



The Charitable Foundation
OF AIKEN

FOUNDATION NEWS

President's Message

As we approach the season of reflection and giving thanks, it's natural for people to contemplate what it means to be grateful. And yet, if we think about it, there is also a deeper meaning to explore.

First, there is *thankful* — a feeling of gratitude. Transcending any one culture, tradition, or philosophy, thankfulness runs through all.

Then there is *thoughtful* — an action. It is the essence of being kind toward others. When thankful meets thoughtful, we know what that looks and feels like. At the Charitable Foundation of Aiken, we are thankful for everyone who believes in our mission and the thoughtfulness and generosity of those who have supported our efforts.

By following the example of those who walked with us, we continue to aspire to be those persons for whom others are genuinely grateful. After all, this is the essence of life: Inspiring others to believe and enabling that belief to become reality. At the recent kickoff for our 25/26 campaign, the joy and hope of the beneficiaries was abundantly clear.

To everyone we have met along our journey, we wish you an abundance of joy and happiness and a heartfelt Happy Thanksgiving.

The Executive Board

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

Advisory Committee

Daria Carney	Terry Lee
Noble Diller	Nancy Marks
Kathy English	Patti Monczewski
Andrea Gregory	Diana Peters
Angela Hodges	Lark Snouffer
MaryAnn Wennemer	

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.

The Charitable Foundation of Aiken held its Annual Kickoff Event on October 9, 2025. The event served as an opportunity for the Foundation to bring together community members, partners, and supporters to celebrate its mission and introduce the two organizations selected as beneficiaries for the year: **Clubhouse Community of Hope** and **Public Education Partners**. These organizations were selected based on their impactful work and alignment with the Foundation's mission and goals.



Guests were treated to an incredible array of hors d'oeuvres and desserts meticulously prepared by Clubhouse members guided by Foundation Board Member, Noble Diller. Delicious fruity, sparkling mocktails were the specialty drinks of the evening.



Terry Lee, Executive Director of **Overflow Foundation's Clubhouse Community of Hope**, welcomed everyone to the amazing facility which exists in memory of her son, Philip Lee Jr., and is aptly named The Clubhouse Community of Hope. The Clubhouse exists to promote mental wellness in the Aiken Community. Their motto, Pouring Hope Into Life (#PHIL) leads individuals to take steps toward greater resilience, independence and recovery. The Clubhouse program is a



voluntary day-program which was started in 2024, providing a safe and thriving place where members are filled with possibilities as they rediscover their ability to live, laugh, love and learn. The Clubhouse has over 40 active members who participate in a work ordered day, finding the courage to go back to school and/or work, realizing that they can regain socialization skills and not having to isolate, despite living with a persistent mental health challenge. Currently open three days a week, The Clubhouse Community of Hope is committed to being open five days a week beginning in January of 2026. Your donations will assist in the continuation of this pivotal work in the Aiken Community.



Nancy Marks, Board Chairperson for **Public Education Partners (PEP)**, noted that being recognized by the Charitable Foundation of Aiken demonstrates the importance of Public Education to the Aiken Community. Nancy informed the audience that the status of public education in Aiken County is dire. The 2025 South Carolina college and career ready assessments (proficiency in English and Math) indicate that 38.8% of third graders did not meet expected standards. The numbers go down for eighth graders with 46.9% not meeting expected standards. Math scores are equally low. Nancy stated that these scores are NOT a reflection of the quality of Aiken County teachers or the School District. Poverty plays a huge role in the lives of

Aiken County students. 79.4% of third graders fall below the poverty line with household income below \$31,200 for a family of four. PEP's mission is to harness the power and generosity of the community to enhance student learning and to support educators in the Aiken County public school district. Your donations to The Charitable Foundation of Aiken will support The Diana Floyd "My Own Book" Program which enables all of the district's 1,742 third grade students to participate in their school's book fair by providing \$15 vouchers to choose and purchase their own books. Additionally, the Foundation will support Teacher Classroom Innovation Grants which are awarded to teachers who want to try new methods of learning in their classrooms

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Noble Diller

The Charitable Foundation of Aiken's Renaissance Man



Noble has always been a creative individual. As far back as grade school, Noble painted. He majored in fine arts in college and was accepted to the esteemed Columbia School of Art in NYC to pursue his master's degree in fine arts. Realizing that he needed to earn a steady income, he put the pursuit of art on hold and had a business career spanning thirty years in prefabricated interior commercial construction. Noble dabbled

in his art over those years but made a promise to himself that one day he would rekindle his pursuit of the creative process. Noble is back painting and putting his thoughts on canvas. Noble has been married to his wife, Lisa, for 41 years. They have two sons. He is an extraordinary chef with the presentation skills of a renowned caterer. He also sits on the board of directors for *The Aiken Center for The Arts*.



Visit dillerart.com to see examples of his work.

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 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

Thank you!