

## TELLICO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOCUS AREAS

Seeking to meet unique and currently unmet needs in the community, the Tellico Community Foundation (TCF) has established four focus areas. The TCF's nine-member Advisory Board has determined the four areas will be its grantmaking emphasis for the next 2-3 years.

One area of attention will be Early Childhood Literacy and addressing the literacy needs of the surrounding Loudon and Monroe County communities, including both English and Spanish-speaking populations. Nearly two-thirds of Tennessee's 3rd grade public school children aren't proficient in reading and math. The TCF will explore opportunities to underwrite activities which will start to contribute to improve proficiencies in these disciplines.

The TCF's second area of focus is the Opioid Crisis. This epidemic of prescription painkillers or illegal drugs touches nearby communities as well as Tellico Village. More people die from drug overdoses than are killed in traffic accidents in Tennessee, and the number is growing. TCF efforts in this focus area will be on providing education as well as treatment and recovery support.

Support for Seniors is the third focus area. Aging populations are not only found in Tellico Village but throughout Loudon and Monroe Counties. While there are many excellent resources supporting senior needs, including StayinTV, the TCF will be targeting in-home private care services and transportation and mobility assistance needs in coordination with other senior support groups to achieve maximum impact.

The final of the four focus areas is Community Enrichment. The foundation will identify opportunities to channel support for funds targeted at community-focused projects either initiated by the TCF or others. This is the least developed of the four focus areas, but one believed to be important in fulfilling the foundation's mission.

Further information about the Tellico Community Foundation and its activities can be found at [www.etf.org/Tellico](http://www.etf.org/Tellico), on the organization's TellicoLife page, or in the new TCF brochure available at the Tellico Village Welcome Center.

In addition, a new Tellico Village Broadcasting series entitled "Foundation Matters" provides information and updates on the TCF, and the initial episode can be viewed on Spectrum Channel 193 or on the Web at <https://vimeo.com/287465712>

Donations to TCF can be made online at [www.etf.org/Tellico](http://www.etf.org/Tellico) or by contacting Trudy Hughes of the East Tennessee Foundation at [thughes@etf.org](mailto:thughes@etf.org) or at (877) 524-1223.

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