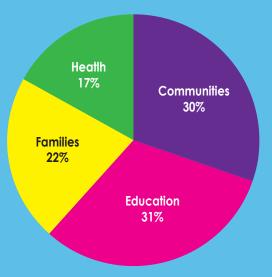


In Fiscal Year 2025...



TOTAL GRANTS BY PROGRAM AREA FISCAL YEAR 2025



Supporting Libraries and Arkansas History

We invested \$65,000 in grants through the Bridge Fund to strengthen libraries and preserve Arkansas history. These grants expand access to knowledge, conserve important collections, and share our state's stories with future generations.

Our affiliate network awarded more than \$18 million in scholarships and grants locally.

141 new funds and endowments

created for donors to achieve their charitable goals

We made \$67 million in grants to nonprofits across the state.

in assets

\$896 million | \$137 million in new gifts

Supporting the **Unsheltered**





in grants to nonprofits working on the frontlines of homelessness — equipping organizations with flexible resources to meet urgent needs, sustain vital services, and offer hope.

Access to Local Foods



We deployed \$120,000 in grants to Arkansas nonprofits helping to increase

access to locally grown food, while strengthening local food systems. This expands the availability of fresh, healthy food while building long-term solutions to reduce food insecurity.



bright

Dear Friends,

After 27 years with the Foundation (and 28 annual reports,) I am retiring in January. As I write this final letter as President and CEO, my heart is full of gratitude. It has truly been the honor of my life to serve this mission and to witness the extraordinary generosity of the people of Arkansas.

Together, we have accomplished so much. What began as a quiet idea in 1976 has grown into a movement of generosity that touches every corner of Arkansas. Endowments that started in small towns have blossomed into lasting legacies. Nonprofits have persevered through hard times with innovation and compassion, and communities have rallied to build places where the next generation will want to raise their children. Along the way, we hit extraordinary milestones. As this report lands in your home, we will likely be surpassing one billion dollars in assets, and in 2025, we crossed the threshold of granting more than \$500 million to nonprofits. These achievements are more than numbers; they represent lives changed, communities strengthened, and opportunities created for generations to come.

What I treasure most is the people. That includes the extraordinary donors who entrust us with their legacies, the phenomenal nonprofit partners who meet critical needs every day, and the community leaders in our affiliate network who embody the Foundation's vision at the local level. I have had the privilege of working alongside the most amazing and dedicated colleagues, along with committed state board members whose wisdom and leadership have carried this organization forward.

As I prepare to pass the torch, I am filled with confidence for the Foundation's future. In 2026, we will celebrate our 50th anniversary with the theme The Future is Our Foundation. And, as this year's annual report reminds us, *Our Future is Bright*. The challenges ahead are real, but so are the opportunities. Arkansas is rich with civic pride, grassroots leadership, and a spirit of generosity that cannot be diminished.

The Community Foundation has never been about one person and never will. It is about the collective spirit of generosity of all Arkansans. Arkansas Community Foundation is in strong hands, and its best days are still to come.

With deepest gratitude,

Heather Larkin
President & CEO







The Future is Bright for Students in Carroll County

Ruth Wood's century of generosity ensures students have the support they need to learn, belong and thrive.

At 103, Ruth Wood of Eureka Springs still remembers the day a teacher changed her life.

"When I was in college, I didn't have any money," Wood recalled. "A teacher loaned me some, and when I went back later to pay her, she said, 'No, don't pay me back. Just do something for somebody else.'"

That simple lesson, to pass it on, has guided Wood's giving for more than eight decades.

Today, her generosity is focused on students in the three school districts in Carroll County. Through her fund at the Community Foundation, she has supported everything from field trip fees and epi-pens to the steel-toed work boots required for students in the county's vo-tech program and even hearing aids for a child in need. Her philosophy is simple: fill the gaps that no other resource covers, especially when a small gift makes a life-changing difference.

"I don't want kids to be left out," she said. "If you're the only child who can't go on a field trip, that hurts. I want them included."

One of her earliest grants helped a boy travel to see his brother in the hospital in central Arkansas. "That made me feel better than almost anything," she said. Another time, she quietly gave money to a teacher so a student could join the class on a field trip. Later, the child's grandfather showed up at the school with a crumpled \$5 bill to say thank you. "That was probably his last five dollars," Wood remembered. "It meant so much that he wanted to give back."

Stories like these echo her own experiences growing up during the Depression. "We just didn't have anything, like most during that time," she said. "People needed things, and you helped each other. My mother always said, 'You do what you have to do.' So that's what I do."

Wood's giving reflects her lifelong focus on education and health, with a touch of travel for good measure. "I think if you teach kids, they can do anything they want to do, but be reasonable," she said. "You don't have to be the best. Enjoy life and experience as much as you can, travel as much as you can, read as much as you can."

Her fund ensures those values will outlive her. When she is gone, her endowment will continue to support children in Carroll County for generations to come. She isn't concerned with specifying every detail. Instead, she wants her fund to be flexible so that it can meet whatever needs arise.

"I can't say exactly where it should go, because it's whatever's needed," she said. "And you never know what will be needed."

For Wood, that is the legacy she hopes to leave: not only direct help for young people today, but an example of generosity that inspires others to act. "I hope it will teach them to give to others," she said. "There's always need."

Her story comes full circle because a teacher once asked her to pay it forward. Now, more than 80 years later, she is still doing exactly that.



The Future is Bright in Our Communities

From education to lifesaving equipment, Delta Area Community Foundation is investing in local solutions that bring hope, safety and opportunity across Desha and Lincoln counties.

When the Desha County Sheriff's Office received a grant to purchase its first two automated external defibrillators (AEDs), the impact was immediate and deeply personal. "Our patrol units are often the first to respond to an emergency," Sheriff Mitch Grant explained. "Earlier this year, one of our deputies arrived before EMS to a heart attack call in a rural part of the county. He began CPR, but without an AED, there was only so much he could do. With this equipment, that life might have been saved."

Today, the sheriff's office has three AEDs in total and hopes to secure two more so that every patrol vehicle is equipped with lifesaving technology. Delta Area Community Foundation stepped in quickly to make the initial purchase possible, just one example of how the affiliate listens and responds when local leaders identify urgent needs.

For Executive Director Randi Stinyard, that responsiveness is central to their mission. "We exist to make grants that help our communities be safer, stronger places to live."

That same spirit drives the Delta Area board, a diverse and committed group representing education, healthcare, clergy, law enforcement and more. They rotate meetings across towns, announce grant opportunities in churches and civic groups, and make sure local voices shape their work. Board chair and Arkansas City mayor Carolyne Blissett summed it up: "We are very much a working board. We all play a role, and we're intentional about making sure our grants address real needs in every corner of our counties."

Scholarships are one of those priorities. Blissett recalled how, early on, schools weren't always engaged. But with personal visits and workshops, participation grew. "Now, more young people are finding opportunities they might have missed," she said. Dr. Chris Allen, the Alternative Learning

Environments (ALE) Director for Star City School District, added that simple steps like walking students through the online application process have made scholarships more accessible.

The same approach applies to immediate needs. Whether it's providing fans to elderly residents during scorching summers, supporting food pantries in communities where fresh groceries can be 20 minutes away, or expanding early literacy programs, the Community Foundation is deliberate about solving problems close to home. Board member Elaine Hargraves sees it daily at the UAM McGehee campus where she is the assistant vice chancellor, "I see students every day who need food. Even something as simple as setting up a snack station changes lives."

For board member Spencer Chastain, the connection between this work and the county's AED grant is clear. "Families here often think college, or even basic resources, are out of reach. But the Community Foundation helps people think bigger, and it makes hope tangible. In the same way, something like an AED can literally change the outcome for a family in crisis."

That determination is what sustains the board's optimism. Cortez Smith pointed to the financial support from donors. Chastain emphasized the resilience of Delta people: "No matter how bad it gets, folks here step up for one another."

The AED grant to the sheriff's office is just one example, but it captures the essence of the local Community Foundation: neighbors coming together, a working board listening closely, and modest investments that can change, and sometimes save, lives.



The Future is Bright for the Next Generation

Tamara and Johnny Roberts make sure their giving is both intentional and impactful for their family.

Tamara and Johnny Roberts believe generosity works best when it is intentional, organized, and shared across generations. As Chairman and former CEO of J.B. Hunt, Johnny is accustomed to structure and long-range planning. Tamara is the "CEO of the home," and brings that same discipline to the family's philanthropy. Early on, they decided that giving would be part of their family story. "We know from our faith that we don't manufacture what's happening; we participate in it," he said. "And to whom much is given, much is expected."

That conviction shaped a five-year family plan for philanthropy. Their children were invited in from the start. "Starting young teaches stewardship," Tamara says. "It builds the habit of thinking about needs beyond your own." Over time, their giving coalesced around areas that resonate deeply with the family: health care, education, food security, just to name a few. The result is a steady, efficient and values-driven pattern of support that they hope their children and grandchildren will continue.

Impact matters as much as intention. Some of the family's most meaningful moments have come from smaller, local projects. Johnny points to a pre-K breakfast program in Fayetteville. "It was not our largest grant, but it was one of the most impactful," he says.

"I was a teacher," Tamara adds. "Children can't learn if they're hungry. Seeing that program, and knowing those school meals might be the only ones some children get that day, stays with you." For Tamara, the local cancer support home holds special significance. After her own preventive surgery, she helped expand services that restore dignity for patients. "To see women leave with a quality wig, a soft robe and a little more confidence was unforgettable," she says. "Small comforts can change how someone faces a hard day."

Early in their marriage, as their philanthropy grew, so did the complexity. Gifts of appreciated stock, multi-year pledges, and dozens of commitments and requests quickly became difficult to manage while Johnny was leading a major company. The couple credits Arkansas Community Foundation staff with creating order out of the chaos. "It has been one of the best decisions we have made," Tamara says. "The Foundation team keeps us organized, makes the transactions seamless, and gives us confidence that nonprofits can count on timely support." Johnny adds that the ability to make a single transfer into their fund, then let Foundation staff handle timing, paperwork, and reporting, has been "transformational."

Beyond logistics, the Foundation staff provides candid guidance to align each gift with the family's goals. "If I bring an idea forward, they'll tell me if it makes sense," Tamara says. "It's like having a philanthropy concierge. We don't worry about the mechanics; we can focus on impact."

At the heart of their giving is their faith. "We have been blessed far beyond what we ever imagined," Johnny says. Asked how they hope to be remembered, both keep it simple: faithful, devoted to family, and known as people who tried to help our state be better.

For Arkansas, that faithfulness looks like a brighter future: stronger hospitals and patient recovery centers, students ready to learn, families with food on the table, and so many other small and large efforts to help. For the Roberts family, it looks like the next generation learning to plant seeds whose shade they may never sit under, but that will shelter many others.



The Future is Bright for Partnerships

For Doug Seelicke at Stephens Inc., trust and stellar service strengthen advisor-client relationships.

When it comes to philanthropy, professional advisors play a vital role in connecting clients' financial goals with their desire to make a difference. For Doug Seelicke, an investment advisor at Stephens Inc. and a former attorney, that balance is at the heart of his work.

"My role is to help clients preserve and grow assets for their families and future generations and satisfy their desire to give back," he said. "Philanthropy isn't an either-or. It can do both."

Seelicke regularly refers clients to the Community Foundation, where donor advised funds and other giving vehicles provide a seamless way to integrate charitable giving into financial planning. What gives him confidence in making those referrals is simple: trust.

"I can't introduce my clients to a service provider unless I can rely on their level of service," Seelicke said. "With Arkansas Community Foundation, that trust is always there. They provide stellar service, both to me as the advisor and directly to my clients. Their professionalism and responsiveness go a long way."

It isn't just about managing paperwork. It's about a meaningful partnership and building relationships. "The Foundation simplifies the administrative and compliance aspects of philanthropy," he said. "That allows me to focus on growing my clients' wealth while still helping them realize their charitable goals. They are a great partner for advisors."

One client experience stands out. Late in the calendar year, a family experienced a significant liquidity event and needed to establish a donor advised fund quickly to benefit from tax planning.

"Time was of the essence," Seelicke recalled. "The staff at the Foundation took an all-hands-on-deck approach. Everything was completed in just a matter of days. My client and I were deeply appreciative, not only of the speed and efficiency, but also of the local knowledge the Foundation staff provided. And they were able to connect that family with other like-minded philanthropists and causes in their community, which really made an impression."

For Seelicke, experiences like this confirm that working through the Community Foundation is a value-add. I view it as managing the money on behalf of my clients through Arkansas Community Foundation, for the benefit of my clients and their communities. It's not a loss at all. In fact, I'd say it helps me build stronger relationships with my clients."

That belief ties directly to Stephens Inc.'s broader commitment to Arkansas. As a family-owned firm with deep roots in the state, Stephens has long viewed giving back as part of its responsibility.

"Even though I wasn't born here, I've lived here more than 16 years and raised my family here," Seelicke said. "There's a real sense of obligation to help those who need it and make our communities stronger. That mentality flows through the firm, from the top down." For Seelicke personally, the most rewarding aspect of this work is watching clients experience the deeper meaning of their generosity.

"It's fulfilling to see them realize that their wealth management is about more than just growing dollars," he said. "They learn that they can do more and actually touch lives within their own communities. That, to me, is what makes the most impact."



The Future is Bright for Stewardship

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	39,909,443
Investments at Market Value		832,934,310
Operating Lease Right-Of Use Asset		5,011,400
Receivables and Other Assets	_	18,234,913
Total Assets	\$ =	896,090,066
IABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Scholarships Payable and Other Liabilities	\$	981,193
Operating Lease Liabilities		5,281,603
Agency Liabilities		58,665,721
Net Assets		831,161,549
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ =	896,090,066
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES REVENUE		
Contributions	\$	137,580,885
Other Revenues, Net		88,904,611
Less Amount for Agency Liabilities		(7,962,569)
Total Revenue	\$	218,522,927
EXPENSES		
Consider	\$	66,905,431
Grants		7,317,978
Other Expenses		, - ,
		(2,519,675)

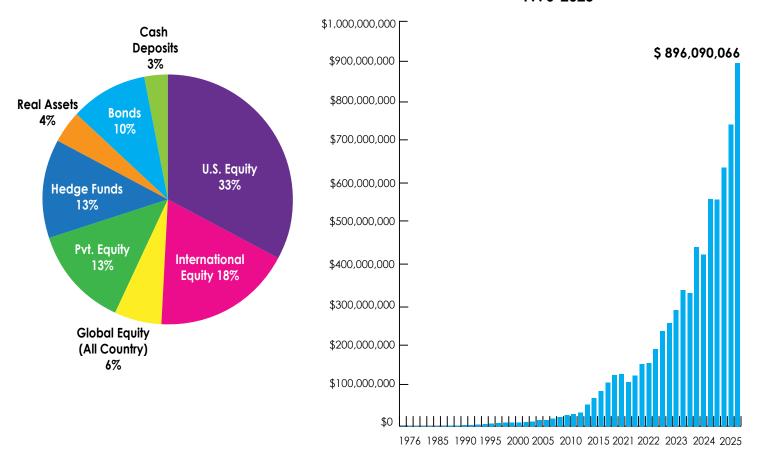
The complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

For additional information about how we invest, visit arcf.org/finances.

Performance as of June 30, 2025	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Since Incep
Composite return net of investment fees:	11.8%	11.5%	9.6%	7.0%	6.6%
Composite benchmark:	12.0%	12.9%	9.9%	7.8%	6.5%

ASSET ALLOCATION AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ASSET HISTORY 1976-2025



OPERATING EXPENSE RATIOS								
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025			
Total Assets	\$560,997.85	\$559,337,251	\$638,280,627	\$744,627,639	\$896,090,066			
Total Operating Expense	\$1,987,003	\$2,086,739	\$2,235,335	\$ 2,479,739	\$2,523,433			
Number of Employees: Full Time Central Office staff	16	17	19	18	18			
Part Time Local Directors	29	29	29	29	29			
Operating Expense as % of Total A Central and Local Offices	Assets: 0.35%	0.37%	0.35%	0.33%	0.28%			

FUNDS

For a full list of Arkansas Community Foundation funds and endowments, visit *arcf.org/funds*.

GRANT GUIDELINES

For grant guidelines and additional information on applying for grants, visit arcf.org/apply.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 STATE BOARD MEMBERS



Tracy Cude, Chair Bentonville



Kandice Bell White Hall



Alyson Bradford White Hall



Elizabeth Burns-Anderson *Lonoke*



Ritter Arnold Marked Tree



Holly Dunsworth Clarksville



Osmar Garcia
Conway



Dennis Hunt Fayetteville



Lisa John-Adams *Blytheville*



Dr. Brad Johnson Greenwood



Rachael Oberste Little Rock



Dr. Jack Porter Hot Springs



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Little Rock



Walter "Vance" Smiley, III

Little Rock



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Jody Dilday
Vice President, Northwest Operations

Jessica Ford, APR
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Mary Forst Finance Director

Samantha Fox Finance Associate, Gifts

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Donor Stewardship Officer

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Jane Jones
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Christene Jordan Finance Associate, Grants

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Adelia Kittrell

Program Director (joined FY26)

Heather Larkin President & CEO

Carrie Long
Office Administrator

Corey Moline, CPA Chief Financial Officer

Lauren Morris

Program Director, Affiliates

Lesley Roberts
Regional Development Director

Annetta Tirey

Program Director, Northwest Arkansas

AFFILIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

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Clark County - Paul Shuffield, Jr.

Cleburne County - Susan Vowels

Columbia County - Janet Rider-Babbitt

Conway County - John Gibson

Craighead County - Melissa Ayers

Cross County - Keeli Smith

Delta Area – Randi Stinyard

Faulkner County - Shelley Mehl

Fayetteville Area – Stacy Keenan (retired)

Sarah V. Livengood (Joined in FY26)

Greene County - Kerri Watson

Hot Springs Area - Joyce Whitfield

Hot Springs Village – Jane Browning (retired)

Cheri Theil (Joined in FY26)

Johnson County - Margot McLeod

Lee County - Lucy Smith

Mississippi County - Nickie Bell

Monroe County – Marqita Ervin

North Delta - Vacant in FY25

Ouachita Valley - Krystal Moore

Phillips County – Angela Carnathan

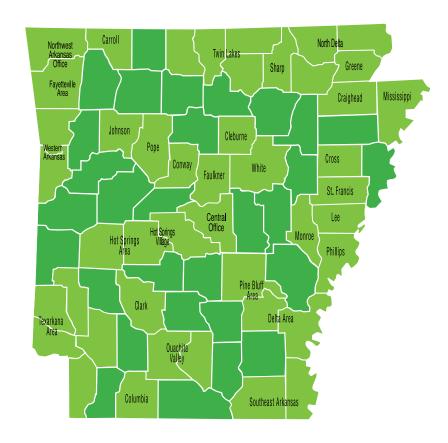
Pine Bluff Area – Lawrence Fikes

Pope County - Madelyn Ginsberg

Sharp County - Dan Milligan

Southeast Arkansas - Vacant in FY25

St. Francis County – Robin Jayroe
Texarkana Area – Ken Cox
Twin Lakes – Kimberly Jones
Western Arkansas – Jessica Fulbright Hayes
White County – Denice Eaves



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ANNUAL REPORT DESIGN Lesley Cooper Cooper Design, LLC

PHOTOGRAPHY

Wesley Hitt

MISSION

To engage people, connect resources, and inspire solutions to build community.

VALUES

The Community Foundation is guided by these core values:

We are **LOCAL**.

We support local decisions to meet local challenges.

We are **INCLUSIVE**.

We seek broad community involvement and all points of view.

We are **STEWARDS**.

We take seriously the public's trust.

We are **STRATEGIC.**

We strive to achieve positive long-term results.





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