



NEWS RELEASE

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Charleston County Parks Foundation named one of this year's Chick-fil-A True Inspiration Awards Recipients

[JAMES ISLAND – December 2020] – The Charleston County Parks Foundation was recently named as a recipient of one of the 2021 True Inspiration Awards from Chick-fil-A. As a recipient of the award, the foundation, which aims to help all area residents experience Charleston County Parks' facilities and programs, will receive a \$125,000 grant to fund their mission.

The True Inspiration Awards were founded in 2015 to honor Chick-fil-A founder S. Truett Cathy. The awards honor and support community organizations from across the US and Canada that are making a positive impact in the areas of hunger, homelessness and education. In 2020, Chick-fil-A announced that the awards would support Black-led nonprofits or those that impact communities of color.

The Charleston County Parks Foundation is a nonprofit organization formed in 1990 by the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC). Its mission is to help ALL residents experience Charleston County Parks and programs.



"We look forward to increasing the number of children and families we support, by continuing to remove barriers throughout underserved areas of Charleston County through the four foundation projects," said CCPRC Business Development Manager Matt Rosebrock.

Presently, the foundation is working on four projects: The Genesis Project, the Pass It Forward Project, the McLeod Plantation Historic Site Project and the SK8 Forward Project. The Genesis Project focuses on drowning prevention in the Lowcountry by raising funds to offer aquatic programs in the Johns Island, Awendaw/McClellanville and Ravenel/Hollywood areas. The Pass It Forward Project provides opportunities and scholarships for all members of the community to enjoy parks and programs. The McLeod Plantation Historic Site Project supports the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission's (CCPRC) cultural and historical research, preservation, interpretation and education for diverse audiences with an emphasis on underrepresented histories at this site and throughout Charleston County Parks. The SK8 Forward Project introduces the sport of skateboarding to those who may not have the opportunity to experience it, offering free admission, instruction, safety awareness and use of equipment while at CCPRC's SK8 Charleston skate park.

The Charleston County Parks Foundation was one of 34 organizations recognized by this year's awards. Organizations could apply online or be nominated by a Chick-fil-A operator; the Charleston County Parks Foundation was nominated by operator Jason Williams. Chick-fil-A customers were able to vote on the grant winners via the Chick-fil-A app. Other organizations in the Atlantic region that received the grant included Wash Away Unemployment in New Bern, NC; Peacemakers of Rocky Mount in Rocky Mount, NC; and Lighthouse Academy in Louisville, KY.

For more information on The Charleston County Parks Foundation, call 843-762-2172 or visit www.CharlestonCountyParksFoundation.org.

The mission of the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) is to improve the quality of life in Charleston County by offering a diverse system of park facilities, programs and services. The large park system features over 11,000 acres of property and includes six regional parks, three beach parks, three dog parks, two landmark fishing piers, three waterparks, a historic plantation site, a skate park, an aquatic center, 19 boat landings, a climbing wall, a challenge course, an interpretive center, an equestrian center, cottages, a campground, a marina, as well as wedding, meeting and event facilities. CCPRC also offers a wide variety of recreational services – festivals, camps, classes, programs, and much more. For more information on CCPRC, call 843-795-4386 or visit www.charlestoncountyparks.com.

Photo caption: Charleston County Parks Foundation board members and CCPRC staff accept the True Inspiration Awards grant from Chick-fil-A. Pictured: Front row (left to right): Shania Ladson (Chick-fil-A staff member), Frannie Reese (foundation board chair), Lisa King (CCPRC commissioner and liaison to board), Jason Williams (owner/operator of James Island Chick-fil-A), Eva Ravenel (past foundation board chair), David Bennett (CCPRC executive director) and Charlie McManus (CCPRC chief financial officer). Back row (left to right): Scott Thomas (Chick-fil-A staff member), Kevin Isaac (foundation board member), Krista Barnes (foundation board member), Jamaal Walton (foundation board member), Jason Barton (foundation board member), Steve Hutton (CCPRC Recreation Director), Gina Ellis-Strother (CCPRC chief administrative officer), Michael Bradley (CCPRC parks manager), Matthew Rosebrock (CCPRC business development manager), Tommy Hale (CCPRC director of finance), John Massey (CCPRC assistant director of recreation) and Beth Burkett (CCPRC interpretation and stewardship manager). Not pictured are foundation board members Shannon Brigham, Dr. Lou Robinson, Richard Waring and John Warren, and CCPRC Cultural History Interpretation Manager Shawn Halifax.

High-resolution photos available upon request

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