



The Lake Rabun Foundation

Lake Rabun Foundation Mission Statement

The Lake Rabun Foundation had its origin in 1987 in an attempt to establish Lake Rabun families as committed and caring neighbors in Rabun County. While this remains an objective today, the focus has evolved to the more important objectives of providing college scholarship assistance, promoting education and offering both financial and volunteer support for Rabun County charitable organizations.

As community partners, the Lake Rabun Foundation seeks to improve lives in Rabun County through the support of organizations involved in education, child welfare, food ministries, environmental programs and community development. Particular attention will be focused on programs which encourage long term efforts to develop people, promote self-sufficiency and improve the standard of living.

Looking Back and Moving Forward

In early 2011, Lake Rabun Association (LRA) officers, at the suggestion of Buz Stone, embarked on a program to reorganize and expand the Lake Rabun Foundation thus laying the groundwork for the next 25 years – and beyond.

Thanks to their foresight, the Foundation today has three very active committees, an engaged Board of Trustees, and, most important, the Foundation is in a position to contribute more funds each year to College Scholarships and Community Outreach. The guiding refrain, **“Lake Rabun Gives Back”** has never been more evident.

The primary mission of the Foundation is to provide financial assistance to bright, motivated Rabun County scholars. The Lake Rabun Scholarships have long been the most respected and highly valued of the local awards. With eight new scholarships each year, the Foundation will be committed to providing **\$64,000 each year** in scholarship assistance. In addition, funds are also available to assist Rabun County students attending North Georgia Technical College.

The Connection Program, linking LRA members with scholarship students, has enjoyed great success. There are numerous accounts of LRA families providing encouragement, guidance and support to our students, who, in many cases, are the first in their families to attend college. The students have the opportunity to get to know Lake Rabun residents as friends and mentors and the LRA as more than an entity which provides a check to their college.

The **Community Outreach** effort continues to respond to needs in Rabun County – and there are many. Members of this committee are involved in the community and can be found in meetings of the Community Partnership, the new Food Bank, and local church-sponsored programs. For the first time, the Foundation provided funds to assist the mentoring programs in the Primary, Elementary and Middle schools. The Foundation has also been responsive to LRA members who have highlighted charities or entities with particular needs. As good neighbors, the Foundation provides sponsorships for Rabun Little League and scholarships for Rabun County children attending 4-H Camp and Athens “Y” Camp on Lake Rabun. In all, the Foundation provides grants to more than 30 entities each year. While the financial impact may be modest, it certainly reflects favorably on Lake Rabun families as being involved neighbors.

For the past five years, the Foundation has achieved its goal of increasing the total funds allocated each year to scholarships and community outreach. At the same time, the Foundation has been able to gradually grow its assets in order to establish a solid, sustainable financial base. To meet these financial objectives, the Foundation has focused on growing the Annual Fund, established scholarship naming opportunities, and created **The 1915 Society** to recognize and encourage Planned Giving. These programs, along with popular community oriented events such as the Tour of Homes, Flea Market, Rabun Ramble, and Art Auction provide funding for

the work of the Foundation. In conjunction with the Centennial Anniversary of Lake Rabun, a keepsake Centennial book, outlining the history of the lake, was published and marketed to raise funds for the Foundation. So many LRA members contribute so much, in so many ways, to enable the work of the Foundation.

Looking ahead, the long term objective is to build the Foundation's asset base to generate meaningful returns with less reliance on funding from events. If that becomes a reality, there has been some thought of increasing the amount of the scholarships. Or, perhaps even better, more scholarships could be awarded. Each year the scholarship selection committee struggles with the selection process. They are excited about the students they select, but worry about the deserving candidates they were not able to help. The same is true with our community outreach efforts. What if more funds were available for food programs, childhood education, temporary housing or winter utility bills?

The Lake Rabun Foundation has done so much and looks forward to doing much more in the years to come.

Steve Raeber

Lake Rabun Gives Back

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Several of the part-time and full-time Lake Rabun residents have assumed positions of responsibility in Rabun County, and the Lake Rabun Association has distinguished itself with its level of giving back by way of scholarships and other awards.

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The Clayton Tribune, May 14, 2015



Aime Pfeiffer



Aime Pfeiffer



Aime Pfeiffer

The Lake Rabun Foundation Scholarship Program Thrives!

We began small – in 1987 one student received a \$1,000 scholarship for four years. Since then, the Foundation has assisted over 125 students from Rabun County with multi-year college scholarships to 39 different colleges and universities.

How have we changed?

The scholarships are now \$8,000 scholarships – \$2,000 a year for four years. In total, we now have approximately thirty Rabun County students receiving our scholarships each year.

In 2012, scholarships were added for students attending North Georgia Technical College. Many students opt for this direction to prepare for a technical career or to complete their first two years of college. If a Rabun County student at NGTC receives financial aid from the Foundation and goes on to a four year college, that student may interview with us for scholarship assistance towards earning a Bachelor's Degree.

Several years ago, the Scholarship Committee of the Foundation established the Connection Program. The purpose of the Connection Program is to link an LRA family to one of our outstanding scholarship recipients. As a Connection family you are the “face behind the financial gift,” introducing your student to our lake community. A community that is proud to be a small part of their academic journey.

The Lake Rabun Foundation scholarships are *very* respected in Rabun County. On Awards Night at Rabun County High School, our scholarships are for the largest amount and for a full four years – not just one year. Parents of previous winners have told us that the Foundation scholarships change lives. LRA members who have asked for donations from businesses in Rabun County and mentioned that the money will go to the Lake Rabun Foundation often hear stories about a student who has received one of our scholarships. The community is aware and appreciates what we are doing.

The Foundation Scholarship program is thriving. Do we hit speed bumps along the way? You bet! But we are working with children who face real world problems and roadblocks. We can't go to school for them, study for them, or take their tests, but we can support them while they are putting forth the effort to get an education. As long as they are trying, we are there!



K.A. Hamby-Swink

Community Outreach Expands

The Foundation's focus has evolved to not only providing college scholarship assistance, but offering both financial and volunteer support for Rabun charitable and civic organizations. As community partners, the Foundation seeks to improve lives in Rabun County with support of organizations involved in education, child welfare, food ministries and community development.

Community recipients receiving support include: *social services grants* to FAITH (Fight Abuse in the Home), Athens Y Camp (scholarships for children), Rabun Christian Food Ministry, Food-2-Kids, and the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia; an *arts grant* to the Hambidge Center and the North Georgia Community Players; *education grants* to the Creative Learning Center, Ferst Foundation, Piedmont College, the Friends of the Library, Rabun Elementary School, Rabun County Middle School, Rabun County Primary School and Rabun County 4-H; a *civic grant* to the Rabun County Little League and Rabun County Search & Rescue; and *community assistance grants* to Clayton Baptist Church, Clayton First United Methodist Church, Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church, Wiley Presbyterian Church, St. Helena Catholic Church and Tiger United Methodist Church.

Community development grants were made to Habitat for Humanity of Rabun, the Chattooga Conservancy, Northeast Georgia CASA, Sustainable Mountain Living, Rabun Rhapsody Inc., Rabun County Athletic Boosters, Community Partnership of Rabun, Paws 4 Life, Richard's Kids Inc., Rabun County Sheriff's Office, Community Pantry Inc., Foxfire Fund Inc. and Rabun United Christmas Fund.

In addition to the financial support given to the Rabun County community, there are numerous LRA members who freely give their time to various boards and non-profits in the county, thus showing that the Lake Rabun families are committed and caring neighbors.

Lake Rabun Foundation 1915 Society

The 1915 Society, named for the year Lake Rabun was created, was established in 2015 to recognize those LRA members who are helping ensure the good works of the Lake Rabun Foundation by including a planned gift to the Foundation as part of their estate planning.

These members are leaving a legacy that will help the Foundation continue its mission of providing scholarship assistance and supporting the Rabun County community for years to come.

THANK YOU to these LRA members who have included the Lake Rabun Foundation to their estate plans:

Mr. & Mrs. John G. Alston

Rick & Lyn Asbill

Juanita Cofer

Lisa & Ron Hinson

Lisa & George Longino

Carol & Steve Raeber

Buz & Mary Cobb Stone

Jackie & David Tatum

Douglas G. Whitney, M.D.

Stantley & Ann Williams

For information or to add your name to the 1915 Society please contact:

Ron Hinson RonHinson@bellsouth.net

Lisa Longino LisaLongino@gmail.com

Lake Rabun Foundation Annual Fund

One goal of the Lake Rabun Foundation has been to grow the Annual Fund and make it the cornerstone of our fundraising efforts. By doing so, we hope to rely less on fundraising events such as the Flea Market, Tour of Homes, Rabun Ramble, and Art Auction. Hopefully, these can continue to be FUN events which bring LRA friends together for a good cause.

Our Annual Fund has grown for each of the past five years. Many LRA members contributed for the first time and several have generously increased their gifts to the Foundation. Still, it is somewhat disappointing that only a quarter of our members support this effort, which is such an integral part of the LRA and our lake community.

Please join your neighbors on the lake with a contribution to the Foundation. An envelope is included for your convenience. THANKS!

Lake Rabun Foundation Named Scholarships

Thanks to the LRA Members who have established Scholarship Funds to provide assistance to outstanding students from Rabun County in their pursuit of a college education:

Christina Freeman Scholarship in memory of Herta Schartle
Rich and Angela Clay Scholarship
Greg and Laura Rhodes Scholarship
Dwight and Mary Shannon Scott Scholarship

For information about establishing a scholarship fund contact:

Steve Raeber
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404-252-6865
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The Buz Stone “Lake Rabun Cares” Award



This award was created in 2012 to honor Buz Stone for his twenty-five year leadership of the Lake Rabun Foundation. Each year it is presented to a Lake Rabun Association member who “reflects the spirit of Buz Stone and the goodwill of the Association in serving the welfare of Rabun County.” A \$2,500 foundation grant in honor of the recipient is made to a Rabun County charitable organization selected by the recipient. Past recipients include: Buz Stone, David and Barbara Cantrell, Charles and Jacqueline Groover, and Dorothy Ann King.

Lake Rabun Foundation Board of Trustees

Rick Asbill, Chairman

Pat Clay

Dan Dunwody, Chairman LRA Trustees

Dick Newkirk

Anita Pittman

Larry Prince

Greg Rhodes

Leckie Stack

Bob Voyles

Thad Warren

Lake Rabun Foundation Officers and Committees

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COMMITTEES

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Chris Clay

Dianne Harrison

Hollis Heeney

Dorothy Ann King

Planned Giving

Ron Hinson - Co-Chair

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Anne Pledger - Chair

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Nan Troutman - Connections Program

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Lake Rabun Foundation

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