



The Black Belt Community Foundation

**DATA IMPACT CENTER**

# The Black Belt Bulletin

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## BBCF's Throw & Go Contest Kicks Off the Holiday Season

In America, Thanksgiving Day is celebrated as the true start of the holiday season. In Alabama, we take it one step further. Thanksgiving Weekend is equally shared between the traditional family celebration and the annual Iron Bowl (The University of Alabama vs Auburn University Football Game).



LaSonja Richardson, 2017 Throw & Go winner, prepares to throw the pass to win her tickets – the 12 yards is symbolic of the number of counties BBCF serves.

Since 2016, the Black Belt Community Foundation has been proud to usher in the holiday season early by sponsoring the annual "Throw & Go Contest", a fundraiser created by the Community Associates to support grant programs. Contestants participate by giving a \$5.00 donation for a ticket, which creates an entry for them into the prize drawing. All the tickets are placed in a container, and a member of the BBCF Board of Directors randomly selects one ticket. The selected ticket holder then has the chance to participate in the "Throw & Go Skills Contest", where they get three tries to complete a 12-yard pass to a BBCF staff/board member in order to win the coveted prize of two Iron Bowl tickets!

This year, BBCF carried on the tradition by conducting the Throw & Go Contest drawing on November 6, 2023. The winner is Larry Childers of Chilton County! BBCF President, Felecia Lucky, representing Mr. Childers, completed the 12-yard pass to a BBCF Board member and officially won Mr. Childers his prize, which he will use to attend the game in Auburn, AL on Saturday, November 25, 2023.

The success of the Throw & Go Contest is directly attributed to the hard work and dedication of the Community Associates. By reaching deeply into each of their counties, Community Associates have been able to sell over 12,000 tickets since 2016! "This contest has given BBCF another way to engage with the community by sponsoring a highly anticipated event, with an awesome prize to boot," states Reverend Chris Spencer, BBCF Director of Community Engagement.

Since the inception of the Contest, generous donors have provided BBCF tickets for the winner, at each of the alternating Iron Bowl sites (Bryant-Denny Stadium or Jordan-Hare Stadium). BBCF salutes 'Super Iron Bowl Ticket Donor' and Auburn businessman Mark Langley. Langley sponsored 2017 Iron Bowl tickets for the Contest winner and continued generously donating tickets (when AU hosted at Jordan-Hare) for many subsequent years. BBCF also salutes Contest 'Super Ticket Buyer', Harold Shambley of Mitchellville, MD. Shambley has been our largest ticket buyer each year, which has raised thousands of dollars for the Contest.

The BBCF would like to offer a **special acknowledgement** to the Community Associates from Bullock, Dallas, Lowndes, Perry, Sumter, and Wilcox counties for their over and above ticket sales that will help fund community grants in 2024.

BBCF looks forward to next year's Throw & Go Contest. Ticket sales will be announced prior to the November 23, 2024 Iron Bowl. Mark the date and don't forget to buy your tickets!

## THROW & GO CONTEST WINNERS – 2016-2023 –



2016: Dewayne Murdock, Marengo Co.



2017: LaSonja Richardson, Pickens Co.

2018: Jennifer Giles/Dwayne Hudson\*, Bullock Co.

*\*Super Ticket Buyer, Harold Shambley won the initial drawing and donated the prize back to facilitate a second winner(s).*

2019: Linda Hall, Lowndes Co.

2020: No contest due to COVID

2021: Ralph Stokes\*, Marietta, GA

*\*Originally from Montgomery, AL, Ralph Stokes was one of the 1st Black football players to play for Paul "Bear" Bryant at the University of Alabama, playing running back from 1971 - 74.*



2022: Dwayne Hudson, Bullock Co.

2023: Larry Childers, Chilton Co.

  
**\$60K**  
RAISED FOR COMMUNITY  
GRANTS SINCE 2016

  
**12K**  
TICKETS SOLD OVER  
THE PAST 8 YEARS