



The Charitable Foundation
OF AIKEN

FOUNDATION NEWS

President's Message

As we launch into the beginning of the Holiday Season, our hearts are full of thankfulness and gratitude.

The Charitable Foundation of Aiken officially kicked off our 4th fiscal year with a magical evening at the Aiken Center for the Arts. The leadership of the two charities we are supporting gave an overview of how their efforts are creating life changing opportunities for their constituents; we were entertained by some of the students from The Aiken Center of the Arts programs and heard first-hand from a client of Family Promise of Aiken on how his life and that of his family was changed forever.

Our fundraising efforts will continue through June 2025. There are numerous ways you can continue to support The Charitable Foundation of Aiken. If you have any questions on how you can help, please feel free to reach out to any of the Board members listed below.

On behalf of the entire Board and Advisory Committee, whatever holiday you celebrate, we wish you the best of all for the upcoming year.

The Executive Board

Kathleen Bennett, President
Julie Brozowski, Secretary
Billie Messina, Treasurer

Advisory Committee

Daria Carney
Noble Diller
Angela Hodges
Marcia McDonald
Diana Peters
Susan Phillips
Lark Snouffer
MaryAnn Wennemer

On November 7th the Charitable Foundation of Aiken proudly announced that **The Aiken Center for The Arts Outreach Program** and **Family Promise of Aiken** are the two beneficiaries of The Foundation's fundraising campaign for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Both organizations are 501©(3) charitable entities.



The Aiken Center for the Arts

In addition to the world class gallery for everyone to enjoy, the Aiken Center for the Arts looks forward to inspiring and educating by providing unique visual and performing art experiences for all ages. For example, the Center offers Art and Music camp for special needs children, Joy in the Journey for Alzheimer's and dementia patients, the Aiken Youth Orchestra and Ensemble, Art camps for children ages 5-10, and much more.

Caroline Gwinn, Executive Director of Aiken Center for the Arts, stated "the Center is grateful to The Foundation for recognizing the work we are doing while striving to build community through our work in the arts. Thank you for recognizing our efforts in providing ARTS ACCESS and supporting the cost of operations to provide low cost or free programming. Access to the creative process opens doors and opportunities for persons of all ages and economic positions to become involved. Donated funds will provide the Center the operational support it needs to provide quality instruction, to introduce the community to an expansive world provided by e-arts, and to bring economic well-being through support of and investment in the arts."

Rebecca Cole, President of the Aiken Center for the Arts Board of Directors, stated "the Board is grateful to be selected as one of the Foundation's two recipients of their annual charitable gift. We are here to make the arts accessible to everyone in our community. We do this by providing classes and experiences in the visual and performing arts to people of all ages and abilities."

Our mission is to pledge our resources to organizations that create life-changing opportunities for the residents of Aiken County, South Carolina. The foundation will raise funds separately through annual giving programs such as the Circle of Giving and year-round fundraising initiatives. These funds will be dispersed under the guidance of the foundation's executive board and advisory committee.

Family Promise of Aiken

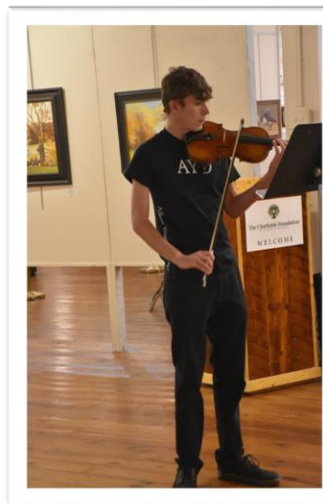
There are at least 330 homeless children in Aiken County. Family Promise of Aiken is part of a national organization that began its Aiken operation in 2019. Family Promise provides services and programs for families in our community with school aged children facing housing insecurity.

Kendall Buchanan, Board Chair Family Promise of Aiken, stated *“the money raised by the Foundation will help Family Promise provide one on one case management support for families with children in Aiken that are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. Our whole person approach allows us to deliver lasting, stable housing. We know that in addition to the 330 children in our public school system that are lacking fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, it’s important to remember that the need is exponentially larger within our community. There are many more children that are facing homelessness that aren’t yet of school age, have already dropped out, or haven’t yet been identified. Without our support, these children face substantially higher risks of poor educational, physical, mental and sexual health outcome than their peers.”*

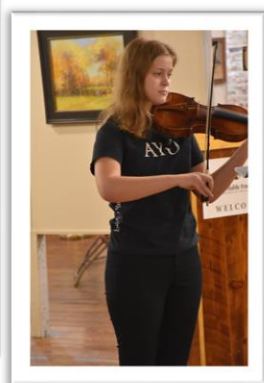


A Family Promise client spoke at the kickoff event and shared that he had been desperately searching for housing for him and his son unsuccessfully. Once he connected with Family Promise, they quickly located an affordable home and helped with furnishings.

Marcia McDonald, Vice Chair Family Promise Board, states *“I am so thankful to The Charitable Foundation of Aiken for selecting Family Promise as a recipient of their fundraising efforts. The kickoff gave us the opportunity to bring awareness to the number of homeless families with children in Aiken County.”*



Guests were treated to several musical performances including two violinists and the Creativity Out Loud youth choir.



End of year ways to support the Foundation...

Remember The Charitable Foundation of Aiken in your annual giving plans or celebrating a loved one!

- Honor the life or memory of a loved one with your donation. We cherish life’s precious moments together; that’s why losing a loved one can be so difficult. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the family/friend.
- Plans for your Required Minimum Distribution this year? Consider directing it to the Foundation. You will be repaid for your generosity in immeasurable dividends.
- The Charitable Foundation of Aiken now can be an option in your estate planning. For more info, contact a member of the Executive Board for details.

Donations can be made by visiting our website or by check payable to the Charitable Foundation of Aiken. Mail your donation to *The Charitable Foundation of Aiken, 262 East Gate Dr., #139, Aiken, SC 29803. Tax ID# 85-3996900*

thecharitablefoundationofaiken.org