

**2017**

**Friends For Life Foundation, Inc.  
Annual Report**



Post Office Box 2632  
Roswell, GA 30077

[www.friendsforlifega.org](http://www.friendsforlifega.org)

# Friends For Life Foundation, Inc.



## 2017 Annual Report

### Vision

To be the premier foundation that organizations seek to **support** and **partner with financially** to enrich the lives of disadvantaged youth and adults in the greater Atlanta area.

### Mission

To support quality of life improvements for the disadvantaged by **assisting** individuals and organizations in our community to enhance **education**, the **family**, **health**, **economic empowerment** and the **arts**.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charmagne Helton,  
Chief Executive Officer

Sondra A. Anderson,  
President

Vanessa J. Payne,  
Vice President

Shellon Blanchard-Clarke,  
Secretary

Constance Cromartie,  
Financial Secretary

Zelphia Hawkins,  
Treasurer

Marvis Butler, Director

Candace Cabbil, Director

Nathalie Fleming, Director

Patria Mitchell, Director

Natasha Ptomey, Director

Kim Slaughter, Director

## Message from the President



Friends For Life Foundation, Inc. (FFL) is committed to serving the disadvantaged in our community. We do this in several ways, through our Pearl Grant Initiative Awards, donations and scholarships. Through the generosity of our donors and their commitment to our mission, this year FFL was able to provide more resources and financial support to the underserved.

The Board of Directors and Committees continue to work diligently to foster activities that are aligned with our mission. We set our sights on two major goals: revising the bylaws and fundraising. The updated bylaws allowed the Foundation to govern efficiently. With successful fundraisers, the Foundation finances continue to increase and the Foundation's operational costs were met.

2017 was successful due to our many accomplishments and growth in assets. Because of successful fundraisers and continuous growth, the Foundation was able to increase the grant awards amounts. In the future, look for the Foundation to make bigger and better contributions to our community.

The Foundation also received a matching fund in the amount of \$300.00 from an anonymous donor. A carry over fundraising amount for the December 2016 Dillard's Event raised \$1,258.11 was received in 2017.

FFL launched a new website in June. Now members, visitors and sponsors can visit the site to stay informed about FFL activities, fundraisers and governance documents. A future technology goal is to increase the number of members on the technology committee to manage the numerous updates to the website.

To commence the work of the Foundation, Friends For Life had seven Board meetings via conference calls, two face to face meetings, and two special call Board meetings. Four quarterly General Body meetings and two special call General Body meetings.

# FFL Committees

## Audit

*Brenda Gardner*

## Finance Committee

*Zelphia Hawkins, Chairman*

*Constance Cromartie*

## Fundraising

*Tangela Simmons, Chairman*

*Tracey Underwood*

## Governance

*Vanessa J. Payne, Chairman*

*Vera Atkinson*

*Candace Cabbil*

*Brenda Gardner*

*Fredericka McDuffie*

*Rosalyn Nolen*

*Dr. Judy Thomas*

## Grants Fund Development

*Dr. Judy Thomas, Chairman*

*Mary Ann Rosemond,  
Co-Chairman*

*Nathalie Fleming*

*Dr. Naderia Wade*

*Kea Westmoreland*

Moreover, The Foundation increased the number of volunteers participating on committees. Committee work is distributed among members, making it less of a burden for the committee chairman.

The bonding insurance and professional liability insurance were paid prior to the November 30, 2017 expiration date. The Georgia solicitation license and the Georgia Annual Registration were also renewed in the spring of 2017. The 2017 Compliance Report was submitted to Alpha Kappa Alpha International Office in December.

Communication and transparency are essential to the success of any organization. To keep FFL Board and General Members informed, information is shared via weekly announcements, emails, the printed FFL Calendar in Phi Phi Omega's Directory and minutes. To learn more about how the Foundation operates, members are invited to attend the annual Board Training and Mid-Year Planning Session.

We are proud of our accomplishments this year and will strive to continue to make a difference in the community in 2018. Thank you for your support.

*Sondra A. Anderson,*  
President

## OUR EVENTS

**Heart of Giving:** The Heart of Giving is Annual Luncheon held in partnership with Phi Phi Omega to recognize nonprofits and attended by 155 people. At the luncheon, FFL awarded Twenty-five thousand dollars to ten nonprofit organizations and four organizations a donation. Twenty-five thousand dollars was awarded at the event. The 2017 Servant of the Heart recipient was Jasper Tanner. He was recognized for his volunteer work in the community.



*Mr. Tanner accepting the  
Heart of Giving Servant of  
the Heart Award*

**Cotillion:** The Alpha Pearls Strands of Elegance Cotillion is a signature scholarship fundraising event sponsored biennially by Friends for Life Foundation, Inc. in partnership with Phi Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. The 2017/2018 Alpha Pearl Strands of Elegance Cotillion Program kicked off its program with an orientation held on August 12, 2017. The program will culminate with a cotillion ball on March 10, 2018. In months leading up to the ball, the debutantes will participate in inspiring activities.



*Vanessa Payne, Co-Chair (L), Rosalyn Taylor, Chairman (C),  
and Kenitra Williams, Co-Chair (R) at the Mother/Daughter  
Tea for the Debutantes*

(Committees Continued)

**Nominating**

Nathalie Fleming, Chairman

Carole Henley

Henrietta Snow

**Marketing & Public Relations**

Phyllis Finley, Chairman

Zakkiyah Jeter

Antoinette Johnson

**Program & Services**

Kim Slaughter, Chairman

Phyllis Finley

**Scholarships & Awards**

Lena Pigrom, Co-Chairman

Henrietta Snow, Co-Chairman

**Strategic Plan Implementation**

Vanessa Henley, Chairman

**Technology**

Natasha Ptomey, Chairman

**Tellers**

Elaine Thomas, Head Teller

Lavada Boggs

Erika Eberhardt

Rose Darden

Carolyn McGuirt

Angela Merlette

Rosalyn Harrison Nolen

Susie Rhodes

Wanda Tanner

Denise Tennessee

**AWARDS, DONATIONS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Grant Awards: Pearl Investment Initiative Grant Recipients**

Community Teen Coalition	\$2,000.00
Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children	\$2,000.00
Every Woman Works	\$2,000.00
Home Stretch Housing Initiative of North Fulton	\$2,000.00
Mary Hall Freedom House	\$2,000.00
Neighborhoods Focused on African American Youths	\$2,000.00
North Fulton Community Charities	\$2,000.00
Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV)	\$2,000.00
The Drake House	\$2,000.00
Zion Missionary Baptist Church	\$2,500.00
Phi Phi Omega Chapter Community Programs	\$7,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,500.00</b>

**Donations:**

East Roswell Library	\$250.00
Milton Library	\$500.00
Roswell Library	\$250.00
United Negro College Fund	\$2,500.00
Servant of the Heart Recipient (Charity of Choice)	\$500.00
Stand Up for Kids	\$500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,500.00</b>

**Scholarship: Aricka Amos Burrell**

The Aricka Amos Burrell Scholarship is a scholarship that is managed by Friends For Life Foundation and was established in honor of the niece of Kathy Lamar, a member of the Foundation.

The 2017 recipient of the Aricka Amos Burrell Scholarship was Ms. Qhira Bonds. Qhira received \$1,000.00 in scholarship awards and attends the University of South Carolina.

**Cotillion Scholarship Disbursements:**

Friends For Life Scholarship and Awards chaired by Lena Pigrom and Henrietta Snow developed and published a process to disburse scholarships. This process was shared with members at FFL Mid-Year Planning Session.

The Foundation awarded \$20,139.60 in scholarships to former cotillion participants.



FFL special guests at the Heart of Giving



FFL Fall Fundraiser at a Wine Tasting at VINO 100 on Main Street in Alpharetta



FFL supporters gathered around the design bar at the "Kendra Scott Gives Back" fundraiser.

## OUR FUNDRAISERS

**Top Golf Fundraiser:** This event was held in partnership with Phi Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. on June 3, 2017 at Top Golf in Alpharetta, GA. Vanessa Henley was instrumental in securing donated items for the auction in which Friends For Life Foundation benefited by raising \$4,958.40. Auctioning two Bentleys for a weekend was the highlight of the event. The Auctioneers were television personalities Karyn Greer and Chesley McNeil, and Friends For Life Foundation members were responsible for the auction process.

**Fall Fundraiser:** The 2017 Fall Fundraiser was a wine tasting held at VINO 100 on South Main Street in Alpharetta on October 21<sup>st</sup>. This event was led by Tracey Underwood under direction of Tangela Simmons. This social event was attended by approximately 40 people and raised \$451.00.

**Vice President's Appeal:** The Vice President's Appeal was held at the Heart of Giving on November 11th. Vice President Vanessa Payne presented an appeal that raised \$1,646.00.

**Kendra Scott Jewelry:** 'Kendra Scott Gives Back' fundraising event was held at the Kendra Scott Store at the Avalon on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Family, friends and the community were invited to purchase jewelry, and The Foundation received 20% on the sales. Tangela Simmons led this effort and designed a signature jewelry piece for members of the Foundation. This great social event raised \$1,017.29.

**California Pizza Kitchen:** Foundation members invited family and friends to eat lunch and dinner and a portion of the proceeds benefited FFL. This event raised \$200.00 and was led by the Fundraising Chairman Tangela Simmons.

**Amazon Smile:** Friends For Life enrolled in this unique shopping program during the summer of 2017. This is an ongoing giving program that will benefit the Foundation's operation income. FFL members were asked to remind family and friends to go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and select Friends For Life as the charity of choice for donations (Share directions below). The residual income from this program will help sustain our operation expenses.

- ✓ On your first visit to AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), enter Friends for Life Foundation in the search box.
- ✓ Select Friends for Life Foundation, Inc. Roswell, GA from the search results to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

**Online Giving:** Because of FFL new website, The Foundation began to receive donations electronically.

## From Our Grant Recipients ...

*Your organization has been such a loyal supporter throughout the years. We appreciate all the hard work that goes into your fundraising efforts. The money that was donated was used to provide scholarship assistance for Ashley, a 33-year-old veteran suffering from PTSD.*

### **Every Woman Works**

*Many, many thanks to you for your ongoing commitment to service to all mankind. Thank you for continuing to support organizations large and small, who impact our community daily.*

### **Community Teen Coalition**

*Please be assured that the commitment you have made to education through UNCF will help deserving young people to achieve their goal of a college education. Moreover, your dollars increase their likelihood of success as it helps alleviate concern regarding finances for college.*

### **United Negro College Fund, Inc.**

*We truly appreciate the Friends For Life Foundation's commitment to a brighter and more secure future for our children.*

**CASA**

## OUR ACTIVITIES

**Board Orientation** – Board orientation was held April 27<sup>th</sup> at Zion Missionary Baptist Church. Roles for the CEO, President, Board of Directors and members were discussed. The three legal responsibilities of the board: Duty of Care, Duty of Loyalty, and Duty of Obedience. The financial procedures for members to follow were presented by the Treasurer Zelfhia Hawkins. The responsibilities of a 501(c) (3) according to the IRS were also presented.

**Mid-Year Planning** – The planning session was facilitated by FFL immediate past president Anita Helton. The CEO Charmagne Helton presented an overview of the planning session, Lena Pigrom and Henrietta Snow presented the scholarship process, followed by break out groups for planning fundraisers. The main focus of the session was to develop a fundraising plan led by Tangela Simmons. Mid-year planning is a time for all members to participate in planning Foundation activities. Please plan to attend the mid-year planning session in June 2018.

## OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The new bylaws were adopted by the general body on June 2017. This was a year-long effort by the Bylaw Committee led by Vanessa Payne. Some of the problematic concerns addressed in FFL Strategic Plan have been resolved. Revision of the bylaws due to the conflicts, nominating committee is now elected instead of appointed; the inconsistencies in term limits, appointments and officer duties have all been addressed.
- Many of the Strategic Plan goals have been met. A few include increase revenue for general fund, election of an assistant treasurer, increase the number of experts working on the Foundation, the use of a committee structure to achieve goals, and a website for donations and marketing.
- Fundraisers generated enough revenue to cover operating costs. Also, the finance committee implemented and documented financial procedures to be used by financial officers.
- Friends For Life new Website. <http://friendsforlifega.org> was launched in June. This effort was led by Technology Chairman Natasha Ptomey.
- The president implemented a committee structure that achieves FFL goals and recruited members with expertise to participate on committees.
- The Fundraising Committee developed a fundraising plan to help drive FFL fundraising. The committee exceeded the strategic plan 2017 goal of raising \$2,200.00 for the community fund. The goal for the General Fund (Operations) was \$6,000.00. The committee raised a total of \$8,572.69.



# Looking Forward

## Partner Organizations



**Community Teen Coalition, Inc.**  
Bringing Teens and Communities Together  
Through a Collective Partnership



**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN  
GEORGIA



**every woman works**  
moving women from  
dependency to self-sufficiency

**HomeStretch™**  
temporary housing • permanent solutions

**Mary Hall®**  
freedom house  
HOPE • LOVE • MIRACLE



**NEIGHBORHOODS FOCUSED ON  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN YOUTH INC.**



**NFCC**  
North Fulton  
Community Charities



**PADV**  
Partnership Against Domestic Violence

**The DrakeHouse™**  
Bridging Hope and Opportunity

**LION**  
A place of refuge from the storms of life  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

FFL plans to implement a community program specific to FFL to benefit and serve disadvantaged high school students. In 2017, Kim Slaughter and Phyllis Finley presented ideas for a *Career Readiness Program* for consideration by the Foundation.



The Standing Rules will need to be revised to align with our newly revised bylaws. This effort will be led by Attorney Marcee Campbell.



Rosalyn Harrison Nolen will take the lead with the development of a Friends For Life Policies and Procedures Handbook. The handbook will serve as a resource for officers, board members, and committees.



The Board voted to purchase technology to enhance FFL operations. Two iPads will be purchased to use with card readers to collect money remotely, especially donations. Another piece of technology for purchase is a projector to use for community projects and programs.



In 2018, the Foundation will have an external audit as documented in FFL Bylaws.



The Grants Fund Development Committee chaired by Dr. Judy Thomas will apply for grants to support FFL signature program. Therefore, this committee is seeking grant writers to join the committee. FFL will also increase the grant awards and donation amount to \$30,000.00 in 2018.



FFL has plans to continue with a vigorous fundraising effort to increase our revenue for operations 2018.



The Marketing and Publicity Committee chaired by Phyllis Finley will publish quarterly newsletters and utilize a donor database to inform donors of Friends For Life events.

