



## 2020 Annual Report

The **Bella Vista Foundation's** ninth year of operation was certainly challenging as we dealt with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The **Foundation** Board began virtual meetings in April which continued for the rest of the year. However, the **Foundation** was able to continue our successful platform for supporting charities which benefit the Bella Vista community established by previous Boards of Directors. Director Frank Anderson decided not to stand for re-election for a 3rd term on the Board. Peggy Pfeifer joined the **Foundation** Board and Bob Brooks, Tom Pyatt and Bill Long continued as Associate Directors.

The **Foundation** provided a grant of \$1,000 to the Bella Vista Arts Council to support community arts projects. However, the funding was not completely used due to the pandemic.

The **Foundation** continues to accept funding from the Walton Family Philanthropy Group and work with the City of Bella Vista and Bella Vista POA to coordinate tree plantings on Bella Vista trails. The **Foundation** also continues to seek funding for trail furniture to be placed along the Back 40 and Spring Creek trails. The **Foundation** received a very generous anonymous donation for 16 trail benches which are in the process of being installed by the Bella Vista POA. To date, a total of 38 trail benches have been donated by organizations and individuals. We thank and appreciate the continued dedicated service of Associate Director Bill Long for his active support of the Bella Vista trails.

In the fall of 2019, the **Foundation** lined up major sponsors and signed contracts for a 2020 charity tournament. Our planning and sponsor solicitation began in January, 2020 and we were making good progress until early March when COVID-19 hit. Everything stopped. In mid April, the All Pro Tour organization which conducts the tournament contacted the Bella Vista POA and described its plans to resume APT events in early June and conduct the Cooper Communities golf event in Bella Vista the third week in June as scheduled. Then they unexpectedly requested the POA to consider adding a WAPT women's event as part of our tournament week. The POA Director of Golf Operations, Darryl Muldoon, looked at logistics and determined that it would be a possibility. He scheduled a meeting (by phone) and we identified the issues that needed to be addressed. In late April, we had a meeting with APT (by phone) and worked out details. The first week in May, the **Foundation** was back in business planning an expanded 2020 tournament.

The WAPT women's tournament had a maximum capacity of 78 players; 64 players (55 Pros and 9 amateurs) were in the field with 12 Canadian players and several European players restricted by COVID-19 guidelines from traveling to the US. The APT men's tournament had a maximum capacity of 144 players; 142 players (140 Pros and 2 amateurs) were in the field. Ruth Hatcher worked out volunteer needs on two golf courses and recruited her army of volunteers. Rob Dressen, POA Maintenance Supervisor at the Country Club golf course and Kyle Soller, POA Maintenance Supervisor at the Scotsdale golf course, had the golf courses in Championship condition. Player lodging director,

Gary Mertz, solicited housing in Bella Vista homes. In 2019, housing was provided for more than 35 APT players. For 2020, Gary recruited 36 homes and more than 60 beds for APT player housing.

Discover Bella Vista and the City of Bella Vista continued their long-standing support for the 2020 tournament, along with 36 business and corporate sponsors. We had only 31 sponsors for 2020. However with fewer sponsors, sponsorship contributions for 2020 exceeded last year by almost \$2,000. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, our Pro-Am Tournament was changed from morning and afternoon shotguns to defined tee-times. The POA advised that capacity for the Pro-Am Tournament was a maximum of 42 Teams. We ended up having 42 Teams in the Pro-Am, with one last minute Team cancellation due to COVID-19. Mulligans at 2 for \$20 were offered to the amateur players in the Pro-Am tournament. We collected more than \$1,500 in Mulligan contributions, either because the amateur players were very generous or the tournament was very competitive.

The Pro-Am Party and Silent Auction was originally scheduled for Monday, June 22nd at BV Bar & Grill. Arkansas Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines restricted restaurant capacity so we talked about possibly rescheduling the Party and Auction. Then we looked at changing the location to Lakepoint Restaurant with a larger capacity. The Auction Committee, Katy Henkel, Debbie Sorensen and Peggy Pfeifer, started gathering donated items and planning the event even though we weren't sure that it would take place. On June 15th, a week before the event, restaurant capacity guidelines in Arkansas increased to 66 percent so the Party & Auction could take place with restrictions. Last year's auction highlight was the Wine Pull which generated almost \$2,000 in contributions. We couldn't do the Wine Pull for 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Because of the efforts of Katy, Debbie and Peggy, we are pleased to report that 2020 Auction proceeds exceeded 2019 by more than \$1000 (minus the Wine Pull). Amazing job with the Auction.

The Tournament concluded on Saturday afternoon, June 27th, with Sam Stevens and Trey Mullinax tied at -28 after 72 holes of play. Sam Stevens birdied the first playoff hole for the APT men's tournament win. Maria Fassi, former Arkansas Lady Razorback golfer and LPGA player won the WAPT women's tournament by 4 strokes at -14. We had great weather all week and very competitive golf.

The Tournament enjoyed wonderful financial support from our sponsors, a sold-out Pro-Am Tournament and a successful Pro-Am Party & Auction. Our designated charities for 2020; Bella Vista Courtesy Van, Bella Vista Animal Shelter, Boys & Girls Club of Benton County, Bella Vista Community Television and Bella Vista Rotary Club divided \$39,000 from the **Foundation** from Tournament proceeds and \$15,000 was held in reserve by the **Foundation** for a 2021 tournament. Our 2020 Cooper Communities NWA Charity Classic golf tournament was a challenge, but clearly everyone involved rose to meet the challenge.

The **Foundation** looks forward to continuing to support 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.thebellavistafoundation.com](http://www.thebellavistafoundation.com)