

POWERED *By* COMMUNITY

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



Black Belt
Community Foundation

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Across the Black Belt, progress is driven by the people who care deeply about their communities. At the Black Belt Community Foundation, we are continually inspired by the creativity, resilience, and leadership we see throughout our region. In 2025, our work was truly **Powered by Community**.

Throughout the year, BBCF continued to invest in organizations and initiatives that strengthen the fabric of our communities. Through grantmaking, partnerships, and collaborative programs, we supported the ideas and efforts of local leaders who are creating meaningful change across the Black Belt. These investments reflect our deep belief that solutions are most powerful when they are rooted in the knowledge and experiences of the people who live and work here.

Equally important has been our commitment to listening. By engaging with residents, partners, and stakeholders across the region, we continue to learn from the voices that shape our work and guide our mission. These conversations remind us that progress is strongest when communities come together to share ideas, celebrate culture, and address challenges collectively.

This year also marked a meaningful moment of transition for our organization as we celebrated the leadership and legacy of our outgoing president, Felecia Lucky. Her dedication and vision helped strengthen BBCF's impact across the Black Belt and laid the groundwork for continued growth in the years ahead.

As we reflect on the past year, we do so with deep gratitude for the donors, partners, and community members who make this work possible. Your support fuels our mission and ensures that BBCF remains a trusted partner in building opportunity throughout the Black Belt.

Together, we will continue working toward a future where every community in the Black Belt can thrive.

Christopher H. Spencer

Christopher H. Spencer
BBCF President & CEO

Kennard D. Randolph

Kenndard D. Randolph
Chairperson, BBCF Board of Directors



2025

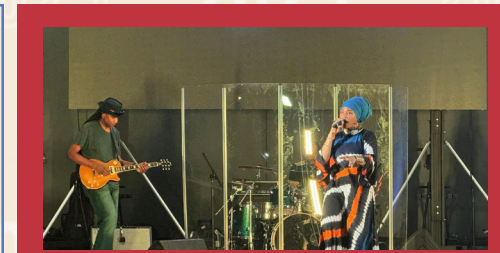
At the Black Belt Community Foundation, our work is powered by community. Together with our partners, donors, and residents across the region, we continue to invest in programs and initiatives that create opportunity and support a stronger future for Alabama's Black Belt.



307 CHILDREN SERVED
Supporting families through the BBCF Head Start program.



8 COUNTY CELEBRATIONS
Honoring 20 years of work across the Black Belt.



10 AMAZING CONCERTS
The Levitt AMP Selma Music Series continued with 10 free concerts.



12 COUNTIES ENGAGED
Community listening sessions held across the Black Belt.



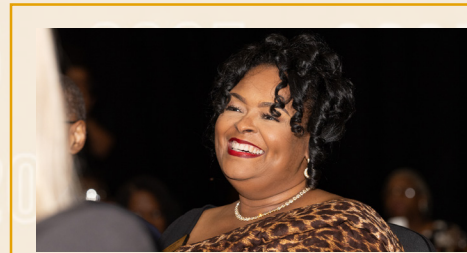
FOOD DISTRIBUTION EFFORTS
Supporting families across multiple counties in times of need.



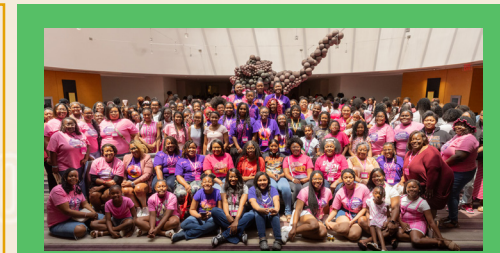
HOUSING GIVEAWAY
A new home awarded to a Head Start Black Belt family!



141 GRANTS AWARDED
\$344K+ invested in local groups and organizations.



21 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP
Honoring Felecia L. Lucky for her leadership for the past 21 years!



1,300+ ATTENDEES
Over 1,300 people attended the 2025 Black Girls Dream Conference.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Led By Community Voices

126 ORGANIZATIONS

\$344,447 INVESTED



Above photo: CPR training session hosted by Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy in March 2025. Supported by a 2024 BBCF Community Grant, the program provides essential health and safety training to community members. (Photo credit: Sue Dorfman, ZUMA Press photographer)

Background photo: This mural in Greensboro, Alabama was completed in spring 2025 with support from BBCF's 2024 Arts Grants program. Awarded to the Oakwood Cemetery Association, the project was brought to life by artist Jason Irvin on the exterior of Engle Gallery, LLC in downtown Greensboro.

Community Associates help raise local funds that are matched by BBCF and reinvested back into Black Belt communities.

Scan to support community-led philanthropy.

DONATE NOW



Grant Recipient from 'Beautiful Blessing in Motion', a non-profit organization in Macon County, poses with her grant award at the ceremony in Selma.

The Black Belt Community Foundation proudly celebrated the impact of its 2025 Arts & Community Grants cycle across all 12 counties served in Alabama's Black Belt region.

In 2025, BBCF awarded **141 grants** totaling **\$344,447** to 126 community-based organizations working to strengthen their communities through innovative, locally driven solutions. These one-year grants support a wide range of initiatives, including education, youth development, community improvement, health and wellness, and environmental stewardship.

BBCF's grantmaking process reflects its deep commitment to community-led philanthropy. Through its Community Associates network, local leaders in each county help raise funds that are matched by BBCF and reinvested directly back into their communities through Community Grants. These same local grant committees also review and score applications, ensuring funding decisions are guided by those closest to the needs, priorities, and opportunities within their communities.

This model of grassroots fundraising and local decision-making continues to distinguish BBCF nationally as a powerful example of trust-based philanthropy in action. By listening first and responding to community-identified needs, BBCF continues to invest in the strength, resilience, and innovation that define Alabama's Black Belt.



Above photos: Collage of photos from the 2025 Arts & Community Grants Awards Ceremony of grantees receiving awards.

HEAD START

307 children served. 5 BBCF Head Start centers. 4 Black Belt counties.

BBCF Head Start serves children and families across the Black Belt year-round. This section highlights activities from the 24-25 school year and the start of the 25-26 year.

In 2025, BBCF Head Start ran classrooms across the Black Belt with a steady mix of learning, family involvement, and community presence.

Students and families took part in events throughout the year, including pumpkin carving days where fathers and family members joined children in the classroom. These moments gave families time inside the school setting and a chance to take part in what children were doing during the day.



Classrooms marked **Autism Awareness Month** and mental health awareness with lessons designed to help children talk about feelings, routines, and differences in others. Reading stayed central across the program, with **Read Across America** and **Read for the Record** bringing parents, grandparents, and community members into classrooms to read with students.

Local visitors also spent time in classrooms introducing children to different jobs in the community, including firefighters and other public safety workers. Across the year, the work centered on early literacy, school readiness, and helping children feel comfortable in the classroom.

The year concluded with the annual Angel Tree initiative, where staff and community partners provided gifts for Head Start children and families through donated items and coordinated distribution, ensuring children were supported during the holiday season.



APPLY NOW

The Black Belt Community Foundation Head Start program is now accepting applications for children aged 3-5 at the following locations: Easter Seals (Selma), Keith (Orrville), Freewill (Camden), Choctaw (Butler), and G.P. Austin (Linden). Scan the QR code to the right to apply today!



Collage of photos of scenes from a year of Head Start including a visit from firefighters, first day of school activities, Autism Awareness month, the Pumpkin Carve with Dads event in October, along with 'Read Across America' events, and Angel Tree gift wrapping.



Above photo collage: Artists from the 2025 Levitt AMP Selma Music Series brought a diverse mix of sounds to the Riverfront Amphitheater, including performances by Jukebox Brass Band, Rockin' Dopsie & the Zydeco Twisters, Pynk Beard, J-Wonn, Jonathan Michael, Toia Jones, Reemah, and others.



The Levitt AMP Selma Music Series (www.levitt.org) is supported in part by the Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation, which partners with changemakers and nonprofits across the country to activate underused outdoor spaces, creating welcoming and inclusive destinations where the power of free, live music brings people together, fosters belonging, and invigorates community life.

TRHT Selma, part of the national **Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation** initiative launched by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, continued its work in 2025 by creating opportunities for connection and community engagement across Selma and the Black Belt. One of the most visible expressions of this work was the **Levitt AMP Selma Music Series**, which brought free live music and community gatherings to downtown Selma from June through October.

Held at the Riverfront Amphitheater, the 10-concert series welcomed residents and visitors to gather, connect, and enjoy shared public spaces together. Featuring performances across genres including jazz, gospel, blues, and rock, the series created a welcoming atmosphere for families, friends, neighbors, and visitors alike. More than a concert series, Levitt AMP Selma demonstrated how music and shared experiences can strengthen community connections and encourage engagement in downtown Selma.

In its third year, the Levitt AMP Selma Music Series continued to grow through partnerships with the Levitt Foundation, local organizations, volunteers, musicians, and community stakeholders. Beyond the concert series, TRHT Selma continued year-round work through restorative circles, community conversations, and collaborative partnerships focused on strengthening relationships and improving quality of life across the region.



Reemah performs at the Levitt AMP Selma Concert 'Reggae at the River' on June 21, 2025 in Selma, AL.



DONATE NOW



Your support helps keep Levitt AMP Selma free and open to all. Together, we're creating spaces where community can gather, connect, and enjoy live music.

In 2025, the Southern Black Girls and Women’s Consortium, headquartered in Selma, Alabama, continued to expand its work across the South. The organization invests in the leadership, well-being, and economic mobility of Black girls and women across 13 states through a community-driven approach that prioritizes getting resources directly to those closest to the work.



Throughout the year, the Consortium invested more than \$1.2 million through its Black Girls Dream Fund, Innovation Fund, and Black Girls Defense Fund. These investments supported more than 60 organizations and over 25 small businesses.

\$1.2 MILLION TO SUPPORT 60 ORGANIZATIONS & OVER 25 SMALL BUSINESSES

In September 2025, the Global South Health Project, an initiative of Southern Black Girls, brought women from across the African diaspora to Washington, D.C. through the Global South Health Advocacy Program, where they met with lawmakers to advocate for increased investment in global health, including maternal health, mental health, and safety for Black women and girls.



LaTosha Brown, co-founder of SBGWC, was honored by Pete & Thomas Foundation for her leadership and impact.



The Black Girl Joy Challenge also reached a major milestone in 2025, awarding its 1,000th grant since launching in 2020. The program provides direct funding to girls ages 13 to 24 to support projects that bring joy and positive change to their communities.

In June, more than 1,300 Black girls and women gathered in Atlanta for the Black Girls Dream Conference, with workshops focused on education, mental health, financial empowerment, and leadership.

Across all of this work, the focus remains the same: investing in people, supporting local ideas, and creating more opportunities for communities to grow and lead.



DONATE TO SOUTHERN BLACK GIRLS



HOUSING

In 2025, our housing initiative, in partnership with NACA and the Selma Housing Authority, marked a major milestone with the second home giveaway in Selma. Fourteen women gathered on the porch of a newly built, fully furnished home, each hoping for a chance to change their family's future. When Desiree McGuire's name was called from the lottery drawing, the moment marked the start of stability, security, and generational impact.



This year's giveaway prioritized families connected to Head Start, recognizing the link between stable housing and early childhood success. The inaugural giveaway the year prior supported a family impacted by the 2023 tornado, reflecting the initiative's commitment to meeting both urgent and evolving community needs.

Powered by strong community partnerships, this effort is expanding access to affordable homeownership in Selma. Through this model, families can apply housing vouchers toward purchasing a home, creating a pathway to long-term stability and wealth building. Each home is energy-efficient and climate-resilient, paired with support such as financial counseling and homeownership education to help families sustain success.

More than a home, this initiative represents opportunity and demonstrates what is possible when community investment drives lasting, generational change.



Black Belt Community Foundation
Taking What We Have To Make What We Need

Strengthening the Future of the Black Belt



William Curry

In 2025, the William & Geraldine Curry Scholarship for Academic and Community Leadership continued its commitment to investing in the next generation of leaders in Marengo County. Two graduating seniors were each awarded \$1,000 in recognition of their academic achievement, servant leadership, and dedication to their communities.

Established in 2019, the scholarship honors Reverend William Curry and his wife, Geraldine, whose lifelong dedication to uplifting young people continues to guide this work. Rooted in their legacy, the scholarship reflects a belief that leadership is demonstrated through service to others.

This year's recipients, JaKyra Jackson of Marengo High School and Tamara Jackson of Amelia L. Johnson High School, exemplify that commitment. JaKyra shared how her mother's guidance shapes her approach to service: "If I haven't helped anyone along the way, my living has been in vain. I will continue to uplift my community in my daily walk in any way I can."

Tamara serves as a Girl Scouts ambassador and supports her community through food drives, campus cleanups, and childcare assistance for families in need. "Childcare can be expensive," she noted, "so I strive to help mothers by offering a cheap alternative."

This scholarship represents more than financial support. It is an investment in young leaders who are already creating impact and will continue strengthening the future of the Black Belt.

THE CURRY SCHOLARSHIP

Support the next generation of leaders. Contributions to the William & Geraldine Curry Scholarship help sustain this opportunity for future students.



JAKYRA JACKSON



JaKyra Jackson, William & Geraldine Curry Scholarship recipient, in her senior portrait & at the Marengo High School awards ceremony with Frankie Curry-Smith.

TAMARA JACKSON



Tamara Jackson, William & Geraldine Curry Scholarship recipient, pictured in cap and gown & at the Amelia L. Johnson High School awards ceremony with Frankie Curry-Smith and a representative of the BBCF.

SCHOLARSHIP

LISTENING TO COMMUNITY

Between May and June 2025, the Black Belt Community Foundation (BBCF) hosted listening sessions across all 12 counties of the Black Belt, bringing together more than 340 community members to share their priorities, experiences, and ideas. These conversations are helping guide how BBCF directs its work to most effectively support the region.



Residents, community leaders, grassroots organizations, and local stakeholders came together across the region to share their hopes for the future. While each community is unique, shared themes were consistent throughout the sessions. People described strong intergenerational ties, a deep sense of connection, and a “culture of care” where neighbors look out for one another. Churches, schools, community organizations, and local centers were seen as essential anchors, along with natural resources like farmland, rivers, and parks that hold untapped potential for both quality of life and economic growth.



At the same time, residents were candid about ongoing challenges. Many pointed to the need for better access to healthcare, housing, transportation, and good-paying jobs. Education and youth development were central concerns, with strong emphasis on preparing young people to lead, stay, and thrive in their home communities through expanded opportunities in training, leadership development, and safe, engaging spaces.

Economic opportunity and infrastructure were closely linked, with calls for more business investment and interest in expanding agritourism and heritage tourism.

Across all 12 counties, one clear message emerged: progress depends on collaboration, strong local leadership, accountability, and continued civic engagement. Above all, participants emphasized that the Black Belt’s greatest strength is its people. By listening directly to residents, BBCF continues to shape its work in a way that is grounded in community voice, because the future of the region is truly powered by community.

“The strength is the awareness and the unity in working together to obtain these things.”

(Quote from Bullock County Listening Session Participant)



12 counties. Dozens of conversations. One shared purpose.



Participant from Sumter County Listening Session stands and gives impassioned speech about the strengths and needs of her community.

TOP 5 NEEDS

Across our 12 County Service Area

- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- HEALTHCARE & SERVICES
- YOUTH ACTIVITIES
- ACCESSIBLE HOUSING
- EDUCATION

SERVING COMMUNITY

When families needed support, the community showed up.



Bullock County: A community Thanksgiving food drive provided food packages to families across two distribution sites, serving up to 200 households and helping ensure access to holiday meals.



Macon County: On November 22, BBCF Community Associates and community partners hosted a food distribution event in downtown Tuskegee, providing food to more than 100 families.



Marengo County: BBCF Community Associates and partners distributed 166 meat bags and additional food supplies during a time of need.



Pickens County: More than 150 food bags were distributed to residents in Carrollton during a one-hour event. Despite severe weather, partners continued efforts without interruption to ensure families received essential food supplies.

Background photo: Macon County volunteer sorts greens during food distribution event.

In November 2025, in response to disruptions in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits during a federal government shutdown, the Black Belt Community Foundation (BBCF) launched the Food for Families in the Black Belt Fund to support emergency food access across the region. The initiative mobilized BBCF Community Associates and a network of local partners to meet immediate needs in communities where many households rely on SNAP to help put food on the table.

Through coordinated distribution efforts, BBCF Community Associates and partners provided food to families across multiple Black Belt counties, delivering hundreds of food packages and supporting access to meals during a period of heightened need.

The **Food for Families Fund** was supported through philanthropic contributions, including the Revolve Fund, the Alabama Power Foundation, and donors across the region, strengthening BBCF's ability to respond quickly and at scale.

Together, this network of community partners expanded access to food and reinforced local distribution systems across the Black Belt during a period of heightened need.

Building on this momentum, Food for Families efforts have continued into the following year, with additional counties planning and implementing food distribution events in 2026 to further extend the reach of this work.



Wilcox County: Community partners, supported by BBCF Community Associates, provided more than 255 non-perishable food bags, 276 packages of meat, and Thanksgiving meals for families, including residents in senior housing communities.



Teen from Macon County helps distribute boxes of food to individuals in need in November 2025.

Celebrating 20 years of community-led work across the Black Belt.

BBCF's 20th anniversary celebration began on May 1, 2024, with a community block party and grand opening of its new headquarters in Selma. From there, celebrations continued across the Black Belt, bringing together community members, partners, and supporters in each of the 12 counties served.

Four counties hosted celebrations in 2024, with the remaining eight marking the milestone throughout 2025, extending the anniversary across the region.

These gatherings reflected on two decades of work rooted in local leadership and community investment. Across counties, the events highlighted the relationships, partnerships, and shared efforts that have shaped the foundation's growth and impact over time.

Each celebration provided an opportunity to recognize the people and communities at the center of BBCF's work, while looking ahead to the next chapter of continued service across the region.



CELEBRATIONS



On September 19, 2025, BBCF hosted An Evening of Honor to celebrate the leadership and legacy of President and CEO Felecia L. Lucky.

As the foundation's founding president, Felecia led BBCF for 21 years, guiding its growth into a community-centered institution serving all 12 counties of Alabama's Black Belt. Under her leadership, the foundation invested nearly \$100 million across the region and built a model grounded in listening to and working alongside the communities it serves.

Following her departure on October 1, 2025, Christopher H. Spencer was appointed as BBCF's next President and CEO. A longtime leader within the organization, he began his work with BBCF more than two decades ago as a Community Associate and has remained closely connected to its mission and communities.

This transition reflects both the strength of the foundation's history and its continued focus on the work ahead.



Above: Collage of photos from BBCF 20th Anniversary Celebrations across the Black Belt in 2025.



Above: Collage of photos from 'An Evening of Honor' event for Felecia Lucky. Scenes include the reception space, the cake cutting, and the presentation of a framed jersey and the unveiling of the Felecia L. Fellows Program which provides opportunities and exposure for high school students to engage in.

FELECIA L. LUCKY FELLOWS PROGRAM

During An Evening of Honor, the Board introduced the Felecia L. Lucky Fellows Program to support youth across the Black Belt. Contributions to the fund will help continue this work for years to come.



2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are deeply grateful to the 2025 Board of Directors for their guidance, insight, and commitment. Their leadership strengthens BBCF's mission, deepens community connections, and supports broader engagement across the Black Belt. Their partnership remains central to our continued progress.



Kennard D. Randolph
Dallas County
Chairperson

Patricia M. Farris
Lowndes County
Vice Chairperson

Tony L. Cherry
Choctaw County
Secretary

Veronica W. Drake
Sumter County
Treasurer

John H. England, Jr.
Tuscaloosa/Perry County

Jamaal O. Hunter
Perry County

Gwendolyn Rogers
Sumter County

Emeritus:
Royrickers Cook
Walter A. Hill
Arzula Johnson (deceased)
George D. H. McMillan, Jr. (deceased)
James C. Mitchell
Jesse Moore (deceased)
Samory T. Pruitt
Henry "Hank" Sanders
Sheryl Z. Smedley
Julian H. Smith, Jr.
David K. Wilson
Carol P. Zippert

Khandi Flowers
Macon County

Janice M. Jones
Pickens County

André P. Saulsberry
Wilcox County

Walter D. Givhan
Pike/Dallas County

Martha B. Lockett
Dallas County

Robert L. Turner
Bullock County

Calida J. M. Henderson
Jefferson/Marengo County

Eugene Martin
Dallas County

Marvin W. Wiggins
Hale County

Clifford O. Hunter
Dallas County

Darlene G. Robinson
Greene County

Christopher Spencer
BBCF President & CEO (began Oct. '25)

Lakeysha Alford
Head Start Assistant Teacher

Adriauna Alston
Head Start Teacher

Vonquetta Besteder
Head Start Teacher

Crystal Blevins
Head Start Assistant Teacher

Gwendolyn Blevins
Head Start Human Resources/
Administrative Assistant

Samerra Boyd
Head Start Teacher

Pamella Bridges
Head Start Assistant Teacher

Towanda Brooks
Head Start Assistant Teacher

Glinda Brown
Head Start Sub. Family Advocate

Andrew Bush
Head Start Bus Driver/Custodian

Lablinka Charleston
Head Start Teacher

Lydia Chatmon
TRHT Selma Director

Jelicia Clinton
SBGWC Youth Engagement

Andre Creighton
Head Start Family Advocate

Catrina Curry
Head Start Center Director

Joshua Dansby
Head Start Floating Teacher

Serita Fikes
Head Start Teacher

Kelvin Franklin
Head Start Custodian

Rachel Gandy
Development Director

Shunda Griffin
Head Start Assistant Teacher

Chiquita Hall
Head Start Substitute Teacher

Judith Hardy
Head Start Family Services Coord.

Sidney Hardy
Head Start Data Coordinator

Daron Harris
Public Relations Director

Lakeshia Harrison
Head Start Family Advocate

Jasmine Haywood
Head Start Assistant Teacher

Aaron Head
Arts Program Director

Ruby Henton
Head Start Assistant Teacher

Danneshia Hinton
Head Start Assistant Teacher

Deandra Jackson
Head Start Bus Driver/Custodian

Geraldine Johnson
Head Start Family Advocate

Quenika Johnson
Head Start Cook

Barbara Jones
Head Start Bus Driver/Custodian

Bessie Jones
Head Start Floating Teacher

Kateria Jones
Head Start Assistant Teacher

Angel Keller
Head Start Teacher

Michelle Kine
Senior Accounting Manager

Annie Lawson
Head Start Floating Teacher

Samantha Ledbetter
Community Engagement Director

Zenobia Lewis
Head Start Teacher

Serena Low
Chief Operations Officer

Felecia L. Lucky
BBCF President & CEO ('04-'25)

Chancee Lundy
SBGWC Executive Director

Kayla Lynch
SBGWC Remote Grants Coordinator

Tanita Mair
Head Start Teacher

Alice Mason
Head Start Teacher

Cleo McGrew
Head Start Floating Teacher

Patricia McGuire
Head Start Teacher

Gail Molette-Beard
Head Start Bus Driver/Custodian

Taquila Monroe
Head Start Director ('23-'25)

Stacy Morrisette
Head Start Family Advocate

Eddie Murray
Head Start Maintenance Tech

Johnethia Nelson
Head Start Teacher

Katey Nelson
Communications Director

Lisa Norwood
Head Start Assistant Teacher

Wendell Paris
Community Engagement Director

Isaac Pettway
IT Director

Ja'Tavia Pettway
Head Start Family Advocate

Kimberely Pierre
Head Start Teacher

Virginia Pitts
Head Start Education Coach

Henry Price
Head Start Custodian

Ida Price
Head Start Floating Teacher

Kendra Purifoy
Head Start Assistant Teacher

Eddy Rasberry
Head Start Assistant Cook

Lee Rayford
Head Start Maintenance Technician

Joslyn Reddick
Head Start Director (began Oct. '25)

Emily Richardson
Head Start Assistant Teacher

Demeco Ricks
Director of Finance

Rosie Robinson
Head Start Floating Teacher

Myesha Session
Head Start Teacher

Demetria Shannon
Head Start Substitute Teacher

Grai Sharp
Staff Accountant (Jan-Aug '25)

Annette Sharpe
Head Start Disabilities & Mentoring

Leanda Simmons
Head Start Substitute Teacher

Jennifer Simmons-Peterson
Head Start Family Advocate

Priscilla Smith
Head Start Teacher

Sharmark Spencer
Head Start Assistant Teacher

Tanisha Stephens
In-house Photographer

Sandra Stevenson
Head Start Center Director

Calvin Thomas
Head Start Operations Manager

Channon Thomas
Head Start Floating Teacher

Kathy Thomas
Head Start Education Mgr/Mentor Coach

Gina Thompson
Head Start Assistant Teacher

Gloria Townsend
Head Start Teacher

Keeshanda Tripp
Head Start Center Director

Angelia Turner
Head Start Substitute Teacher

Tamika Turner
Head Start Family Advocate

Terrence Usher
Head Start Assistant Teacher

Latoya Venter
Head Start Assistant Teacher

Joy Webb
SBGWC Network Engagement

Shaemun Webster
Executive Assistant

Erica Williams
Donor & Data Systems Director

Pamela Williams
Head Start Teacher

Toya Williams
Head Start Teacher

Lakita Wilson
Head Start Floating Teacher

Lee Wilson
Head Start Custodian

Betty Witherspoon
Head Start Teacher

Marcella Woods
Head Start Family Advocate

Jacqueline Young
Head Start Center Director



BBCF TEAM

*Staff listing as of 12/31/25 including all employees on staff for at least 6 months of 2025.

IN MEMORY

GEORGE D.H. MCMILLAN, JR. 1943-2025

The Black Belt Community Foundation honors the life of George McMillan Jr., a visionary leader and cherished member of our founding family, who passed away on April 18, 2025.

As one of five co-founders of BBCF, George helped shape a philanthropic model rooted in community, equity, and the belief that the people of the Black Belt are its greatest asset. His leadership continued well beyond the foundation's beginning, serving on the Board of Directors for ten years, including three as Chair, and remaining a trusted advisor as Board Member Emeritus.

Reflecting on the foundation's early days, George shared: "I don't think any community foundation has had a better genesis than did the BBCF, and one of the most important parts was having Community Associates."

We are deeply grateful for George McMillan's vision, leadership, and enduring belief in the promise of the Black Belt. His legacy lives on through the work of BBCF and the communities we serve.



Above: Collage of photos featuring George McMillan Jr. over the past 20 years participating in BBCF meetings and events as a founder, board member, and dedicated supporter.



Thank you to our Community Associates for their dedication and grassroots leadership. Their local insight and commitment help BBCF effectively serve and uplift the 12 counties of Alabama's Black Belt.

BULLOCK – Robert Turner (County Coordinator), Carolyn Jackson, Tracy Larkin, Shelia Pruitt-Young, Betty Sanders, Erica Shepard, Juanita Smith, Ron Smith, Saint Thomas, Queen Thornton, Ruth Turner

CHOCTAW – Glenda Wooten (County Coordinator), Sammie Bourrage, Jacquelyn Bush, Teresia Cherry, Tony Cherry, Danielle Hampton, Marcus Hampton, Doris Jackson, Merrill Johnson, Kathy Levy, Tracy May, Coretta May, Africa McCoy, Sheila McGrew, Larry Pogue, Jr., Bobby Ridgeway, Tammy Ruffin, Linda Turner-Gaines, Martha Wallace, Bennie Ward

DALLAS – Lawrence Wofford (County Coordinator), Mae Frances Brown, Sandra Cowan, Keith Jones, Iona Martin, Shelly McGee, JoAnn Smith

GREENE – Miriam Leftwich (County Coordinator), Nancy Cole, Darlene Robinson, Mollie Rowe, Johnni Strode-Morning, Geraldine Walton, Johnny Williams, Carol Zippert, John Zippert

HALE – Valerie Hill Bell (County Coordinator), Dollie Hudson, Willie Hudson, Marilyn Pickens, Patti Rhodes, Timothy Rhodes, Dimetra Rollins, Jonathan Rossell, LaWanda VanHorn-Rossell, Ada Webb, Meredith Wiggins, Zina Wiggins

LOWNDES – Dale Braxton (County Coordinator), Rutha Davis-Bonner, Clara Gulley, Shirley McCall

MACON – Betty Broadnax (County Coordinator), Shewonda Anderson, Lionel Armistead, Jr., Kimberly Armstrong, Jacquelyn Carlisle, Connie Dacus, Niquitha Dawson, Khandi Flowers, Nadine Griffin, Vivian Hall, Linda Hallmark, Norma Jackson, Terrence Johnson, Kimberly Maddox, Tracey Moon, Tia-Lennora Pierrot, Jalil Surge, Melanie Tolbert, Jackie Walker, Jamila Walker, Sawanda Wilson

MARENGO – Edward Oates (County Coordinator), Ada Anderson-Davis, Audrey Burrell, Gerome Burrell, Ernestine Burrell, Delores Cunningham, Tamika Dial, Willie Dillard, Jacqueline Gibson, Odessa Head, Marstiner Jackson, Sharon Jackson, Betty Johnson, Shirley McCaskey, Dorothy McIntosh, Samuel Lee McIntosh Jr., Shirley Merriweather, Hattie Moore, Jessie Moore, Ernestine Mullen, Michelle Murdock, Ola M. Nixon, Toney Nixon, Mary Phillips, Alex Roberson, Earlene Roberson, Thomas Rodgers, Gwendolyn Rogers, Mary Williams

PERRY – Albert Turner, Jr. (County Coordinator), Gail Black, Monica Bryant, Emeffa Butler, Jeffery Ensley, Carlton Hogue, Jamaal Hunter, Tamara Kennie, Della Maynor, Edgred Ward

PICKENS – Janice Jones (County Coordinator), Paris Cousette, Belinda Craig, Paulette Newberns, LaSonja Richardson, Terrence Windham

SUMTER – Veronica Drake (County Coordinator), Dorothy Bell, Lovie Burrell-Parks, Marcus Campbell, Debra Clark, Gloria Duff, Tina Jones, Trenisha Mack, Cordelia Turner, Lillian Wideman

WILCOX – Rosemarie Garner (County Coordinator), Shelly Dale, Shelia Dortch, Roberta Dulaney, Ansidina Finklea, Lurline Gant, Daniel Garner, Patricia George, Jacqueline Hives, Ethel Johnson, Kim Kelly, Alma King, Vonne Lyman, Towana Lyman, Anne Matthews, Creola Moorner, Delores Perry, Mary Ann Pettway, Janice Robinson, Sheryl Threadgill-Matthews, Shalalea Washington, Joyce Williams

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATES

'One of the most important parts was having Community Associates.'

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

We extend our sincere thanks to the individuals and organizations whose support in 2025 helped drive meaningful progress across the Black Belt. Together, we continue to build a more equitable and vibrant future for our communities.

Michelle Adams
Adriauna Alston
Shewonda Anderson
Ada Anderson-Davis
Sheronda Armstrong
Joy Arnold
Mr. & Mrs. Aspes
Kae Aycock
Peggy G. Balliet
Mike Battle
Heidi Y. Bau
Robert Baugh
Marie E. Baynes
Dorothy Bell
Waymon Benifield
Vonquetta Besteder
Gail Black
Ruth Blessing
Gwendolyn Blevins
Janee L. Bonner
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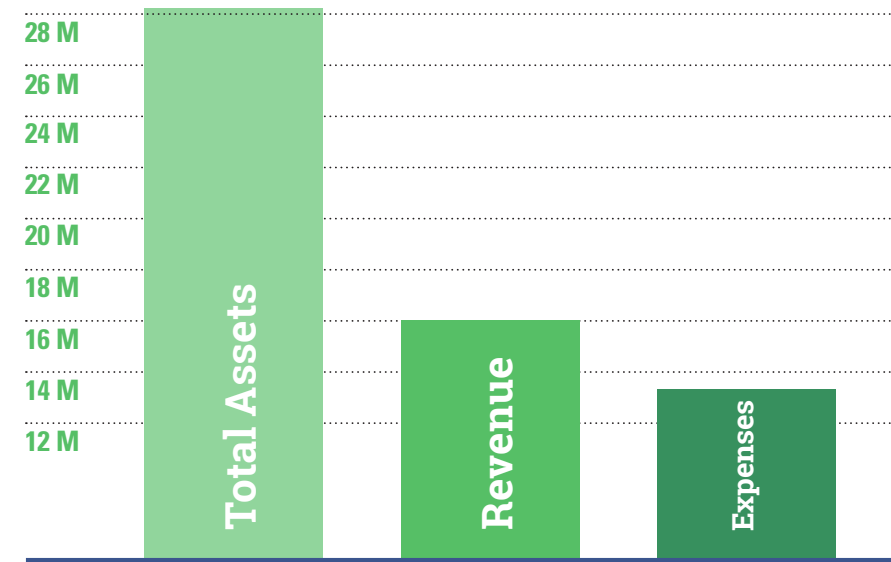
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	\$28,751,170	Net Assets	\$28,104,247
	Total Assets	Liabilities	\$646,923

	\$16,145,303	Grants	\$14,602,841
		Contributions	\$556,968
		Investment Income/Gains	\$510,469
		In-Kind & Miscellaneous	\$475,025

	\$13,565,157	Programs	\$10,774,096
		Fundraising	\$120,781
		Mgmt. & General	\$2,670,280

Please note: The numbers provided are unaudited financials.

If you have any questions about the information in this report or would like to learn more about our programs and initiatives, please contact us using one of the methods listed below.

- 334-874-1126
- info@blackbeltfound.org
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Front Cover Photo: Selma-Dallas County Public Library Director Becky Nichols leads a hands-on activity with BBCF Head Start students during a visit to the library. Back Cover Photo: Two girls working on a S.T.E.M. activity at the 2025 Black Girls Dream Conference.