

Greenville foundation is about helping others

By Josh Humphries

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Melissa Spain is excited about the year that the Greater Greenville Community Foundation has had.

Spain, CEO and executive director of the foundation, said the group has given more to local charities in 2008 than ever before.

The foundation celebrated National Philanthropy Day on Nov. 13 after having given more than \$500,000 to local charities this year.

The foundation currently has more than \$8 Million dollars in assets and is the home of more than 45 charitable endowment funds.

"Although we are extremely proud of our growth in such a short amount of time in terms of asset dollars, we truly measure our successes by the fact that over a half a million dollars in grants have been distributed from our foundation in 2008 alone, and those grants have been given to over 75 charitable organizations in need," she said.

The foundation has also provided scholarship funding to more than 50 local high school seniors and college students.

There are more than 45 endowed funds that operate through the foundation which represent individuals, families and companies that have chosen to create charitable endowments.

The Greater Greenville Community Foundation was founded in 1977 as a trust by local private practice physician, Dr. Herbert Hadley. It was originally intended to serve as an emergency fund for special needs in Pitt County, Spain said.

The trust was completely reformed in 2000 when it became The Greater Greenville Community Foundation, whose mission is to connect philanthropy to community needs, Spain said.

Spain listed several high-impact endowments funds that are part of the GGCF including: The Skip Holtz/Drew Steele Endowment, The Riley's Army Cancer Fund, **Beau's Buddies** Cancer Fund, Women For Women Fund, Oakwood School Board Development Fund and the Sarah Vaughn Field of Dreams.

"In addition to investing and managing endowment funds, we are especially proud that our mission in the community also enables us to stay on top of all community needs and opportunities," Spain said.

"In many cases, whenever there is a specific need with any organization, The Greater Greenville Community Foundation is often the first call these people make."

"When you stop to consider the economic impact alone that this charitable funding provides, it is of enormous value," Spain said.

Local charitable organizations funded in part by the Greater Greenville Community Foundation include: Sport Works Ministries, In His Wakes Ministries, Habitat For Humanity, Literacy Volunteers, Marine Toys For Tots, Music Academy of Eastern Carolina, Salvation Army, Sarah Vaughn Field of Dreams, Service League, United Way, American Cancer Society, Historic Bath Foundation, Pitt County Veterans Council, Greenville Public Access TV, ECU School of Music, ECU School of Theatre and Dance, Greenville Museum of Art, Woodberry Forrest School, PCMH Foundation, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Oakwood School, Salem College, ALS Association, North Pitt High School Baby Think it Over Program, Care Net Counseling East, Family Violence Center, Kiwanis Book Program, Kiwanis Dictionary Program, PCC Foundation, STRIVE, N.C. State University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, East Carolina University, UNC Charlotte, UNC Wilmington, Mt. Olive College, Ayden Grifton High School, D.H. Conley High School, Farmville Central High School, J.H. Rose High School, North Pitt High School, South Central High School, First Christian Church of Robersonville, First Christian Church of Everetts, Hooker Memorial Christian Church, Fayetteville State University, Sheppard Memorial Library, Memorial Baptist Church Library, ZOE Restoration House, Emerge

Art Gallery, Family Career and Community Leaders of America, The Little Willie Center, City of Greenville Recs and Parks, Girl Scouts USA, Communities in Schools Girl Power Wellness Challenge at Operation Sunshine, Rocking Horse Ranch, Real Crisis Intervention, Ayden-Grifton High School Early Childhood Education and Ray of Hope.

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