY LOU ADAMS
Board Member



YVETTE BLUE
Board Member



EDDIE MAE PIRTLE
Board Member



STEPHANIE RILEY
Board Member

2022 LEADS GRANTS WINNERS



L.E.A.D.S. Grants are designed to assist educators who promote initiatives that help students Learn, Experience, Advocate, Dream, and Serve. Through the L.E.A.D.S. Educator Grant Program, West Tennessee educators are eligible to enter for an opportunity to win \$1,000.

Congratulations to the 20 finalists, winning a \$1,000 L.E.A.D.S. Educator Grant:

PROFESSOR MATT BARKER

Freed-Hardeman University

ERIN OZMENT

Bartlett High School

BRITTANY LEWIS

East Chester Elementary School

SARA BILLINGSLY

Madison Academic Magnet High School

TEKIA BUNTYN

Jackson Central-Merry Middle School

NICOLL BURLESON

Augustine School

KELLY REA

Hillcrest Elementary School

MISSI HARDIN

Community Montessori School

CINDY EMISON

Arlington Elementary School

DR. CALLIE DOLLAR

Community Montessori School



KRISTEN ROBERSON

Freed-Hardeman University

DR. PENNY WHITE

Bartlett High School

RHONDA GRAMMER

Elmore Park Middle School

JULIE CARTWRIGHT

Stigall Primary School

**DR. CALLANDRA
ELLISON-WILLIAMSON**

Lincoln Elementary School

CHARO LOVINGS

Isaac Lane Elementary School

MARCIE AUTRY

Community Montessori School

LINDSEY BARNES

Community Montessori School

DR. GEORG PINGEN

Union University

CASSANDRA NICHOLS

Rivercrest Elementary School

2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Leaders Education Foundation Scholarship Program awarded twenty scholarships totaling \$25,000 to local high school seniors who displayed academic achievement and leadership in their school and community. We received 164 applications. The Financial Wellness Scholarship videos reached nearly 32,000 people.



HANNAH PANKEY
\$2,500 Financial Wellness
Video Scholarship
Humboldt High School



ELISE HAVERCAMP
\$2,000 Financial Wellness
Video Scholarship
Madison Academic High School



CHLOE BRASFIELD
\$2,500 Leaders Credit Union
Martha Britt Scholarship
Jackson Christian School



MADISON AGOMUO
\$1,000 JMCSS Founders Scholarship
Jackson Central-Merry
Early College High



TAYLOR BRADFORD
\$1,000 Community Scholarship
Dyer County
Dyer County High School



AUTUMN JONES
\$1,000 Community Scholarship
Gibson County
Milan High School



AMIR DOUMITT
\$2,000 Leaders Credit Union
Martha Britt Scholarship
Madison Academic High School



KAYLEIGH WILLIAMS
\$1,000 Town & Country
Realtors Scholarship
South Gibson County High School



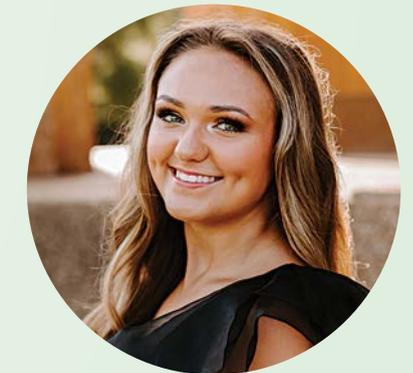
BRADEN NYE
\$1,000 Ellis Insurance
Scholarship
Madison Academic High School



ALYSSA DURHAM
\$1,000 Community Scholarship
Obion County
Union City High School



ELISABETH HANEY
\$1,000 Community Scholarship
Shelby County
Bartlett High School



KATIE ALEXANDER
\$1,000 Community Scholarship
West Tennessee
Jackson Christian School

2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



DOCIA BAKER
\$1,000 Community Scholarship
West Tennessee
Trinity Christian Academy



REAGAN DURKEE
\$1,000 Community Scholarship
West Tennessee
Union City High School



ADDISON FORSYTHE
\$1,000 Community Scholarship
West Tennessee
North Side High School



MAGGIE HUCKABY
\$1,000 Community Scholarship
West Tennessee
Chester County High School



BRIANA JORDAN
\$1,000 Community Scholarship
West Tennessee
Peabody High School



KAYLA MACKEY
\$1,000 Community Scholarship
West Tennessee
North Side High School



MARY ELLEN MONTGOMERY
\$1,000 Community Scholarship
West Tennessee
Milan High School



KATELIN RUTLEDGE
\$1,000 Community Scholarship
West Tennessee
Westview High School

WORKFORCE READINESS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

SHELBY BICKERSTAFF
Jackson
Jackson State CC

MATTHEW MAREK
Hornsby
Jackson State CC

MICAH BLAKEMORE
Jackson
TCAT Jackson

AARON MARKHAM
Jackson
Jackson State CC

SYDNEY DOUGLAS
Newbern
Jackson State CC

ERICA REYNOLDS
Humboldt
Jackson State CC

GRANT HOLLAND
Jackson
Jackson State CC

ERRIKA STEPHENS
Humboldt
Jackson State CC

CARESA HOLMES
Jackson
Jackson State CC

JOHN TAYLOR
Oakfield
Jackson State CC



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

In accordance with our bylaws (available upon request), we are notifying our members that we recommend the expansion of the Board's size from seven (7) to nine (9) Directors with one (1) new Director serving an initial term of one (1) year and the other new Director serving an initial term of three (3) years in order to comply with the Bylaws' Director rotation requirements; and that the Board will have two (2) currently serving Directors' terms expiring at the Leaders Education Foundation's fourth annual meeting in April 2023. The second terms for these Directors shall be for three (3) years each.

In accordance with the Foundation's bylaws, Section 4.03, the Chair shall appoint before each annual meeting at least two (2) Board members and three (3) members from the general membership to serve on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall submit to the full Board and membership a list of nominees not later than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting. Chair, Ron Hill, has appointed Yvette Blue and himself from the Board and Spencer Pratt, Seth Rudd, and Karen Freeman from the general membership to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2023. Board Chair Hill appointed Spencer Pratt as the 2023 Nominating Committee Chair.

The Nominating Committee has completed its' responsibility of providing the following as Director Nominees to be presented to the membership.

RON HILL
2nd Term
April 2023–April 2026

EDDIE HAYS
2nd Term
April 2023–April 2026

STAN SANDERS
1st Term
April 2023–April 2024

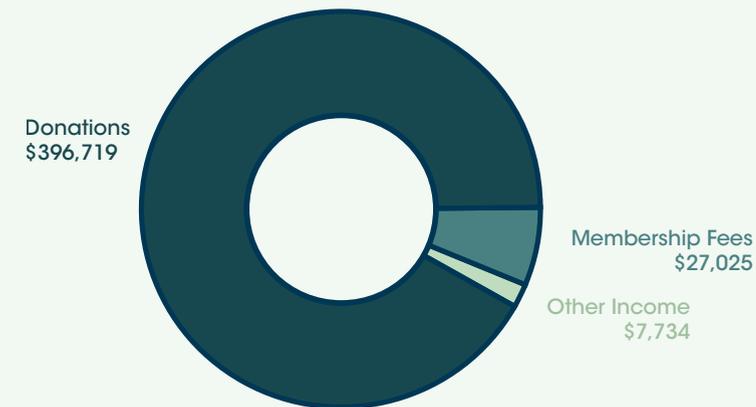
GREG HAMMOND
1st Term
April 2023–April 2026

Thank you for allowing us to serve as your 2023 Nominating Committee.

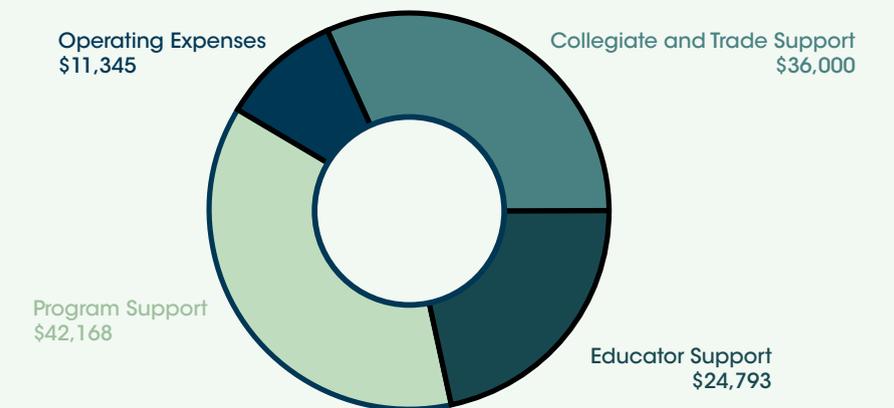
Spencer Pratt, Chair
Ron Hill
Yvette Blue
Seth Rudd
Karen Freeman

2022 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

REVENUE



EXPENSES



3RD ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 19, 2022

Chair Eddie Hays called the 3rd Annual Membership meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. at 1490 Union University Drive, Jackson, TN. He explained that due to the ongoing COVID-19 national pandemic, the meeting is being conducted virtually with a limited in-person audience.

Chair Hays led the invocation and welcomed the students from Arlington Elementary School. The students lead everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Hays next called upon Secretary Ron Hill to determine whether a quorum was present. Secretary Hill confirmed that a quorum was present.

Chair Hays called for the reading of the minutes of the 2nd Annual Membership meeting conducted on April 27, 2021. A motion was made to dispense with the reading of last year's minutes, which are in the 2022 Annual Report that is online. The motion carried, and the minutes were approved as presented.

Chair Hays introduced the other Foundation Board Members who are:

- Ron Hill, who also served as Vice-Chair and Secretary
- Karen Taylor, who also served as Treasurer
- Mary Lou Adams
- Yvette Blue
- Eddie Mae Pirtle
- Stephanie Riley

Chair Hays called upon Foundation President Leigh Anne Bentley for the President's Report.

President Bentley thanked Chair Hays and the Foundation Board for their leadership and service during the past year. She then reported that, in 2021, the Foundation participated in #GivingTuesday to help make a difference with the help of sponsors, members, and donors. She gave a brief overview on the different ways the Foundation supported the community in 2021, such as:

- Awarded \$15,000 in Scholarships to high school seniors in the Spring of 2021
- Awarded \$19,000 in L.E.A.D.S. Grants to Educators
- Donated \$1,000 to Humphreys County School System for Disaster Relief from the flooding it experienced in 2021
- Donated \$10,000 to West TN Imagination Library Chapters so they can provide books to participating children from birth to five years old

- Partnered financially with the United Way's READ Team to expand their services and resources, including taking books to different areas with their Words on Wheels (W.O.W.) Wagon
- Partnered with the Jackson Madison County Bicentennial to provide coloring books celebrating Jackson Madison County's history to 10,000 elementary school children
- Sponsored the Jackson Madison County Bicentennial Creative Expressions contest, which kicked off in the Fall of 2021 and had awards presented in February 2022 for preschool through high school children to submit coloring work, artwork, poems, and essays. The overall winners' submissions will be placed in the new Jackson Madison County time capsule
- Sponsored Twenty-One (21) 7th and 8th graders across West TN in the FutureStar Youth Summit hosted at UT Martin

President Bentley thanked the Foundation's current members and the over 1,700 new members in 2021 for uniting with the Foundation to support its mission of Making Lives Better, Together.

President Bentley then reported that Leaders Education Foundation's Scholarship Program, which launched in early 2020, has increased each year the total number and dollar amount of its scholarships to high school seniors who displayed academic achievement and leadership in their schools and communities. At its last meeting and in accordance with the Bylaws, the Foundation's Board reviewed and accepted the Scholarship Committee's Report and recommendation to award 18 scholarships totaling \$25,000. Before announcing the 2022 recipients, President Bentley introduced and thanked the Scholarship Committee members for their service. The Committee members were Director Adams, who served as the Committee's Chair; Director Riley; Director Blue; and Foundation member Linda Rizzuto. President Bentley then individually recognized each recipient, all of whom were featured in the 2021 Annual Report with their picture, their name, the scholarship's name and amount, and their high school name. President Bentley reported the Foundation awarded 19 L.E.A.D.S. Educator Grants of \$1,000 each in 2021. L.E.A.D.S. Grants are designed to assist educators who promote initiatives to help students Learn, Experience, Advocate, Dream, and Serve. The 2021 recipients, who are listed in the 2021 Annual Report, were recognized and presented checks at a reception in their honor in October 2021.

President Bentley reported that the Foundation also joined in an "Imagine the Possibilities" campaign with the Imagination Library Chapters in Madison, Haywood, and Chester Counties to Give Forward. The Foundation pledged to give \$60 for each new Foundation member or a donation of \$10 or more made in honor of a participating Imagination Library. Based on the "Imagine the Possibilities" campaign, the Foundation donated \$7,000 to the participating Imagination Libraries.

President Bentley then introduced Director Hill, who was appointed the 2022 Nominating Committee Chair by Foundation Board Chair Hays. Committee Chair Hill began by recognizing his fellow 2022 Nominating Committee members: Director Blue and Foundation members Mr. Spencer Pratt, Mr. Seth Rudd, and Mrs. Karen Freeman. He reported that at this time and based on the Board's approval, the Nominating Committee submits to the membership the following slate of Nominees for the Foundation Board of Directors:

- Eddie Mae Pirtle - 2nd term (3 years) April 2022 - April 2025
- Karen Taylor - 2nd term (3 years) April 2022 - April 2025
- Stephanie Riley - 2nd term (3 years) April 2022 - April 2025

Chair Hays thanked the 2022 Nominating Committee, and as there were no further nominations, he asked for a motion to accept the slate of Nominees. A motion and a second were made to accept the slate of Nominees, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Hays then thanked those members joining in-person and virtually for the 3rd Annual Membership meeting and thanked the students of Arlington Elementary School for leading everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. He also thanked all the Foundation's sponsors, members, donors and volunteer staff for supporting the Foundation's mission of Making Lives Better, Together.

Chair Hays encouraged everyone to continue donating and, if not a member, to join the Foundation. With no other business to be discussed, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Hill, Secretary
Eddie Hays, Chair

BECOME A MEMBER

When an individual or organization chooses to give to the Leaders Education Foundation, their impact can last a lifetime.

Becoming a member of the Leaders Education Foundation means you will make an impact in your community. As a member, your contribution gives you the unique opportunity to participate in the Annual Meeting of the Foundation's membership, as our volunteer Board of Directors outlines how we plan to Give Forward. You will be updated through our newsletter and social media with how your membership is directly impacting your local community. You will also have direct access to share the Foundation's scholarships and grants to students or educators who would benefit from these valuable opportunities.

To become a member of the Leaders Education Foundation, visit leadersgives.org and select "Give." Donations of all sizes are appreciated, and you automatically become a member with a one-time \$10 donation. Donations over the \$10 membership fee may be given in honor or in memory of a loved one.

"Always walk through life as if you have something new to learn, and you will."

-VERNON HOWARD

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EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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