

GIVEFORWARD 

LEADERS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION

Making Lives Better, Together

MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order & Invocation.....	Eddie Hays, Board Chair
Approval of Minutes.....	Eddie Hays, Board Chair
Chair's Report.....	Eddie Hays, Board Chair
President's Report.....	Leigh Anne Bentley, President
Nominating Committee Report.....	Ron Hill, Vice Chair & Secretary
Closing Remarks and Adjournment.....	Eddie Hays, Board Chair



MAKING LIVES BETTER, TOGETHER.

The **Leaders Education Foundation** was formed by Leaders Credit Union in 2019 as a non-profit 501c3 organization to **Give Forward** to our community. Giving Forward allows community-minded citizens, members, and organizations to bring educational resources and opportunities to students and educators in West Tennessee.

Leaders Education Foundation believes every community member deserves a champion. Leaders Education Foundation provides **educational grants, scholarships, and resources** to our community that supports lifelong learning, workforce development, and education. **We believe in empowering our community for good.**

IMPACT

By launching the Leaders Education Foundation, and with everyone's help, the impact on our community can be felt far and wide and for years to come. Our goal is to bring educational resources and opportunities to students of all ages and in all walks of life. We have created programs and helped support other programs that can make the biggest difference. The organization accomplishes this goal by providing:

- Scholarships
- Educator Grants
- Program Grants
- Lifelong Educational Opportunities



2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Chair Eddie Hays called the 2nd Annual Membership meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. at 1490 Union University Parkway, Jackson, TN. He explained that due to the ongoing COVID-19 national pandemic, the meeting is being conducted virtually with a limited in-person audience.

Chair Eddie Hays lead the invocation.

Chair Eddie Hays called upon Secretary Ron Hill to determine whether a quorum was present. Secretary Hill confirmed that a quorum was present.

Chair Eddie Hays called for the reading of the minutes of the 1st Annual Membership meeting conducted on July 21, 2020. A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the last year's minutes which are in the 2020 Annual Report that is online. The motion carried and the minutes were approved as presented.

Chair Eddie Hays introduced the other Foundation Board Members:

- Mr. Ron Hill, who also served as Vice-Chair and Secretary
- Mrs. Karen Taylor, who also served as Treasurer
- Ms. Stephanie Riley
- Mrs. Mary Lou Adams

Chair Eddie Hays called upon Foundation President, Mrs. Leigh Anne Bentley, for the President's Report. President Bentley stated that in 2020 the Leaders Education Foundation was able to accomplish great things while supporting education in the community. The Foundation welcomed over 150 new members in 2020 and participated in Giving Tuesday with a \$20,000 donation match by Leaders Credit Union. She then thanked and recognized the Foundation's Corporate Charter Sponsors:

- Leaders Credit Union
- Town & Country Realtors
- Ellis Insurance
- Confluent Strategies
- Open Lending
- PSCU
- Nelson Signs
- Jessie Prueff with Byrd & Byrd Attorney at Law

President Bentley also thanked and recognized Charter members who had each donated over \$500 to the organization. She reported that Leaders Education Foundation was awarding 12 scholarships totaling \$15,000. The recipients, who were recognized individually after the Scholarship Committee was introduced, were selected by the Scholarship Committee and approved by the Board at its last meeting in accordance with the Bylaws. The Scholarship Committee members were comprised of two Board members and one Foundation member. They were: Mrs. Mary Lou Adams, who served as the Committee's Chair; Mrs. Stephanie Riley; and Mr. Joey Hale.

President Bentley reported that the Foundation awarded \$10,000 in L.E.A.D.S. Grants to Educators in the Fall of 2020. She stated that these grants are designed to assist educators and promote initiatives that help students Learn, Experience, Advocate, Dream and Serve. Through the program, West Tennessee educators were eligible to enter for an opportunity to win one of the 10 L.E.A.D.S. Educator Grants of \$1,000 each.

President Bentley stated that the Foundation had joined with Imagination Library Chapters in Madison, Gibson, and Chester Counties to Give Forward through the Foundation's new "Imagine the Possibilities" campaign. Based on this initiative and the Board's decision to provide additional support to each participating Imagination Library, the Foundation is making a total collective donation of \$10,000. Through this campaign and donation, over 160 children will be helped to get on the road to reading.

President Bentley then introduced the 2021 Nominating Committee Chair, Mr. Ron Hill. He began by recognizing his fellow 2021 Nominating Committee members: Mrs. Karen Taylor; Mr. Spencer Pratt; Mr. Seth Rudd; and Mrs. Karen Freeman. He reported that the Committee recommended to the Board, which has voted to approve the recommendation, to increase the Board's size to seven Directors by adding two additional Directors with one serving an initial term of one year and the other serving an initial term of three years. At this time and based on the Board's approval, the Nominating Committee submits the following slate of nominations for the Foundation's Board of Directors:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Mrs. Mary Lou Adams | 2nd term (3 years) | April 2021 – April 2024 |
| • Mrs. Eddie Mae Pirtle | Initial term (1 year) | April 2021 – April 2022 |
| • Ms. Yvette Blue | Initial term (3 years) | April 2021 – April 2024 |

Chair Eddie Hays thanked the 2021 Nominating Committee. As there were no further nominations, he asked for a motion to accept the slate of nominees. Member Todd Swims made a motion to accept the nominations, with member Karen Taylor seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Eddie Hays thanked those members joining in-person and virtually for the 2nd Annual Membership meeting. He thanked all of the Foundation's sponsors, members, and donors and encouraged everyone to continue donating and, if not a member, to join the Foundation. With no other business to be discussed, Mr. Ron Hill made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Mary Lou Adams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Hill, Secretary

Eddie Hays, Chair

L.E.A.D.S. EDUCATOR GRANTS



L.E.A.D.S. Grants are designed to assist educators who promote initiatives that help students Learn, Experience, Advocate, Dream, and Serve. Through the L.E.A.D.S Educator Grant Program, West Tennessee educators are eligible to enter for an opportunity to win \$1,000.

Congratulations to the 19 finalists, winning a \$1,000 L.E.A.D.S. Educator Grant:

- Robyn Hicks - Andrew Jackson Elementary School
- Cheryl Currie - Isaac Lane Elementary
- Kyle Gehring - Bradford High School
- Aimee Evans - Arlington Elementary School
- Dr. Calandra Ellison-Williamson - Liberty Technology Magnet High School
- Mary Hicks - Chester County High School
- Tamara Jones - George Washington Carver College & Career Academy
- Dr. Calandra Ellison - Williamson- Denmark Elementary School
- Selina Bradley - Bartlett High School



L.E.A.D.S. EDUCATOR GRANTS CONT.

- Gretta Aldrich- Jackson - Madison County Schools
- Debra Nichols - Elmore Park Middle School
- Matthew Barker - Freed Hardeman University
- Kelly Williams - Isaac Lane Elementary
- Cara Pruettt - Carroll County Technical Center
- Sharon Rees - Ellendale Elementary
- Geneva Storey - Obion County Central High School
- Tiffany Matzek - Arlington Elementary School
- Libby Lynch - East Elementary School
- Dr. Shemon Reaves - Arlington Elementary School

Follow us on Facebook or visit LeadersGives.org to stay updated.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Leaders Education Foundation Scholarship Program awarded eighteen scholarships totaling \$25,000 to local high school seniors who displayed academic achievement and leadership in their school and community. We received 48 applications. The Financial Wellness Video Scholarship received ten submissions, and the videos were viewed over 25,000 times, reaching over 60,000 people.

Our 2022 scholarship winners are listed on the following pages.

2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Hunter Lawson

\$2,500 Financial Wellness Video
Scholarship Winner
Milan High School



Jozie Arnold

\$2,000 Financial Wellness Video
Scholarship Winner
Jackson Christian School



Morgan Brasfield

\$2,500 Leaders Credit Union
Martha Britt Scholarship
Jackson Christian School



Macy Ruth Chandler

\$1,000 Town & Country
Realtors Scholarship
Gibson County High School



Olivia Taylor

\$1,000 Ellis Insurance Scholarship
Sacred Heart of Jesus
High School



Joshua Giannini

\$1,500 JMCSS
Founders Scholarship
South Side High School

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela



Zacharie Garcia

\$1,000 JMCSS

Founders Scholarship

JCM Early College High School



Margaret Suiter

\$1,500 Community Scholarship

Obion County

Union City High School



Gabrielle Jerge

\$1,500 Community Scholarship

West Tennessee

University School of Jackson



Anna Goldsby

\$1,000 Community Scholarship

West Tennessee

Crockett County High School



Alexander Pruet

\$1,500 Community Scholarship

Gibson County

South Gibson County HS



Mackenzie Johnson

\$1,000 Community Scholarship

Gibson County

Milan High School

"Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace." - Confucius



Katie Willis

\$1,500 Community Scholarship
Dyer County
Dyer County High School



Brooke Lampley

\$1,500 Community Scholarship
Shelby County
Bartlett High School



Noah Brandt

\$1,000 Scholarship
HomeLife Academy



Emily Warren

\$1,000 Scholarship
Bradford High School



Erin Brookshire

\$1,000 Scholarship
Crockett Country High School



Lydia Runions

\$1,000 Scholarship
Union City High School

BECOME A MEMBER, DONATE, OR SPONSOR

When an individual or organization chooses to give to the Leaders Education Foundation, their impact can last a lifetime.

Becoming a member of the Leaders Education Foundation means you will make an impact in your community. As a member, your contribution gives you the unique opportunity to participate in the Annual Meeting of the Foundation's membership, and learn how we plan to **Give Forward**. You will be updated through social media, newsletters, and/or other publications with how your membership is directly impacting your local community. You will also have direct access to share the Foundation's scholarships and grants to students or educators who would benefit from these valuable opportunities.

To become a member of the Leaders Education Foundation, visit **LeadersGives.org** and select "Give." Donations of all sizes are appreciated, and you automatically become a member with a one-time \$10 membership fee. Donations over the \$10 membership fee may be given in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Leaders Education Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that allows community-minded individuals, organizations, and other businesses to make a tax-deductible donation.

"Always walk through life as if you have something new to learn, and you will."

-Vernon Howard

LEADERSHIP

The leadership of the Leaders Education Foundation is comprised of a volunteer Board of Directors donating their time, talent and treasures. The Foundation is grateful for their service and commitment to help provide resources and opportunities to help launch educational opportunities for community members.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Eddie Hays
Chairman



Ron Hill
Vice Chairman
& Secretary



Karen Taylor
Treasurer



Mary Lou Adams
Board Member



Yvette Blue
Board Member



Eddie Mae Pirtle
Board Member



Stephanie Riley
Board Member

OFFICERS & VOLUNTEER STAFF



Leigh Anne Bentley
President



Leigh O'Neill
Vice President



Shea Brown
Director of
Community Impact



Taylor Risley
Assistant Treasurer



Edie Whitman
Assistant Secretary



Catherine Teel
Accounting



Kyle West
Accounting



Janet Wylie
Marketing



Scott Heit
Marketing

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fulfilling the mission of Leaders Education Foundation is a labor of love, and it takes a village. I am thrilled to work with a volunteer board of directors and volunteer staff who work together to expand opportunities, services, and resources for the greater community. In 2021, we participated in #GivingTuesday, for which Turntable Coffee sponsored a thank you coffee gift card for our campaign donors. We are making a difference, and with the help of our sponsors, members and donors, the sky is our only limit.

I thank each of you who have contributed your time, talent, and/or resources to help us #GiveForward. None of our accomplishments would be possible without you.

I am pleased and proud that in 2021, we provided support in the following ways:

- Awarded \$15,000 in Scholarships to High School Seniors
- Awarded \$19,000 in L.E.A.D.S. Grants to Educators
- Donated \$1,000 to Humphreys County School System for Disaster Relief after the flooding
- Donated \$10,000 to West TN Imagination Library Chapters so they can provide a book each month to participating children from birth to 5 years old
- Partnered financially with the United Way's READ Team to expand their services and resources including taking books to different areas with their Words on Wheels (WOW) Wagon
- Partnered with the Jackson Madison County Bicentennial to provide coloring books celebrating Jackson Madison County's history to 10,000 elementary school children
- Sponsored the Jackson Madison County Bicentennial Creative Expressions Contest, which kicked off in the Fall of 2021 and had awards presented in February 2022, for pre-school through high school children to submit coloring work, artwork, poems, and essays with the overall winners' submissions to be placed in the new Jackson Madison County time capsule
- Sponsored twenty-one 7th and 8th graders across West TN in the FutureStar Youth Summit hosted at UT Martin

Thank you to our existing members and the over 1,700 new members in 2021 for uniting with us to support our mission of Making Lives Better, Together.



Leigh Anne Bentley
President

We believe every child, educator,
and community member
deserves **a champion.**

CHARTER SPONSORS & MEMBERS

Thank you to our Corporate Charter Sponsors for joining us to Give Forward to our community.

Founding Corporate Charter Sponsor: *Gift of \$100,000 & more (\$25,000 per year for five years)



Leaders Credit Union
Todd Swims, CEO

Sustaining Corporate Charter Sponsors: *Gift of \$25,000 & more (\$5,000 per year for five years)



Town & Country Realtors
Joey Hale
Owner & Principal Broker



Ellis Insurance
Alan Ellis
Owner & Principal Agent

Advocate Corporate Charter Sponsors: *Gift of \$5,000 & more (\$1,000 per year for five years)



Partner Corporate Charter Sponsors: *Gift of \$2,500 & more (\$500 per year for five years)



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Revenue			
Donations - Corporate Sponsors	\$	171,718.00	87.40%
Donations - Recurring		2,126.78	1.08%
Donations - One-time		5,411.87	2.75%
Membership Fees		16,111.91	8.20%
Interest Income		1,108.74	0.56%
Total Revenue	\$	196,477.30	100.00%
Expenses			
Total Collegiate/Trade Support	\$	15,000.00	25.20%
Total Educator Support		20,330.00	34.16%
Total Program Support		16,274.94	27.34%
Total Operating Expenses		7,915.38	13.30%
Advertising & Marketing		2,681.80	
Total Awards & Reception Expenses		1,413.43	
Corporate Filing Fees		70.46	
Financial Service Charges & Fees		39.72	
Insurance		786.00	
Total Meeting Expenses		829.55	
Office Supplies		35.84	
Other Business Expenses		154.00	
Software Expense		1,715.58	
Website Expense		189.00	
Total Expenses	\$	59,520.32	100.00%
Net Income	\$	136,956.98	

NOMINATION REPORT

The Nominating Committee held a meeting on March 11, 2022. The committee members present were Spencer Pratt, Ron Hill, Yvette Blue, Karen Freeman, and Seth Rudd.

Foundation Board Chair, Eddie Hays, appointed Ron Hill to be the Chair of the Leaders Education Foundation Nominating Committee for 2022.

Ron Hill called the nominating committee to order and reviewed the Nominating Committee Duties as outlined in the Bylaws. After discussion, a motion was made to recommend to the Foundation's Board new board member terms.

The Nominating Committee recommends to the Foundation's members:

Mrs. Eddie Mae Pirtle	Second Term	April 2022 - 2025
Mrs. Karen Taylor	Second Term	April 2022 - 2025
Ms. Stephanie Riley	Second Term	April 2022 - 2025





CONTACT



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