

Board of Trustees

Dexter L. Cook, Jr., MD
Chairman

R. Malcolm Edwards, MD
Vice Chairman/Chair-Elect

Polly C. Jackson
Secretary

Phyllis B. Bunkley
Treasurer

David R. Blackwell

Miriam M. Boucher

Robert K. Folks

Charles M. Harrell

Stanley D. Johnson

Marvin L. Starks

Pamela Y. Temple

Staff

James T. Morton
President

E. Brown Crenshaw, Jr., CPA
*Vice President,
Finance & Administration*

Mary D. Henderson, Ph. D.
*Program Officer for
Special Initiatives*

Holly C. Furr
*Program Officer for
Responsive Grants*

Karen W. Ormand
Administrative Assistant

J. Marion Sims Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 818
800 N. White Street
Lancaster, SC 29721

Phone: 803.286.8772

Fax: 803.286.8774

Volume 6, Issue 1

Spring 2010

Foundation Awards \$292,000 in Responsive Grants

Direct health services and health education are among the projects funded by the J. Marion Sims Foundation's most recent grant awards. A total of eight organizations in Lancaster and Chester counties are the recipients of grants totaling \$292,469.

"The awards made in this grant cycle align closely with both continuing community needs and the foundation's mission," said foundation president Jim Morton. "The recipient organizations have demonstrated records of success in delivering important and needed services to the citizens of Lancaster County, Fort Lawn and Great Falls."

Grant awards were made to the following organizations:

American National Red Cross, Upper Piedmont Chapter - \$15,000 for one year to provide emergency assistance to Lancaster County families who are victims of fires and other natural disasters.

Columbus Parker Track Club - \$20,000 for one year for its health and character-building program for local youth.

Golden Care - \$6,206 for one year for operational technology upgrades.

Good Samaritan Medical Clinic - \$41,400 for one year to provide free healthcare services to indigent patients from Lancaster County, Fort Lawn and Great Falls.

Parkinson Association of the Carolinas - \$20,000 for one year for its Tri-County Parkinson's Project.

Pregnancy Care Center - \$11,383 for one year for increased operating hours.

United Way of Lancaster County - \$11,500 for one year for implementation of a 2-1-1 service referral system.

USC Lancaster - \$166,986 for one year for the Diabetes Education Clinic's programs of self-management education and patient assistance.

Lancaster Area Literacy Cooperative

In addition to funding literacy programs, the J. Marion Sims Foundation has also facilitated the creation of the Lancaster Area Literacy Cooperative (LALC). The LALC is a 501 (c) (3) organization that is made up of Great Falls, Fort Lawn, and Lancaster County literacy providers. The mission of the LALC is to lead an active collaboration of literacy learners, providers, and supporters to increase literacy and encourage life-long learning.

The LALC is poised to advocate for literacy as a community priority and to make important contributions to the local area's vitality. In November 2009 the LALC board of directors named Kathy Wilds executive director.

"One of my goals is to increase literacy awareness that will help the community understand that literacy cuts across everything and is everybody's business."

-Kathy Wilds



Kathy Wilds, Director, Lancaster Area Literacy Cooperative and Jim Morton, President, J. Marion Sims Foundation cut the ribbon at LALC's Open House Ceremony

Under her leadership the LALC has accomplished the following:

- On December 7, 2009 an open house was held at the LALC Center, located at 105 W. Dunlap Street. Parents, children, government officials, and community members from throughout Kershaw, Heath Springs, Great Falls, Fort Lawn and Lancaster turned out to show support and learn more about this exciting collaborative venture.
- The LALC has also opened the "**Second Glance, Second Chance Bookshop**" at the LALC Center. The goal of the bookshop is to increase the number of people who read by making books readily available to the community. This reading campaign has gotten a very positive response from the community. Those who want to recycle

-continued Page 2

A Word from the President

- James T. Morton, President



At the end of 2009 the foundation released a review of progress made in the first six years (2003-2008) of its adult literacy and basic skills grantmaking initiative. (For a full copy of the report, visit www.jmsims.org). The reasons the foundation entered into the initiative have been well documented and repeatedly stated: unacceptably high rates of low literacy underlie a host of health and social problems. Higher literacy levels stand to help make our communities healthier over time.

The initiative began with 15 programs; today 13 still provide services. Their cumulative results are impressive. Some highlights: The initiative's estimated economic impact is \$48.5 million - a 500% return on the foundation's investment of \$8.1 million over that time. Nearly 16,000 citizens (unduplicated) participated in literacy programming; the range of participants meeting their individual learning goals was 83% to 93%. More than 1,000 citizens volunteered in the programs, providing nearly 183,000 hours of service. Some 116 participants earned GEDs, 150 foster children were returned to their families and nearly 300 juvenile offenders and at-risk students avoided incarceration. Many individual lives have been changed.

Over the life of the initiative, our external environment has changed as well. Lancaster County, Great Falls and Fort Lawn are enduring the most severe economic downturn since the Great Depression. A number of industries have closed and unemployment hovers around 20%. When the economy recovers, new skills and higher literacy levels will be required for employment.

The activities of the Lancaster Area Literacy Cooperative are detailed elsewhere in this issue. The cooperative exists to further the cause of literacy in our area and to be a place where our communities can rally together around the cause of literacy. The importance of community support for literacy – moral, financial and physical -- cannot be overstated. The foundation cannot reverse our literacy situation. The literacy programs by themselves cannot do it, nor can the cooperative. Ultimately, serious and lasting change will come only if and as the community recognizes and chooses to embrace literacy as an important priority. **Our challenge is clear. Will we meet it?**

Lancaster Area Literacy Cooperative (continued)

books can donate them to the bookshop where others can then enjoy them. There have been over 3,100 books donated in the first three months. This includes a wide variety of book genres catering to children and adults. Some will be sold at 25 cents to \$10 with the funds going toward improving literacy in the community. However, the purpose is to get the community reading; thus, books will be given away to those who want to read but can not afford them. The bookshop is operated by community volunteers and is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

- The LALC hosted “**Building a Successful Literacy Cooperative**” awareness breakfast and workshop on January 15, 2010 at the Carole Ray Dowling Center, University of South Carolina at Lancaster. The event featured Darlene Kostrub, executive director of the Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition in southern Florida. The purpose of this event was to find ways to strengthen the cooperative while encouraging community leaders to further embrace local efforts to improve literacy. Some 15-20 community leaders attended the breakfast, including representatives from local and state government, business, medicine, and education. Following the breakfast, Mrs. Kostrub conducted a four-hour training session on building a successful cooperative. This training was open to nonprofit organizations and literacy providers. Some 65 staff and volunteers representing 23 organizations participated in the workshop.
- A **Literacy Hotline** has been established that will make it easier for anyone to call and find out information on the different programs and services that are available in Great Falls, Fort Lawn, and Lancaster County. Having one central phone number allows easy access to those seeking assistance for themselves and/or family members needing assistance in areas such as reading, math, parenting, workplace, and health literacy. It is also an easy number to remember for those in the community who wish to make donations or volunteer. The hotline number is **286-READ (7323)** or **1-877-775-READ (7323)**.
- The LALC website has been created to promote greater awareness and provide information to promote community ownership of literacy. Please visit the site at www.lancasterlearns.org.

The current members of the LALC include the following organizations: Lancaster County Literacy Council, Chester County Literacy Council, Housing Authority of Lancaster, Brooklyn Springs Elementary School, The Community Powerhouse, The Children's Council, Southside Family Literacy Center, Christian Services of Lancaster, York Technical College Foundation, Communities In Schools of Lancaster, Multi-Cultural Information Center, Fort Lawn Community Center, and USC-Kershaw Primary Care Education Center.

There are currently over 200 business and community agencies partnering with LALC member organizations. Anyone desiring to volunteer, make donations, become a partner, or request additional information may call the hotline or the LALC office at (803) 285-8805.



We Believe ...

Literacy is the foundation of personal, economic, and community empowerment.

Having a collaborative and integrated network of service providers will increase the overall impact of literacy initiatives.

Sharing resources in the form of knowledge, services, referrals, technology and funding will strengthen literacy providers' ability to deliver effective services.

Active participation of the community is vital to creating and sustaining change in the perception of literacy.

In creating partnerships among business, government, and the community to promote literacy.

New Form 990 - Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax

- E. Brown Crenshaw, Jr., CPA



In 2008, the IRS released the new Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, the form filed by public charities and other tax-exempt organizations. The 2008 Form 990, as well as other key information describing the new form, is available on the IRS website, <http://irs.gov/eo>.

Organizations began using the new Form 990 for the 2008 tax year (returns filed in 2009). However, the IRS will allow organizations to use the Form 990-EZ if their gross receipts AND assets meet the following criteria in the years listed below:

May file 990-EZ for:	If gross receipts are:	If assets are:
2008 tax year (filed in 2009)	> \$25,000 and < \$1 million	< \$2.5 million
2009 tax year (filed in 2010)	> \$25,000 and < \$500,000	< \$1.25 million
2010 and later tax years	> \$50,000 and < \$200,000	< \$500,000

Small tax-exempt organizations whose gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less may be required to electronically submit Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 added this filing requirement to ensure that the IRS and potential donors have current information about your organization.

The e-Postcard is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax year. For example, if your tax year ended on December 31, 2009, the e-Postcard is due May 15, 2010. **You cannot file the e-Postcard until after your tax year ends.** To file the e-Postcard simply go to the following address: <http://epostcard.form990.org>.

Congratulations to Chamber Award Winners



At its annual meeting on January 28, the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce honored Mrs. Polly Jackson as its Volunteer of the Year for her long record of distinguished service in local government, statewide governmental associations, her church, and various nonprofit organizations in the community, including JMSF. The Chamber honored Mrs. Jody Miles as its Citizen of the Year for her nearly two decades of work on behalf of the community's needy families through Christian Services of Lancaster.



JMSF Trustee Polly Jackson is this year's recipient of the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce's Volunteer of the Year Award



Jody Miles, Executive Director of JMSF grantee organization Christian Services is this year's recipient of the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year Award

If you would like to receive our newsletter, notices of workshops and special reports via email, please contact Administrative Assistant Karen Ormand at kormand@jmsims.org so that you may be added to our email distribution list.



J. MARION SIMS
Foundation

The mission of the J. Marion Sims Foundation is to support programs and projects of prevention and education that enhance the health and wellness of the citizens of Lancaster County, South Carolina, and the communities of Great Falls and Fort Lawn.

We're on the Web!
www.jmsims.org

Managing Nonprofits in Difficult Times Workshops

Lancaster County Partners for Youth, Winthrop University and the foundation cosponsored workshops for local nonprofits, "Managing in Difficult Times Part I and Part II," November 10, 2009 and February 3, 2010. Nearly 60 agency and organization representatives attended each workshop. During Part I, a panel of area nonprofit directors spoke of their individual agencies' efforts to make it through tough economic times, and presenter Charles Weathers of The Weathers Group added his insights from work with a large number of nonprofits. In Part II, Mr. Weathers provided invaluable information on the importance of planning. Part III of the series, "Budgeting in Difficult Times," will be held in early May. Information will be forthcoming; check our website for details. For those who are unable to attend the workshops, the foundation has a resource library that is available to nonprofits in our area. For more information, please contact the foundation at 803-286-8772.



Mike Montgomery, Executive Director, Family Promise and Claudette Burke, Church Coordinator for Family Promise take notes during the presentation at the November 10 Part I workshop.



Amy Vincent, Executive Director, Pregnancy Care Center and Tomeiko Wright, Executive Director, Life Skills Opportunity Corporation discuss ideas at the February 3 Part II workshop