GivingMatters

Newsletter for Community Foundation of Greenville

Fall 2025

Greenville Zoo updates a beloved exhibit with new Phillips Family Farm

Rendering by WDM Architects

Groundbreaking celebration on October 21st, 2025

What can close encounters with miniature cows and giant rabbits teach us about animals and their interdependence with humans?

Visitors to the Greenville Zoo will find out in 2026 when construction is complete on the new Phillips Family Farm, a renovation to the existing farm habitat enjoyed by generations of children.

The project, the largest for a single exhibit in the zoo's history, makes the most of the current space and adjacent unused land to accommodate 2 acres of farmyard, a two-story, 6,600-square-foot building and two smaller barns, said Lindsay Tucker, director of operations and engagement for the Greenville Zoo Foundation.

"The immersive new exhibit will allow guests to engage closely with farm animals from around the world," Tucker said. "This habitat will celebrate the important role domesticated animals play in global agriculture and conservation. It is truly a blend of learning, exploration, and fun for guests of all ages."

The three barns will span the zoo's lower walkway and feature walk-through exhibits and hands-on education areas. In addition to the cows and rabbits, the new farm will be home to mini donkeys, alpacas, turkeys and a barn owl, along with the zoo's currently held African pygmy goats and Kunekune pigs.

One of the Upstate's top-rated attractions, the Greenville Zoo welcomes over 325,000 guests each year. Its education programs reach students from preschool to those studying veterinary technology at Greenville Technical College.

"We host up to 500 field trips every year from schools all over the state and Western North Carolina," Tucker said. "The new exhibit will be a game changer in terms of what the zoo looks like for the future." The Phillips Family Farm, which has been in the planning and fundraising stages for two years, follows other recent updates, including the Jim and Janice Cordes Giraffe Encounters, which opened in 2023, and the Mary H. Huse Africa Plaza, completed in 2024.

"The lead donor had been searching for a way to honor the legacy of her late parents, who were farmers, when she read about the farmyard project in a Greenville Journal feature article," Tucker said. "This project seemed like the perfect opportunity to do that."

Community Foundation of Greenville is supporting one of the barns, named the Community Foundation of Greenville Barn Owl Habitat, with a $100,000 gift to the Greenville Zoo Foundation.

The Greenville Zoo was founded in 1960. Since 1986, it has been one of a select group of zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is committed to ensuring that the animals housed there receive care that meets or exceeds AZA standards.

The project broke ground on October 21st, and temporary accommodations have been made for the current farm animals.

"We're a small zoo with big goals," Tucker said. "We're honored to partner with an incredible number of donors and organizations that understand the importance of a community treasure like the Greenville Zoo and the impact a project like this will have for decades to come."

Community Foundation collaborates to fund new PATHS program

Partnership includes Greenville County EMS and BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation

The way people access health care continues to evolve in Greenville as in other places, with more people calling 911 to address medical needs that are serious but not acute and could be better met through other means.

Beginning this fall, some callers requesting Greenville County Emergency Medical Service assistance will be offered comprehensive care tailored to their needs through the Prehospital Assisted Treatment and Healthcare Services (PATHS) program.

The PATHS project will triage low-acuity EMS calls — which are less severe — to determine appropriate interventions with the help of a community paramedic and a nurse practitioner. The goal is to provide a high quality of care for nonurgent medical needs in the most cost-effective manner, preserving critical resources for the most urgent cases.

PATHS was developed through a collaborative effort with Greenville County EMS and local health care providers. Community Foundation of Greenville made a grant of $80,000 for the project. Additional funding was provided by a grant from the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation, an independent licensee of the BlueCross BlueShield Association.

Lindsey K. Kilgo, program officer for the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation, said the need for such a program was noted during multiple conversations with Greenville County EMS.

“Co-investing with Community Foundation of Greenville allows us to support innovative, community-driven solutions that help do more and do better for the health of South Carolinians in Greenville County,” Kilgo said.

In Greenville County, during a three-month period in 2024, 2,700 low-acuity calls were received, all of which could be intercepted through this project.

The nurse practitioner can help connect patients to continuous primary care and health education and assess other barriers to care such as transportation and economic instability. The program has the potential to decrease response wait times, since often patients are stalled in the emergency room along with EMS staff and ambulances if there is no bed available in the hospital.

“This project aligns clinical response to meet patient needs while helping reduce barriers to care and easing the burden on emergency systems. If successful, it could serve as a model for how EMS delivers care in other communities across the state,” Kilgo said.

Phil Head, director of clinical services for Greenville County EMS, said the grant covers salaries, technical equipment, medical oversight and consultancy with an epidemiologist to assist with population statistics and research to identify gaps in care.

“If we can safely offer them an assessment, either in their home, or via telehealth, the health care team will be able to provide care and potentially connect them with community resources to help them engage more efficiently with the health care system,” Head said.

Although similar programs exist, PATHS was created specifically for South Carolina with enhancements to the project design.

“The foundation is excited about this project because it’s not been done before in South Carolina,” Kilgo said. “As South Carolina’s only state-based, statewide health funder, it’s our role to seek unique projects that can make an impact.”

IMPACT OF THE PATHS PROGRAM:

This initiative could serve as a statewide model for how EMS delivers care in other South Carolina communities.

The program helps reduce emergency room overcrowding and shorten ambulance wait times by redirecting non-urgent cases.

PATHS was designed specifically for South Carolina to address unique local healthcare needs.

Community paramedics and nurse practicioners with PATHS program

2025 Charitable Giving Awards Recipients

Community Foundation of Greenville, in partnership with TOWN magazine, presents the Charitable Giving Awards to recognize individuals and organizations that provide outstanding service to the Greenville community.

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARD: MAYOR KNOX WHITE

This award honors visionary service to others through both individual endeavors and community involvement.

RUTH NICHOLSON AWARD: KATE DABBS

Community Foundation of Greenville's highest honor is presented to a volunteer who has made significant contributions to the community through volunteer work for Community Foundation or to one of its projects, programs, or areas of emphasis.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD: KATY SMITH

This award recognizes an outstanding nonprofit leader or organization that serves the community through vital programming and exceptional efforts to collaborate with other community partners.

DAMON QUALLS

EDUCATION SPIRIT AWARD: BOLD LEADERSHIP NETWORK

This award recognizes an individual or organization that is dedicated to the betterment of youth and the educational experience in the Upstate.

BILL MUNLEY

HEALTHCARE TRANSFORMATION AWARD: SHRINERS CHILDREN'S GREENVILLE

This award honors an individual or organization that actively and compassionately works to transform the health of the community.

LEADERSHIP IN ARTS AWARD: JESSICA SATAVA

This award recognizes an individual or organization that serves the community through outstanding arts leadership and outreach programming, thereby elevating the artistic opportunities available in the community.

GWG MEMBERS

PHILANTHROPIC SPIRIT AWARD: GREENVILLE WOMEN GIVING

This award honors an individual or organization that fosters charitable giving and is dedicated to giving back to the Upstate in a significant manner.

To learn more about this year's recipients, scan the QR code or visit towncarolina.com/cga2025.

Thank you to the Charitable Giving Awards sponsors!

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To view all event photos, visit cfgreenville.org.

Give Back with Purpose

MAKE YOUR IMPACT BEFORE YEAR-END

As the year comes to a close, consider a gift that makes a difference — for you and for Greenville. Community Foundation of Greenville offers simple, tax-wise ways to support the causes you love.

Two meaningful ways to give before December 31:

Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)
If you're 70½ or older, you can give directly from your IRA — tax-free — to the Community Foundation's Annual Campaign or one of our charitable funds. Your gift can count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) and reduce your taxable income.

Give Appreciated Stock or Other Assets
By donating long-term appreciated securities, you can avoid capital gains tax and receive a charitable deduction for the fair market value — all while amplifying your impact.

Your generosity strengthens Greenville's future — supporting arts, education, environment, health, human services, and critical community needs.

To explore the best ways to give, or to inquire about local causes that are meaningful to you, please contact the Community Foundation team at (864) 233-5925. Please consider consulting with a qualified tax professional for advice specific to your situation.

Together, we make it possible for Greenville to grow, thrive, and remain a place we are proud to call home.

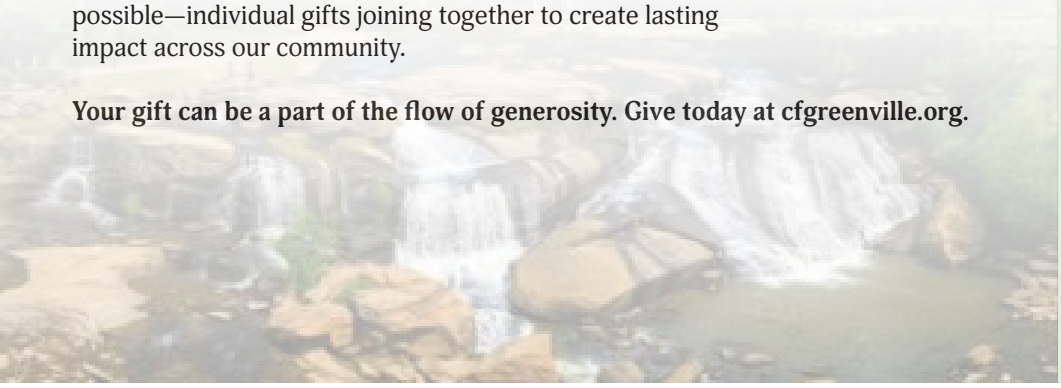
Support our Annual Campaign

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

When you walk along the Swamp Rabbit Trail, following the Reedy River as it gathers strength and flows into the falls at Liberty Bridge, you see the beauty of small streams coming together to create something powerful.

That's exactly what your generosity through Community Foundation of Greenville's Annual Campaign can make possible—individual gifts joining together to create lasting impact across our community.

Your gift can be a part of the flow of generosity. Give today at cfgreenville.org.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we enter this season of gratitude, I'm reminded of our mission: to improve the lives of Greenville County residents through strategic philanthropy, community investment, and collaborative leadership. We bring people and resources together, and every story in this issue exemplifies that purpose in action.

Our collaboration with BlueCross BlueShield and our partnership with the Greenville Zoo both demonstrate how local philanthropy can create lasting impact—whether improving community wellness or preserving natural spaces for future generations. The groundbreaking of the new Phillips Family Farm is a joyful reminder that when public and private partners work together, we make our community stronger.

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2025 Capacity Building Grants and Margaret Linder Southern Endowment Fund Grants—two vital programs that strengthen nonprofits serving on the front lines of need. As the year draws to a close, I encourage you to consider how your own giving can help sustain Greenville's remarkable spirit of generosity. All gifts made to local nonprofits by the Foundation are made possible by annual campaign gifts and bequests that we receive.

Finally, please join us in celebrating this year's Charitable Giving Awards honorees. Their inspiring commitment to community is what makes Greenville a place where philanthropy thrives and truly matters.

If you have made a planned gift for the Community Foundation, please contact Bob Morris at 864-233-5925.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
• OF GREENVILLE •
Bridging Philanthropy & Purpose

10 S. Academy Street
Suite 350
Greenville, SC 29601
p 864-233-5925
f 864-242-9292
www.cfgreenville.org

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Greenville, SC

Return Service Requested

GINA BLOHM
Chief Development Officer
GBlohm@cfgreenville.org

DEBBIE COOPER
Director of Community Impact–Grants & Scholarships
DCooper@cfgreenville.org

PAM COUVILLION
Director of Donor Services
PCouvillion@cfgreenville.org

SHARON GIBBS
CFO/COO
SGibbs@cfgreenville.org

KAYE LINDLER
Office Manager
KLindler@cfgreenville.org

BOB MORRIS
President
RMorris@cfgreenville.org

EMILY PETTIGREW
Marketing Associate
EPettigrew@cfgreenville.org

DEBORAH PHILLIPS
Office Administrator
DPhillips@cfgreenville.org

RYAN THACKRAY
Director of Development
RThackray@cfgreenville.org

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Follow us on social media for more stories and updates.

Together, We're Building a Stronger Community:
CFG Announces 2025 Annual Grant Recipients

Community Foundation of Greenville proudly announces the recipients of its 2025 Capacity Building Grants and Margaret Linder Southern Endowment Fund. Thanks to the generosity of CFG donors, 23 local nonprofit organizations will receive a combined $450,000 to strengthen their missions and serve our community more effectively.

Capacity Building Grants - $150,000 awarded

Community Foundation allocates funds for Capacity Building Grants based on income generated by the Foundation's unrestricted endowment and donor contributions to our annual campaign. The grants often fund marketing initiatives, technology upgrades, and strategic planning projects.

Able South Carolina - $10,000
Center for Community Services - $9,000
Center for Developmental Services - $10,000
Centre Stage - $8,500
Fine Arts Center Partners - $9,000
Genesis Homes, Inc. - $3,000
Girls on the Run Upstate SC - $10,000
Greenville Connects - $8,000
Greenville Free Medical Clinic - $12,500
Greer Relief & Resources Agency, Inc. - $10,000
Lead Collective - $5,000
Pleasant Valley Connection - $10,000
Project Host - $10,000
South Carolina Children's Theatre - $9,500
Triune Mercy Center - $10,000
Upstate Forever - $6,000
Upstate-Carolina Adaptive Golf - $9,500

Margaret Linder Southern Endowment Fund - $300,000 awarded

The Margaret Linder Southern Endowment Fund was established in 2013 with an $8.4 million bequest from Margaret Southern. This fund makes perpetual annual distributions to benefit early childhood education, special education for children and youth (50%), and the Greenville Humane Society (50%).

A Child's Haven - $50,000
Front Porch Housing - $25,000
Greenville Humane Society - $150,000
Metropolitan Arts Council - $20,000
Poe Mill Achievement Center (PMAC) - $25,000
Sunbelt Human Advancement Resources, Inc. - (SHARE) - $30,000

We want to extend a special thanks to our volunteer committee members who help administer these grants programs for the benefit of our community!

Greenville Humane Society

A Child's Haven

Fine Arts Center Partners

Grant Opportunities
Visit our website for more information and to see our various grant opportunities.