

AN INVITATION TO CARE

By Joanna Lyall, President, Clemmons Community Foundation

What do you call a group of determined, energetic, thoughtful, hard-working women? Dynamic. More formally, this new group is called Women Who Care, part of the Clemmons Community Foundation.

For over ten years, the Clemmons Community Foundation has been serving the community through its sponsorships. Beneficiaries of the sponsorship funds are the YMCA, the Clemmons Rotary, Cancer Services, the Clemmons Food Pantry and many others. A well-kept secret, the Clemmons Community Foundation was not familiar to me when I was asked to serve on the Board of Directors in 2012.



Photos by The Portrait Gallery

Core Advisory Team:

L to R front: Jill Atherton, Haley Owens, Lily McLean, Joyce Walker
 L to R Back: Amy Gardner, Teresa Lindsay, Edie Bergman, Valene Franco, Laura Grimes, Joanna Lyall, Kirsten Russ, Jody Peske, Cathy Valistakis, Terry Jeanes, Alison Ash-Card, Claudia Page
 Middle Row: Robin Bralley, Gail Pritchard, Mary Cameron

I soon came to understand the impact the Clemmons Community Foundation had on others, and the group's eagerness to get out and serve the community. At one of our board meetings, we were exploring ideas to get the word out about the Foundation. My response—involve the women in our community. And that was only the beginning. With many gentle nudges and lots of encouragement from the then Foundation President, Frank Samuelson, we began testing the waters to see if women in our area (Clemmons, Lewisville, etc.) would be interested in starting a group. We were pleasantly surprised when we had an introductory meeting December 2013. Frank has described this group as "dynamic women"—and he is exactly right.

In addition to the support of the Clemmons Community Foundation, we were fortunate to have the support of former Clemmons Mayor John Bost. Bost made a donation to our group to get us started. Bost commented, "One of the highlights of my six years as Mayor of Clemmons has been the good fortune to work alongside many servant leaders. When I heard a group of like-minded women were coming together to further the future of the Village, it was a given that I should invest in some way."

Over the past year, this group of ladies has joined me in the mission to start a group. We wrote our operating guidelines, elected officers and established a dues structure. Our initial focus is on single mothers.



Bost Presents Check for Women Who Care

L to R: Frank Samuelson, past President Clemmons Community Foundation and co-founder, Women Who Care; Joanna Lyall, President, Clemmons Community Foundation and co-founder, Women Who Care; John Bost, Former Clemmons Mayor; Jody Peske, President, Women Who Care.

Our mission statement is: Women Who Care promotes social change by harnessing the collective power of women working together to grow philanthropy and distribute grants that expand opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls.

Newly elected Women Who Care President, Jody Peske, is the right person to take this idea and run. "I am so very excited about the energy in this group of accomplished and creative women. The dynamics come from a diverse group of professions and backgrounds.

With this diversity, we hope to be a resource of information, support and mentorship to women facing challenges in our communities. We want to build women up to realize their goals and dreams, regardless of their current circumstance," states Peske.

Women Who Care will host an event for women interested in becoming part of the service to the community on Thursday, January 22nd, at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Inn Event Center's Crystal Ballroom. Anyone interested in attending the event must RSVP by Monday, January 20th, to womenwhocareccf@gmail.com.

Interested donors can contribute to the Clemmons Community Foundation and Women Who Care in a tax-deductible way through both donor-designated and general donations. The CCF is funded entirely through private donations, which can be made via the CCF website at www.clemmonscommunityfoundation.org.

We invite you to **CARE** and to **MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

January 22, 2015
6:30 - 8 PM

The Village Inn Event Center
Crystal Ballroom
(6205 Ramada Dr, Clemmons)

Please RSVP by
January 20th at
WomenWhoCareCCF@gmail.com

*Sponsored by Women Who Care,
part of the
Clemmons Community Foundation*

*We are a newly-formed, philanthropic,
grant-oriented women's organization.
Our initial focus is to assist
single mother's in our area.
Please make plans to join us
and learn more about our organization.*

