



The Charitable Foundation
OF AIKEN

FOUNDATION NEWS

President's Message

April has truly been a remarkable month—one marked by history in the making and records being surpassed. It's a time for celebration and reflection.

One of my favorite films, *The Martian*, tells the story of an astronaut's long and arduous journey to survive on a hostile planet. Mark Watney's resilience leads to extraordinary discoveries that benefit all of humanity. While the story is fictional, the recent April 10th landing associated with the Artemis II mission brings us one step closer to turning that vision into reality. Both the film and this milestone highlight a powerful recipe for success: wonder, grit, determination, detailed planning, trust, and teamwork.

I see these same qualities reflected in the partnerships The Charitable Foundation has built with our beneficiaries, colleagues, and our incredible donors and supporters. This month, we reached a milestone we once only dreamed of—achieving the highest level of funds raised in any fiscal year since our inception, with eight weeks still remaining. This achievement would not have been possible without your generosity and unwavering support.

We extend our heartfelt thanks for the confidence you have placed in us and the trust you continue to show in our mission.

As we look ahead, the vetting process for our 2026–2027 beneficiaries is now underway. If you would like to recommend a charity for consideration, please feel free to contact one of our Board Members.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey.

Kathleen Bennett

The Executive Board

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

Advisory Committee

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

A Message from the Board

As spring brings new beginnings and a renewed sense of hope, the Foundation Board would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support. We are especially grateful for the generosity that allows us to serve our current beneficiaries, The Clubhouse Community of Hope and Public Education Partners, whose lives are being positively impacted through our collective efforts. Together, we look forward to a vibrant season filled with growth, compassion, and community.



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IS SOLD OUT

WE WISH TO THANK OUR 2026 SPONSORS

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UPDATES FROM THE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION OF AIKEN'S 2025-2026 BENEFICIARIES

The Clubhouse Community of Hope is excited to announce that effective March 2, 2026, The Clubhouse is open to



members five days a week. This growth is supported with the addition of two new full-time staff members, Danielle Warren (right) and Elana Darragh (left), Clubhouse Generalist. The Clubhouse provides a supportive, non-clinical environment for

adults with mental health challenges. Its mission is to provide a safe, nurturing place for individuals to rediscover the ability to live, laugh, love and learn.

Public Education Partners of Aiken County presented its third annual Aiken County Induction Teacher Celebration and Resource Fair on Tuesday February 11th, at USC Aiken's Ruth Patrick Science Education



Center. The event honored Aiken County's newest educators while connecting them with valuable community resources. More than 30 community organizations

participated, offering programs, classroom resources, field trip opportunities and support services designed to help induction teachers thrive in their new roles. This annual event reflects PEP's ongoing mission to strengthen public education by supporting teachers and fostering partnerships between schools and the broader community.



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.

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. Tax ID# 85-3996900

Donations can be made via:

- thecharitablefoundationofaiken.org
- Check payable to The Charitable Foundation of Aiken, 262 East Gate Dr., #139, Aiken SC 29803



- On your mobile device, use the photo mode, hover over QR code image which directs you to our website.

Thank you!



thecharitablefoundationofaiken.org

