



A Man's Legacy
Tellico Community Foundation
02-29-2024

It is amazing to understand the impact that one man can have in our area.

Joe and Maureen Beyel visited Tellico Village in 2013 and moved here in 2015. At that time, Joe did not know his journey was just beginning. While retirement living and golf were his vision, an idea that began to blossom has become a substantial legacy.

When Joe was asked how the concept of Tellico Community Foundation began, it was clear it started from his personal experiences and the opportunity to impact Tellico Village by assisting in the development of Our Place.



His work career centered on philanthropy, more specifically focused on medical research and patient care. He worked extensively (24 years) in academic medical centers and led teams on several occasions to raise millions for direct and basic care and medical research. Once retired and with his experience as a volunteer with the Tellico Village Fire Department, Joe recognized the needs facing local seniors. When he mentioned his desire to “do more” to John Fuchs (former Villager and New Villager President), John agreed to bring an ad hoc group together to study the potential for raising funds for various projects. Ultimately, they all agreed the best way forward was to create a charitable foundation. And thus began the Tellico Community Foundation (TCF).

The best decision the ad hoc group made was to become an affiliate fund of East Tennessee Foundation. A small group of ‘founding donor families’ contributed more than the \$10,000 needed to qualify with East Tennessee Foundation. ETF provided instant credibility in the community as well as financial stewardship to the fledgling fund. He specifically credits Trudy Hughes, ETF’s former VP of Philanthropy, for her early help and guidance. As Joe said: “partnering with ETF was a no brainer.” <https://easttennesseefoundation.org>

TCF’s first big opportunity to make an impact came when Vic Green, a former resident of Tellico Village and Commercial Real Estate Broker suggested a potential partnership to make “Our Place” a reality.

Green knew the developers of the existing Food Lion commercial buildings and discovered that they wanted to sell off the existing unused properties along 444. He convinced them to “donate” the property to TCF. While Our Place was not yet organized, East Tennessee Supporting Foundation, a separate arm of East Tennessee Foundation that deals in gifts of real estate, accepted the gift of 5 acres. When Our Place was ready, the Foundation donated one acre of land along with a challenge to raise \$200,000 toward the project. Our Place now provides a day program of care, social interaction, and therapeutic activities to senior adults living with Alzheimer’s and dementia, and TCF and East Tennessee Foundation were able to assist in its creation.

Joe faced a challenge when the TVPOA established “Timeless Tellico Foundation.” While a valuable resource for the TV recreational facilities, it has caused some confusion in the marketplace. Joe stressed, *“TCF’s focus is on Loudon and Monroe Counties specifically working with nonprofits that work on improving Childhood Development and Support of Seniors.”* He went on: *“Improving childhood nutrition and increasing the level of education is critical for our area and our country, supporting seniors is taking care of our own.”*

To date, through Joe’s vision as Chairperson, TCF has granted over \$300,000 to local organizations, while also maintaining an enduring Endowment Fund of over \$300,000. Truly TCF will be a lasting legacy. Joe’s goal is to have \$1 million dollars in the Endowment Fund, and his vision is to assist children and seniors forever. He believes that Americans are the most generous people in the world citing *“Americans gave over \$499 billion in 2022, to a multitude of causes that affect our lives. Sharing our wealth is an American tradition and a privilege.”* A sample of local nonprofit organizations impacted by TCF are: Good Samaritan Center, Boys & Girls Clubs (Ocoee Region and Loudon County), MACA, Good Shepherd Center, Madisonville Public Library, Adopt a Class, Loudon County Habitat for Humanity and Friends of the Tellico Village Library.

What is next for this man of vision and action? His first thoughts are to continue to serve on the TCF board and assist in the transition to Marsha Keiser as the new Tellico Community Foundation Chair. Beyond that, Joe has plans to *“take a breath”*, travel more extensively and has found the time to take two months during this winter to enjoy Florida’s sunshine.

Marsha shares that, “It is a pleasure and an honor to succeed Joe in the leadership of the Tellico Community Foundation. Joe’s leadership has provided TCF with the basis for a lasting legacy, and board members who are passionate local leaders committed to advancing Childhood Development and Support for seniors in Loudon and Monroe Counties”.

About Tellico Community Foundation

Since 2017, the Tellico Community Foundation has contributed approximately \$300,000 to nonprofits serving Loudon and Monroe Counties. Its mission is to enrich the Loudon and Monroe County communities by funding programs and projects that provide support for seniors and promote healthy childhood development. The Tellico Community Foundation is an affiliate fund of East Tennessee Foundation.

To learn more, donate or to become involved: www.tellicolife.org/tellico-community-foundation