

FOCUS | YOUTH PROGRAMS**Community service*****Youth Leadership Council gets \$30,000 grant*****By Peggy Linton***Special to My Life*

With a \$30,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, the Superintendent's Youth Leadership Council of the DeSoto County Schools is ready for another year of learning, sharing and community service.

Tom Pittman, president of the Community Foundation, along with Foundation treasurer Mackey Moore, presented a check to Supt. Milton Kuykendall from an anonymous donor advised fund.

According to the 2011-2012 application submitted by Emily Nelson, executive director of leadership development, a group of self-identified teen leaders from each of the eight DCS high schools will be the new class of juniors. Returning to work with the juniors will be the senior SYLC class from school year 2010-2011.

According to Nelson, "These teens need and desire opportunities to expand themselves outside the realms of academics, athletics, and DeSoto County."

Each year the class travels to either Washington, D.C., or New York City.

Being in the SYLC program for the two-year period offers the opportunity to make each of the trips. The class also visits Jackson, Miss., spending time with their local legislators and touring nonprofits.

Leading the Council as instructors are Anne Goss, ninth-grade counselor at Hernando High School, and Jim Ferguson, chief academic officer for the school district. In addition to facilitating the regular meetings of the Council and accompanying the group on their field trips, Goss and Ferguson will work with Council members to implement a community service project. In the past, councils have planned, marketed and participated in a run for charity, promoted a countywide canned food drive, and planned and implemented a financial literacy event for youth.

The Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi is a nonprofit charitable organization with the mission of connecting people who care with causes that matter.

Through the generosity of more than 1,000 donors, it has contributed \$5.2 million during the past six years to 200 nonprofit organizations in its eight-county region. The foundation's priorities are education, health and youths. All donations to the Community Foundation are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

To learn more about the work of the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi connecting people who care with causes that matter, go to cfnm.org or call (662)449-5002.

Peggy Linton is the Community Development director for the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi.



Tom Pittman, president of the Community Foundation (left), along with Foundation treasurer Mackey Moore (right), presented a check for a \$30,000 grant to Supt. Milton Kuykendall for the Superintendent's Youth Leadership Council of the DeSoto County Schools.

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