



2018 Annual Report

The **Bella Vista Foundation's** seventh year of operations continued on the successful platform for supporting projects which benefit the Bella Vista community established by previous Boards of Directors. The last of our founding Directors, Tom Pyatt, reached the end of his tenure and we thank Tom for his dedicated service over these last seven years. Several new individuals have joined the Board of Directors effective as of January 1, 2019.

Foundation Directors once again participated in the Spring Expo held by the Bella Vista Business Association on March 15th. The Expo provided an opportunity to promote the **Foundation's** involvement with the Cooper Communities NWA Charity Classic golf tournament, and our handout materials included promotion and support for the Master Plan for Trails and Greenways in Bella Vista and solicitation for donations to purchase trails furniture.

The **Foundation** is continuing to seek funding for trail furniture to be placed along the Back 40 and 11 Under trails. Donation order forms are currently available on the **Foundation** Web Site as well as links from the City of Bella Vista. To date, a total of fifteen trail benches have been donated by organizations and individuals and monies have been collected for two more. Further efforts are currently under way to seek trail furniture donations from local businesses.

The **Foundation** participated with the Bella Vista Arts Council in presenting the July 3rd Music Concert and entered into a renewable grant agreement with the Arts Council for future events. The **Foundation** participated in the Arbor Day Celebration at Bears Hollow trail head on April 27th and manned a booth at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the extension of the Razorback Greenway trail from Lake Bella Vista to Blowing Springs Park on July 28th.

The success of the Back Forty trails, which was the first 37-mile leg of the proposed 155 miles of trails spelled out in the Master Trails and Greenways Plan that the **Foundation** helped develop with funding from the Walton Family Foundation, led to the ground breaking ceremony on September 14th for construction of additional trails in the central part of Bella Vista, west of Highway 71, east of Highway 279, designated the 11 Under trails.

The **Foundation** was the Charity Partner for the inaugural 2017 Cooper Communities NWA Classic golf tournament the week of May 22nd hosted by the Bella Vista Property Owners Association with assistance from the City of Bella Vista. This event was one of the first community-wide activities in Bella Vista that involved the POA, City of Bella Vista and Cooper Communities, Inc. Local charities which benefitted from the 2017 Tournament net proceeds of \$21,000 were the Boys and Girls Club of Benton County, The First Tee of NWA and the Bella Vista Animal Shelter. Building upon the success of the 2017

tournament, the **Foundation** renewed our commitment as the Charity Partner for the 2018 Cooper Communities NWA Charity Classic golf tournament which took place in Bella Vista at the Highlands golf course in June. The 2018 event featured a Silent Auction and Junior Clinic along with the Pro-Am Tournament and the four-day tournament for the professional players. The 2018 event generated revenue of more than \$90,000, including the proceeds of the Silent Auction. Net proceeds of \$35,000 (more than a 50% increase from 2017) was available for grants to charities and a reserve for the 2019 tournament. The Boys & Girls Club of Benton County, the Bella Vista Animal Shelter, and the Bella Vista Courtesy Van were recipients of \$23,500 from the **Foundation** to fund projects associated with the Bella Vista community. The **Foundation** is holding \$6,000 in reserve for a joint project between the Bella Vista POA and the Boys & Girls Club to install a golf training area at the Bella Vista Boys & Girls Club facility.

Plans are already underway for the 2019 Cooper Communities NWA Charity Classic golf tournament. This third year of the tournament will feature a change in the tournament location to the classic Bella Vista Country Club golf course and will take place June 10-15th. We will continue with our successful Silent Auction and Junior Clinic during tournament week. And we have solicited the participation of the Bella Vista Sunrise Rotary Club to assist with sponsorship solicitation and silent auction donations for the Pro-Am Party and Silent Auction.

The **Foundation** awarded a grant to the Bella Vista Historical Museum to support the cost to relocate a historical cabin to the museum grounds. The **Foundation's** newly improved Website went on-line in October.

The **Foundation** continues to accept funding from the Walton Family Foundation and work with the City and POA to coordinate tree plantings on Bella Vista trails. A separate Walton Family Foundation grant was received for the creation of an arboretum at Blowing Springs Park. The trails systems agreement between the City and POA has been amended to accommodate the location, care and maintenance of the subject trees.

The **Foundation** Board of Directors will welcome Directors Katy Henkel and Steve Hughes in January, 2019; these two new Directors were elected at the end of 2018.

The **Foundation** looks forward to expanding its services to the community by staying involved to provide unique services in accordance with the **Foundation's** stated purpose of serving the Bella Vista community.

Serving the Community of Bella Vista, Arkansas

PO Box 5261, Bella Vista, AR 72714

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.bellavistafoundation.com