



The Black Belt Community Foundation

DATA IMPACT CENTER

The Black Belt Bulletin

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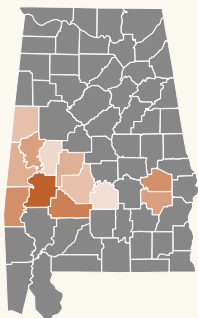


“Each group of Community Associates is a pattern of the Black Belt quilt that collectively makes up the tapestry of the people and the story, the legacy, of the region as a whole.”

– Khandi Flowers, Macon Co. Community Associate & Board Member

2023 Community Associates

We salute the 102 Community Associates of our 12 Black Belt counties. They represent the lifblood of the BBCF and the lifelines within the communities they serve.



| Community Associates Per County | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Bullock – 8 | Macon – 11 |
| Choctaw – 11 | Marengo – 17 |
| Dallas – 7 | Perry – 9 |
| Greene – 9 | Pickens – 6 |
| Hale – 4 | Sumter – 7 |
| Lowndes – 3 | Wilcox – 12 |



- BULLOCK** – Tracy Larkin, Carolyn Jackson, Betty Sanders, Ron Smith, Juanita Smith, Saint Thomas, Robert Turner, Ruth Turner
- CHOCTAW** – Sammie Bourrage, Jacquelyn Bush, Doris Jackson, Africa McCoy, Bobby Ridgeway, Martha Wallace, Glenda Wooten, Marcus Hampton, Danielle Hampton, Linda Turner-Gaines, Tony Cherry
- DALLAS** – JoAnn Smith, Lawrence Wofford, Mae Frances Brown, Sandra Cowan, Keith Jones, Shelly McGee, Iona Martin
- GREENE** – Nancy Cole, Miriam Leftwich, Darlene Robinson, Mollie Rowe, Johnni Strode-Morning, Geraldine Walton, Johnny Williams, Carol Zippert, John Zippert
- HALE** – Willie Hudson, Marilyn Pickens, Patti Rhodes, Ada Webb
- LOWNDES** – Rutha Davis-Bonner, Shirley McCall, Dale Braxton
- MACON** – Lionel Armstead, Betty Broadnax, Jacquelyn Carlisle, Wythena Gullette, Norma Jackson, Tia-Lennora Pierrot, Jackie Walker, Sawanda Wilson, Melanie (Mel) Tolbert, Kimberly Maddox, Khandi Flowers
- MARENGO** – Delores Cunningham, Willie Dillard, Hattie Moore, Jesse Moore, Ernestine Mullen, Ola M. Nixon, Edward Oates, Alex Roberson, Thomas Rodgers, Mary Williams, Tamika Dial, Toney Nixon, Marstiner Jackson, Minnie Prince, Earlene Roberson, Shirley McCaskey, Audrey Burrell
- PERRY** – Emefa Butler, Jamaal Hunter, Tamara Kennie, Albert Turner, Jr., Monica Bryant, Carlton Hogue, Gail Black, Edgred Ward, Della Maynor
- PICKENS** – Belinda Craig, Janice Jones, LaSonja Richardson, Paulette Newberns, Terrence Windham, Paris Cousette
- SUMTER** – Lovie Burrell-Parks, Marcus Campbell, Debra Clark, Veronica Drake, Tina Jones, Cordelia Turner, Lillian Wideman
- WILCOX** – Shelia Dortch, Ansidina Finklea, Daniel Garner, Rosemarie Garner, Jacqueline Hives, Ethel Johnson, Alma King, Kim Kelly, Creola Moorer, Janice Robinson, Sheryl Threadgill-Matthews, Joyce Williams

Community Associates: The Lifblood and The Lifelines

One of the BBCF’s goals, as it relates to collaborating with the communities it serves, is to make a difference through **action-based philanthropy**: an “all hands on-deck”, “all for one and one for all” mindset that led to the establishment of the Community Associates Program. As Community Engagement Officer, Erica Williams states, “The Community Associates are the eyes and ears of the Black Belt Communities, the heart and soul of the BBCF.”

The Community Associates are one of the primary leadership development resources within the Black Belt counties: with a total of 102 throughout the 12 counties BBCF serves. Community Associates are appointed for 4-year terms and many have served multiple cycles and contribute countless hours of invaluable service in their capacities. Additionally, many of the Community Associates either concurrently hold or have gone on to hold elected and appointed public offices within their communities: Bullock County Community Associate and Board Member, Robert Turner simultaneously held a local school board seat for nearly 16 years; and still others have started as Community Associates within their counties and have eventually become BBCF Board Members, such as Mr. Turner and Darlene Robinson (Greene County) — to name a few.

In the immediate aftermath of the tornado outbreaks in early January (2023), it was the Community Associates of Dallas, Greene, Hale, and Sumter Counties who in many cases were the first “boots on the ground” to help people affected with emergency housing, medical, food, debris removal and home damage repair, in addition to fundraising. And, as if answering a call to action, Community Associates from surrounding counties without storm damage responded accordingly to help their counterparts deal with the overwhelming calamity the tornados wrought.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community Associates were the critical lifeline in making sure families were fed: as they organized and distributed nearly 100,000 boxes of food throughout 19 counties—including the (12) counties of the Black Belt. In rural Bullock County, one of the most sparsely-populated counties in the Black Belt, BBCF Board Member Robert Turner put the entire pandemic odyssey in perspective “...the (2) grocery stores that shutdown during the pandemic covered an area of over 24 square miles, which left a lot of people in dire-straits. It was the Community Associates who amassed nearly 18 pick-up truck loads of food and financial support gift cards and distributed it to over 20 families who were in desperate need.”

In retrospect, Board Member Turner affirmed the critical role of the Community Associates during the pandemic and throughout the history of the BBCF: that being the lifeline, if not the lifblood, of the organization in the scope of action-based philanthropy. The integral connection of the organization’s relationship with the Community Associates as the primary needs-based resource and assistance providers, will ensure the BBCF continues to provide the resources and initiatives that will in turn improve the lives and outcomes of the communities it serves.



Community Associates gathered for group photo at the 2023 Retreat.

