



*Enhancing Community*

## 2021 Annual Report

The **Bella Vista Foundation's** tenth year of operation was again challenging as we continued to deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The **Foundation** Board began the year with virtual meetings in January which continued until our first in-person meeting in June. The **Foundation** continued our successful platform of supporting local charities which benefit the Bella Vista community established by previous Boards of Directors.

Director Jayne Lowe's final term on the Board expired (she served for 8 years) and Bob Ritschel decided not to stand for re-election for a 2nd term on the Board. Linda Lloyd and Bob Kronner joined the **Foundation** Board, Tom Pyatt and Bill Long continued as Associate Directors, and Jayne Lowe was elected an Associate Director. We anticipate adding an additional Director in early 2022 to complete our contingent of nine Directors on the **Foundation** Board.

The **Foundation** continues to accept funding from the Walton Family Philanthropy Group and work with the City of Bella Vista and the Bella Vista POA to coordinate tree giveaways and plantings on Bella Vista trails, with a grant of \$92,840 in 2021. The **Foundation** also continues to seek funding for trail benches to be placed along the Back 40 and Little Sugar trails. Public recognition of the very generous anonymous donation of 16 trail benches in 2020 took place on January 12<sup>th</sup>. To date, a total of 41 trail benches have been donated by organizations and individuals, with a matching donation from the employer of one of the individual donors. Due to the shortage of steel, new benches are on back order until mid-2022.

The **Foundation** provided a \$1,200 donation to the Bella Vista Historical Museum for the construction of a fence at Funks Cemetery and a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new fence at the cemetery took place on July 13<sup>th</sup>. The **Foundation** participated in the Bella Vista Business Association Outside Expo on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Bella Vista POA's Give Back Wednesday program on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The **Foundation** also received a very generous anonymous donation of \$15,000 for a shade at the Branchwood Pickleball court. And the **Foundation** was awarded a \$1,650 grant from the Bella Vista POA Charitable Giving Committee. The Foundation continues to participate with the City of Bella Vista Arts Council on various projects in conjunction with our 2020 grant to the Arts Council.

In the fall of 2020, with our experience of the 2020 charity golf tournament under the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, the **Foundation** again partnered with the Bella Vista POA for the fifth annual Bella Vista Charity Classic golf tournament. The Bella Vista POA took the lead role in soliciting sponsors, Pro-Am Teams and conducting the charity tournament with the All-Pro Tour (APT) organization. The 2021 Bella Vista Charity Classic golf tournament took place on June 23-26, 2021 at the Highlands and Country Club golf courses with both WAPT women and APT men professional players participating.

The WAPT women's tournament had 69 players in the field with a total purse of \$36,600 and first prize of \$10,000. At the end of regulation play Jessica Porvasnik and Kenzie Wright finished in a tie at 10 under par and Jessica won in a one-hole playoff. The APT men's tournament had a full field of 134 players with a total purse of \$120,000 and first prize of \$23,000. Sam Triplett won by 3 strokes and finished at 20 under par. Both WAPT and APT players participated in a long drive contest on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> after the Pro-Am Tournament.

Ruth Hatcher again coordinated volunteer needs on two golf courses and recruited her army of more than 200 volunteers. Rob Dressen, POA Maintenance Supervisor at the Country Club golf course and Greg Jones, POA Maintenance Supervisor at the Highlands golf course, had the golf courses in Championship condition. Player lodging director, Gary Mertz, solicited housing in Bella Vista homes. For 2021, Gary recruited more than 60 homes and more than 100 beds for APT and WAPT player housing.

Discover Bella Vista and the City of Bella Vista continued their long-standing support for the 2021 tournament, along with 33 business and corporate sponsors. We split the Pro-Am Teams between the Highlands and Country Club golf courses and a full field of 64 Teams participated in the Pro-Am Tournament.

The Pro-Am Party and Silent Auction took place on Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at Lakepoint Restaurant. The Auction Committee, Katy Henkel, Debbie Sorensen, Peggy Pfeifer and Tom Pyatt, again gathered a wide variety of donated items. More than 375 guests attended the Pro-Am Party and Auction and the event generated proceeds of more than \$18,500. Another amazing job with the Auction.

The Tournament enjoyed wonderful financial support from our sponsors, a sold-out Pro-Am Tournament and a very successful Pro-Am Party & Auction. Our designated charities for 2021; Bella Vista Courtesy Van, Bella Vista Animal Shelter, Boys & Girls Club of Benton County, Bella Vista Community Television and Bella Vista Rotary Club divided \$41,625 from the **Foundation** from Tournament proceeds and \$8,000 was held in reserve by the **Foundation** for a 2022 tournament. The 2021 charity tournament charitable amount surpasses the \$39,000 awarded to charities in 2020. Since this charity tournament began in 2017, more than \$162,625 in net proceeds from the charity tournament has been provided to Bella Vista charities.

The **Foundation** is developing a speaker's bureau to enhance the visibility of the Foundation in the Bella Vista community.

The **Foundation** looks forward to staying engaged with local community groups 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)