



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
of ABILENE

# IMPACT REPORT

SUMMER | 2022



Family photo featuring Gayle, David, and Brandon Carr

## Fund Honors Parents' Love of Symphony Music

Brandon Carr and Christine Curtis-Carr have created a beautiful way to honor Brandon's parents and their love of live symphony music. In 2021, the Carrs established the David and Gayle Carr Memorial Musicians Fund, a designated fund to support the Abilene Philharmonic Association's ability to compensate musicians.

"Growing up, my parents and I would wear our best outfits every Christmas, attend a fancy dinner, and then step out to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. My parents loved going to the symphony and experiencing live music, and I got to go with them every holiday too. It was our Christmas tradition," Brandon stated.

After both of Brandon's parents passed, he and Christine decided to establish a designated fund with the Community Foundation of Abilene in their memory.

"As a member of the APO, I know how hard the musicians work and how sometimes they are the last to get paid. I thought there was no better way to honor my parents' lives and the life we all shared than to start a fund to help musicians in our own Abilene Philharmonic."

The designated fund now makes grants each year to the Abilene Philharmonic, creating a sustainable revenue source to support musicians.

"A day doesn't go by that I don't miss or think about them. But this fund is my way of carrying on their legacy; it is as if they still live on, in their way. It brings me comfort, and I know it is helping others in a way they would both appreciate, love, and make proud."

Brandon and Christine with nieces at an Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra performance



See the Carrs' full guest blog post on our website.

[cfabilene.org/blog](https://cfabilene.org/blog)



# Grant Funds Home Modifications for Disabled Vet

Harry Reynolds is a U.S. Air Force retiree and an avid Dallas Cowboys fan.

"I started in the '90s. I hopped on the bandwagon. They won all the Super Bowls in the '90s, and I just kind of stayed with them," Harry said. "I'm just hoping for the good ole days again, but who knows."

When a medical condition led Harry to have his foot amputated last August, he quickly realized his home needed modifications.

"The first night I was out of the rehab, I fell on the floor and had to call on the fire department to help me up. It was kind of embarrassing."

That's where a CFA discretionary grant to the West Texas Veteran Support Services made a difference. WTVSS is a nonprofit organization serving military veterans with unmet needs, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The organization used grant funding to install new grab bars in Harry's hallway and bathroom, and they added a new storm door to his entryway.

Founder/Executive Director Gordon Gloria explains how rewarding it is to serve people like Harry. "It's great being able to see the reaction after the repairs are done. Some of them, you would think they had won the lottery, because they're so grateful and so happy for the repairs."

Harry, too, expressed his deep gratitude. Now he can spend less time being concerned for his own safety and more time on memories of his all-time favorite Cowboys.

"Definitely Emmitt Smith, Troy Aikmen, Michael Irving. Definitely the triplets."

See the video story at [cfabilene.org/wtvss](https://cfabilene.org/wtvss).



## Grants Over the Past Year

**\$18.5M** Total grants made from all CFA fund types.

**\$960.1K** Total grants made during competitive, unrestricted grant cycles.

**537** Number of nonprofits to receive grants from all fund types.



See all grantees from fiscal year 2022 competitive grant cycles here!

# Disaster Relief

When disaster strikes, our local communities consistently respond to help their neighbors. We saw this responsiveness and generosity on full display when wildfires devastated portions of the Big Country region in March (Eastland Complex fires in Eastland County and neighboring counties) and May (Mesquite Heat fire in View, TX).

CFA has been managing fire relief funds to serve victims and fire departments. We are honored to serve as the region's trusted source to quickly and effectively collect and distribute donations when an unplanned event causes widespread destruction.



Volunteer fire crews taking a needed break during the Mesquite Heat fire

## HOW FUNDS ARE DISTRIBUTED

Grants from these funds only go to nonprofit organizations and volunteer fire departments. IRS rules restrict community foundations from making grants to individual people. In the case of the Eastland Complex and Mesquite Heat fires, the United Rescue Alliance has been the agency managing emergency response in the field. CFA has made grants to URA, and their crews are disseminating funds to victims according to their assessed needs.

## GRANTS MADE SO FAR

Below you can see how much has been raised and granted from each fund so far. The first grants were issued within days of each fire to serve immediate, essential needs for both victims and VFDs. Since then, other grants have supported more complex, long-term rebuilding needs. All remaining funds will be granted out this year to help with these bigger recovery projects.

<b>\$1.3M</b>	<b>Total raised for all fire relief (March and May fires)</b>
<b>\$530.2K</b>	<b>Total raised for Mesquite Heat</b>
<b>\$293K</b>	<b>Total granted for Mesquite Heat</b>
<b>\$523.6K</b>	<b>Total raised for Eastland Complex</b>
<b>\$425K</b>	<b>Total granted for Eastland Complex</b>
<b>\$129.9K</b>	<b>Total funds designated for VFDs</b>
<b>\$62.8K</b>	<b>Total funds designated for Coleman County</b>

Learn more about the relief & recovery process at [cfabilene.org/firerelief](https://cfabilene.org/firerelief).



## Scholarships

CFA awarded more than \$763K in college scholarships to 208 students from Big Country high schools in 2022. Thank you to the 88 donors whose scholarship funds made these awards possible! Donors work with the CFA team to set the criteria for their fund, such as designating the award for students from specific schools or for students studying in a particular field.



See the full list of scholarship recipients at [cfabilene.org/2022-scholarship-recipients](https://cfabilene.org/2022-scholarship-recipients).



Scholarship recipients pose for a photo at the Community Foundation of Abilene offices.



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## Abilene Gives

The sixth-annual giving day was another great event for local charitable causes! Our community raised \$1.7 MILLION for 160+ nonprofit organizations serving Abilene and the surrounding region. Save the date for the next Abilene Gives on May 2, 2023!

*See the 2022 highlights video at [cfabilene.org/abilenegives](https://cfabilene.org/abilenegives).*



## Rural Grantmaking

CFA has expanded our grantmaking to serve rural communities throughout west-central Texas. This new grant opportunity is made possible by Dr. Paula Windham, who cared deeply about improving the quality of life in rural communities.

*Learn more about which counties are served at [cfabilene.org/rural](https://cfabilene.org/rural).*

## New Board Members

Welcome the newest CFA board members and board chair, pictured below. And thank you to our outgoing board members for their years of service and dedication: Jeff Blanks, Deonna Galbraith, Steve Senter, and David Swearingen. *See the full team and board at [cfabilene.org/our-team](https://cfabilene.org/our-team).*



**Kelly Cannon**  
*President/CEO,  
Carrier Management  
Systems*



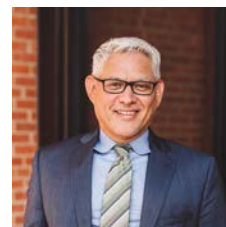
**Geoff Haney**  
*Private Investments*



**Ian Nickerson**  
**CFA Board Chair**  
*Minister, Minda Street  
Church of Christ*



**Brandon Osborne**  
*Executive Director,  
Abilene Youth Sports  
Authority*



**Gustavo Villanueva**  
*Associate Superintendent  
for Leadership & Student  
Services, Abilene ISD*