



2015 in Review

Throughout 2015, the Chamber Foundation met with each Principal we serve throughout the nine public and two private schools in the Foley High School feeder pattern individually and as a group. From the meetings, we determined the students had immediate needs including Big Brothers Big Sisters, clothing, and hygiene needs. As a result of these meetings, we were able to assist in the following provisions: Big Brothers Big Sisters: 8 matches to 4 schools. Hygiene and clothing needs: We gathered over 600 personal hygiene packages and delivered over 350 to seven schools. We are a drop-off location for new and gently used school uniforms, shoes, coats and size 4T under clothes.

In addition to these immediate needs, the Foundation had a jam-packed year and here are some of the highlights:

We worked with SBEF as administrators of the scholarship accounts and awarded 148 scholarships to students across Baldwin County.

We put on three fundraisers with hundreds of volunteers and hours upon hours of tireless work beyond regular work days.

In January, as part of the Chamber's Annual Gala, this year's silent auction was the first text to bid we ever conducted. The event generated over \$8K. For 2016, Sherriff Huey Hoss Mack will return as our auctioneer for the live auction.

Our 7th annual BBQ & Blues in Heritage Park was the perfect March day. With 26 Sponsors, 20 cook teams, 39 retail vendors and 3 food vendors we raised \$28K! We are currently working with Riviera Utilities and the City of Foley to expand the hook-ups at the site to host 25 teams in 2016.

Because of our tremendous fundraising efforts and our partnership with the City of Foley, we were able to award 20 Student Teacher Grants equaling over \$29K.

Throughout the year, we traveled to Montgomery, Mobile, Fairhope, Bon Secour and Gulf Shores with 43 Junior Ambassadors. We learned about the environment, local and state government, communication, as well as what it means to be a leader and an engaged citizen. We met Governor Bentley, Senator Trip Pittman, Representative Joe Faust, Representative Steve McMillan, Commissioner Chris Elliott, City Administrator Mike Thompson as well as business and community leaders throughout the state. We volunteered at the STA-Bil Series Lawn Mower Race at the Foley Sports Tourism Complex, Foley Elementary's Trunk or Treat, The City of Foley's Uptown Halloween, Meyer Vacation Rentals Family Fun Day and the City of Foley's Christmas in the Park as part of the civic engagement requirement for the Junior Ambassadors.

We mentored 7 YEA! students, launched two new businesses, hosted the CEO round table, investor panel, a trade show and graduation with over ninety hours of instruction time.

At our first annual Night Glow Golf, we hosted 24 sponsors and 17 teams. Earning \$10K at this fundraiser, we have plans to expand it in 2016 to two courses and 36 teams! We had golfers wanting to sign up the day of the event and we had to turn them away as it was full.

Chamber Choices:

Project ACed (Aligning Civic Engagement with Education): Combined programs into one project and increased revenue by **18% in this category alone**. We also saw an increase in BBQ & Blues, Teacher Student Grants, and Night Glow Golf.

For 2016, the Chamber Foundation Board is working with the Chamber Board to align our vision with the schools and the community as we work with the City of Foley. We recognize that we are all better together and we are proud and humbled to be given the charge to enhance lives through programs and partnerships that enrich education, develop leadership and better our community.