



**The Charitable Foundation
OF AIKEN**

FOUNDATION NEWS

President's Message

We continue to aspire to inspire as we move into celebrating our 5th Anniversary!

As we mark this important milestone, The Charitable Foundation is setting ambitious goals for the year ahead. Our fifth year promises to be our most impactful yet—with more events, expanded fundraising initiatives, and deeper community engagement.

This year, we are proud to support two significant charities whose work spans across generations, benefiting individuals aged 8 to 80: **Overflow Foundation's Clubhouse of Hope** and **Public Education Partners**.

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The Charitable Foundation of Aiken's 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.



As the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year ended, the Foundation's two beneficiaries, **Family Promise of Aiken** and **Aiken Center for the Arts**, each received \$25,000 from The Charitable Foundation of Aiken. These donations are a testament to the generosity of the Aiken County community.



The Clubhouse Community of Hope

The comprehensive community-based program is for adults living with persistent mental illness. The Clubhouse offers a collaborative, restorative environment where members can participate in a Monday-Friday voluntary day program, recovering by gaining access to opportunities for employment, socialization, education, skill development, housing and improved overall wellness. The Clubhouse mission is to provide a safe and thriving place where members are filled with hope as they rediscover their ability to LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE and LEARN.

DID YOU KNOW??? ONE IN FOUR people around the world suffer from mental disorders - more than cancer, diabetes or heart disease.



"I wish that I had had access to the Clubhouse years ago when my mental illness began. I don't think that I would have had as many hospitalizations, and I feel that I would've been better prepared to return to the work community if I'd had the support of the Clubhouse. I have it now, and I love cooking for my fellow members at the Clubhouse Community of Hope."

Traci, Community Clubhouse member.

Public Education Partners of Aiken County (PEP)

Public Education Partners of Aiken County (PEP) is dedicated to the advancement of quality in education for all students in Aiken County Public Schools. PEP provides avenues for community involvement in public education through opportunities for personal participation in school programs. PEP is celebrating 30 years of connecting educators and students, with Aiken's business leaders, service organizations and individuals who recognize strong public schools are the foundation for the future of Aiken County.

DID YOU KNOW??? 64% of Aiken County public school students are considered Pupils in Poverty (PIP). The PIP index is 76.5% of students in Aiken Elementary schools. Both levels exceed South Carolina's average.

PEP is focused on three pillars key to student success: Literacy, STEAM and Teacher Support. PEP is working to improve literacy in Aiken County by encouraging the love of reading through book ownership. The *Diana Floyd "My Own Book"* Program enables ALL 1,742 of Aiken County's third-grade students across 21 schools to participate in their school's book fair by providing \$15 vouchers so that they may choose and purchase their own book. In its 2 years, the program has placed an incremental 5,000+ in student households

PEP plans to expand students' school experience in STEAM related programs. The "PEP STEM KIT" program will provide new STEM kits to elementary schools to allow students critical hands-on experience with a range of science projects. This program is designed to bring in volunteers from Aiken businesses to increase awareness of how science is applied and exposure to different careers.



To support teachers, PEP awards Teacher Classroom Innovation Grants. These grants recognize their drive to try new methods and expand resources for their students. As school budgets tighten, these funds from the community become even more important.

Please take a moment to help improve someone's life by sharing your good fortune.

We are grateful for your support of The Charitable Foundation of Aiken. It is through your generous giving that we are able to support organizations which create life-changing opportunities for the residents of Aiken County.

Consider one of the options:

- Circle of Giving - \$1000+
- Friend of the Foundation - \$500+
- Benefactor - \$_____

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit fundraising organization which allows donors to make tax deductible contributions to specific beneficiaries. Donations can be made by visiting our website

thecharitablefoundationofaiken.org 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