

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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The Springs Close Foundation Honors Area Nonprofits with \$10,000 “Fabric of the Community” Awards

LANCASTER, SC — Members of the Lancaster County, Chester County, York County and Fort Mill communities gathered on Wednesday, August 20th at the Founders Federal Credit Union Corporate Headquarters in Lancaster for the second annual “Fabric of the Community Awards” presented by The Springs Close Foundation. The awards honor one nonprofit, business or individual in Lancaster County, Chester County and Fort Mill/York County for exemplary service to the community. The Foundation Board of Directors presented each winner with a \$10,000 check and a special handcrafted sculpture by Lancaster metal artist Bob Doster. In addition, The Foundation also introduced a new award, the Col. Elliott Springs Legacy Award.

The 2014 Fabric of the Community Award winners are:

LANCASTER

Lancaster Fatherhood Project

When absent fathers become positively engaged in the lives of their children, everybody benefits. The Lancaster Fatherhood Project has helped more than 800 men reconnect with their children and become responsible fathers over the past 12 years. Program participants develop job and parenting skills, advance their education, and health screenings and support. As a result, they are more willing and able to pay child support, and are less likely to fall victim to debilitating health issues — both of which have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in public expenses. But even more importantly, the Lancaster Fatherhood Project has strengthened area families, provided more than 1,000 children with connections to their fathers, and helped to create a more tightly woven community fabric in Lancaster County.

FORT MILL

Anna Potts Dixon

When she was just 13 years old, the late Anna Potts Dixon made a pledge to her own dying mother – to “take care of the children.” That became a lifetime mantra for this Paradise community resident, who raised her niece and nephew and became a mother figure to the entire community. From serving as a Scout leader to registering her neighbors and others to vote, she was a tireless worker for others — a mentor, teacher, nurturer, leader and example setter. During her long and productive lifetime, she demonstrated in countless ways her dedication to the welfare of others and earned the respect and affection of people from all walks of life, especially those in the Paradise community.

CHESTER

The Turning Point

Under the direction of John Williams, The Turning Point offers supportive residential services for men recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. Residents learn new life skills, find employment and manage their behavior in successful ways. In addition, The Turning Point operates an emergency food bank and The Dove’s Nest thrift shop. Together, these two entities serve more than 600 families each month. The Turning Point’s services and philosophy are deeply rooted in Christian faith, and Williams leads daily Bible study as a core part of the residential program. Since 1986, The Turning Point has helped to turn around the lives of nearly 150 residential service clients and touched the lives of thousands more with essential food and clothing.

Other nominees for the 2014 Fabric of Community Awards were:

- In Lancaster: Kershaw Area Resource Exchange (KARE) and Columbus Parker Track Club
- In Fort Mill: Joyce and Bob Sullivan and The Fort Mill School District Backpack Program
- In Chester: Chester Ministerial Association and Battered But Not Broken

THE COLONEL ELLIOT SPRINGS LEGACY AWARD

Kay Carter, Executive Director, Second Harvest Food Bank

As the executive director of Second Harvest Food Bank, Kay leads the charge to ensure that residents in the Fort Mill, Lancaster and Chester areas have the food they need when times are exceedingly challenging. Over the past eight years at the helm of Second Harvest, Kay has helped raise millions of dollars in support that has translated

into tens of millions of pounds of food delivered to families in need. Under her leadership, Second Harvest has become the critical link between nearly 600 hunger relief agencies and those in need of food. Food Bank distributions have grown from 8 million pounds in 2002 to an estimated 42 million by the end of 2014. Locally, Kay helped create the weekend food backpack programs for schools in Fort Mill and Lancaster County, working closely with the school systems and the High Five Club to develop a reliable method of packing and delivery of weekend backpacks of food. She has also led the creation of mobile food pantries in Fort Mill and Lancaster County, and mobile pantries for senior centers in Chester County.

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Board of Directors of The Springs Close Foundation, along with the nine members of the Community Advisory Committee, created the Fabric of the Community Awards in 2013 to celebrate the Foundation's 70th year of service and to honor the legacy of giving back to the community instilled by founder Col. Elliott Springs.

The Fabric of the Community awards will be bestowed on one individual, nonprofit organization or business from Lancaster, Chester and Fort Mill each year. Each winner receives \$10,000 to direct to a nonprofit organization in the communities served by The Springs Close Foundation. Nominations come from former members of the Foundation's Community Advisory Committee. Current Community Advisory Committee members select finalists and choose the award winners. The Foundation will give these awards for the next five years, culminating on its 75th anniversary, for a total of \$150,000 by 2017.

The Colonel Elliott Springs Legacy Award was created in 2014 to honor those who provide extraordinary leadership in service in a way that leverages the commitment and resources of others and delivers an impact that is exponentially larger than one person or organization could deliver on its own. The Award is given to a nonprofit or business leader who mobilizes others in service with humility, honesty, compassion, and a spirit of cooperation and collaboration. The Colonel Elliott Springs Legacy Award is given at the discretion of The Springs Close Foundation Board of Directors.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Springs Close Foundation has assets totaling \$41.2 million and since 1942 has distributed more than \$103 million into its geographic area. Anne Springs Close is Chairman of the Board of Directors and Angela McCrae is President. The main office is headquartered at 951 Market Street, Suite 205 in Fort Mill, SC. The telephone number is (803) 548-2002 and the FAX number is (803) 548-1797.

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