



Enhancing Community **2023 Annual Report**

The Bella Vista Foundation successfully completed its 12th year of operation benefitting the Bella Vista community. This report highlights the activities and contributions achieved during 2023.

The BVF Board began the year electing Bob Kronner President, Charlie Teal VP, Stu Sorensen Treasurer, and Jane Lowe, Associate Director, Secretary. Ann Dahlke, Katy Henkel, Steve Hughes, Linda Lloyd, and Peg Pfeifer all acting Directors. Carrie Wilson was elected to the BVF Board at the June, 2023 meeting completing the BVF Board of 9. John Flynn, newly elected Mayor of BV and former BVF Board member, is Ex-Officio.

The BVF began the year with a balance of \$113,455. Accounting for the majority of the funds are balances for trees, trail furniture, and unassigned/restricted. During 2023 these funds were used to purchase and maintain trees, metal and stone trail benches, BVF expenses related to insurance, website, and dues. In addition, funds were used to support special projects such as the pickleball court shelter at Branchwood. Later in this report will be a recap supporting the successful results of the “Golf Fore Charity Challenge”. The BVF continues to make frugal use of all donations and recognizes that 100% of contributions are distributed to charities, special projects, and necessary support expenses.

Both metal and stone benches (16 in total) were installed at various trail locations during 2023. The Foundation spent \$12,000 of the \$20,000 in funds and agreed to return the balance to donors because the POA has requested we begin 2024 by “freezing” this initiative until POA resources can be earmarked to support the installations.

The Walton Foundation grants for trees continues to be well funded in excess of \$170,000. Stu manages the income/expenditures as chair

of the tree planting committee. This will continue as a significant activity for 2024.

The POA and BVF met at Branchwood in March to inspect the newly completed Branchwood Pickleball courts. The POA benefited from an anonymous donation facilitated by the Bella Vista Foundation to construct a shade structure, benches, picnic tables, and a drinking fountain.

The BVF developed an agreement in February to partner with the POA to support a new charity event. Tom Judson announced that all green fees collected on June 21 will go to local Bella Vista charities. The POA managed the proshop responsibilities and marketing and the BVF managed the charity selection, and special activities to support donations. A super committee of Katy Henkel, Ann Dahlke, Peggy Pfeifer, Deb Sorensen, and Ruth Hatcher delivered everything required for success. Donations from POA golf green fees, silent auction, wine tree, sock it to me, and private donors amounted to \$40,500. Five charities: BV Animal Shelter, Boys and Girls Club, Community TV, Courtesy Van, and Historical Society were presented checks of \$8,100 each.

The BVF Board has already begun preparations for a repeat event in 2024 and has an agreement in place with the POA. We look forward to even greater results for 2024.

While the Golf Fore Charity event consumed the greatest amount of the Board's focus, many other achievements are noteworthy. They include:

- A comprehensive archive and records retention policy and process has been completed. The Board now has on PC and thumb drive the files for monthly meetings, financial recaps, and other required documents. The archive and records retention policy was added to the bylaws.
- The BVF maintains a website "thebellavistafoundation.com" that provides information about us. Check it out!
- A colorful brochure was created explaining who the BVF is and its accomplishments. With POA support 1500 brochures were printed and have been distributed and replenished at several populated Bella Vista sites such as the BVCC lobby.

- We have a “speakers bureau” in place and on standby when a local organization requests more information about us. The Board has marked March to set up a meeting with the Vista local paper to explain our mission and discuss the Golf FORE Charity event scheduled for May, 2024.
- The Board set up and managed a booth at the BV Farmers market this summer. While there were several engagements with the local patrons we learned the results did not support continuing.
- Special donations continue to be received such as the Barbara Doyle Memorial fund. The Foundation has \$12,000 in reserve to be used at the Board’s discretion.

The BVF is active and energized to achieve much for 2024. We are looking forward to engaging with our community to deliver on our mission.

Serving the Community of Bella Vista, Arkansas

PO Box 5261, Bella Vista, AR 72714

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.thebellavistafoundation.com