



November News and Updates

CREATE 50th Anniversary Gala 2022

The CREATE Foundation held its 50th Anniversary Gala on November 4th at the Cadence Conference Center. This celebratory event included the presentation of the McLean Award for Philanthropy and the James Hugh Ray Community Affiliate Award.

The CREATE team is proud to recognize the efforts of leaders and organizations in our area that epitomize a spirit of giving back to Northeast Mississippi. In recognition of the milestone 50th anniversary year, the McLean Award for Philanthropy was presented to four deserving recipients - **Elizabeth "Betsy" Brown, Larry and Judy Kirk, Jack and Lisa Reed, and Heywood and Sue Washburn**. A fifth award will be presented at a future time.

Union County / New Albany Initiative to Excel (UNITE) received the James Hugh Ray Award presented annually to one of CREATE's 15 affiliates.

To read about the awards, you can access the following:

[CREATE Foundation Names McLean Award, James Hugh Ray Award Winners](#)

[CREATE Foundation celebrates 50 years with gala, names annual award winners](#)

[UNION County UNITE Foundation wins CREATE Foundation's James Hugh Ray Award](#)

McLean Award for Philanthropy Recipients 2022



The McLean Award for Philanthropy was established to honor those individuals, families, and organizations that exemplify CREATE Founders George and Anna Keirsey McLean's spirit of charitable giving. It recognizes the extraordinary leadership of people working to improve the quality of life in their communities and in the northeast Mississippi region.

McLean Award for Philanthropy Recipient Elizabeth "Betsy" Brown



The first McLean Award for Philanthropy recipient is Elizabeth "Betsy" Brown. Betsy Brown of Tupelo has a passion for helping people and animals as well as supporting the

arts. A few of the charities benefitting from her generosity include:

- Autism Center of North Mississippi
- Cedarhill Animal Sanctuary
- CREATE Foundation
- Excel by 5 Lee County
- Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life
- Gumtree Museum of Art
- North Mississippi Symphony Orchestra
- Sanctuary Hospice House
- Tupelo Lee Human Society
- United Way of Northeast Mississippi

McLean Award for Philanthropy Recipient Larry and Judy Kirk



The second McLean Award for Philanthropy recipients are Larry and Judy Kirk. The Kirk's are longtime residents of Tupelo and now make their home in Oxford. They have a special love for helping children and have a long history of supporting organizations throughout northeast Mississippi and beyond. Some of their favorite organizations include the following:

- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- Blue Mountain College
- CREATE Foundation
- Itawamba Community College
- P. A. R. K.
- Sanctuary Hospice House
- The Orchard
- West Union Endowment for Public Education, Inc.

McLean Award for Philanthropy Recipient Jack and Lisa Reed



The third McLean Award for Philanthropy recipients are Jack and Lisa Reed. Jack and Lisa were both raised by families who felt a deep responsibility to give back to the community. They have built on that tradition both in business and personally to make a difference in the lives of others. Just a few of the organizations important to the Reeds include:

- Antone Tannehill Good Samaritan Health Services
- Association for Excellence in Education
- BALM – Because All Lives Matter
- Boys and Girls Club of North Mississippi
- Chickasaw Inkana Foundation
- CREATE Foundation
- First United Methodist Church
- Friends of the Lee County Library
- Mississippi Methodist Senior Services
- Regional Rehab Center
- Salvation Army of Tupelo
- The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
- United Way of Northeast Mississippi

McLean Award for Philanthropy Recipient
Heywood and Sue Washburn



The fourth McLean Award for Philanthropy recipients are Heywood and Sue Washburn. Pictured with the winners is CREATE Foundation Chairman Lisa Hawkins. The Washburns are known in Tupelo for their giving spirit especially for spreading the Gospel of Christ and helping those in need. Some of their longtime support has been to the following organizations:

- Antone Tannehill Good Samaritan Health Services
- Blue Mountain College
- Boy Scouts of America
- Calvary Baptist Church
- CREATE Foundation
- Eight Days of Hope
- International Mission Board
- Salvation Army of Tupelo
- Sanctuary Hospice House
- Tupelo Children's Mansion

James Hugh Ray Award Winner: Union County / New Albany Initiative to Excel (UNITE)

This award was established from a \$60,000 endowment, funded by the Journal and other friends of Mr. Ray following his death. Given his life's work in Northeast Mississippi, we determined this award would be a fitting way to memorialize his many contributions to our region and to the CREATE Foundation. The award is presented annually to a deserving community affiliate.

This year's award goes to Union County / New Albany Initiative to Excel (UNITE). UNITE was founded in 2000 with the intention of supporting civic, educational, health, human service, and cultural initiatives in Union County. Since 2003, UNITE has funded 282 grants to 44 organizations and projects totaling \$451,750 back into Northeast Mississippi. UNITE projects include, but are not limited to, Boys & Girls Club of North Mississippi, First Choice of Union County, New Albany High School, New Albany Main Street Association, New Haven School, Pilot Club of New Albany, Tallahatchie Riverfest, Union County Development Association, Union County Good Samaritan Center, Union County Heritage Museum, Union County Library, Union County Literacy Council, Union



Pictured (L to R): Carol Riddell, Mike Kirk, Cathy Garrett, and Bo Collins.



The Memphis Soul Revue band plays at the 50th Anniversary Gala.

NEMYF Retreat

The Northeast Mississippi Youth Foundation (NEMYF) Board of Directors had their annual retreat on Sun., Oct. 23 where they shared a meal, learned about their own leadership, and elected the 22-23SY officers. Check out the smiling faces of the full cohort, and congratulations to the newly elected officers!



22-23SY NEMYF Officers

Chair – CJ Shirley, West Union Attendance Center, Union

Assistant Chair – Whit Everitt, Ingomar Attendance Center, Union

Treasurer – Vishnu Gadepalli, Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, Lowndes

Assistant Treasurer – Sydney Barber, Tupelo High School, Lee

Secretary – Alea Hudson, New Albany High School, Union

Assistant Secretary – Marissa Kidd, Columbus High School, Lowndes

Historian – Kortlyn Wells, Shannon High School, Lee

Assistant Historian – Alexandria Robertson, West Union Attendance Center, Union



Beneficiary Designations

Did you know that you can make the CREATE Foundation a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account? Donating part or all of your unused retirement assets, such as your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), pension or other tax-deferred plan, is an excellent way to make a gift to support your favorite cause or organization. You could also use this gift to create an endowed fund or scholarship! Beneficiary gifts are easy to make and can help you avoid potential estate taxes.

If you have interest in making a beneficiary gift contact PK Thomas at 662-844-8989 or pk@createfoundation.com.

HOW IT WORKS: CHARITABLE BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

Donor



Complete a simple beneficiary designation form at your financial institution.

Financial Account



- IRA/Insurance Policy
- 401k
- Investment Accounts

Your Gift



After your lifetime, your account will transfer here to power our mission.



An annual accounting for my records and to be a part of the greater good that CREATE generates.

Jack Reed, Jr.

OUR MISSION

The mission of CREATE Foundation is to encourage philanthropy and provide leadership to impact regional issues.

