

KEOWEE KEY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (KKCP)

Thank you Keowee Key for The Gift of Education!

We all realize that education is key to breaking the cycle of poverty and lifting our less fortunate neighbors in Oconee County. To that end, Keowee Key Community Partnership's (KKCP) first Partner was Tri-County Technical College (TCTC). TCTC had just opened their Walhalla Campus and so this was the ideal time to create our partnership with them. This took the form of a Scholarship program with TCTC. Our agreement was simple: we would promote TCTC to our members, money donated by Keowee Key members would fund the Scholarship Fund and Tri-County would award scholarships to Oconee County high school graduates that met their financial and academic criteria. An added benefit to Keowee Key was that any employee or direct family member of an employee who also met TCTC's criteria would have priority access to these scholarships. To date, nine fortunate students have benefited from your generosity with the last three receiving their KKCP Scholarship awards in May and June.

Emma Marcengill, a graduate of Seneca High School, is majoring in the Nursing Program at Tri-County. Her goal is to finish this degree, then obtain her Associate's Degree in Nursing and officially become a registered nurse. She hopes to one day work in Labor and Delivery Oncology. Emma says, "Thank you, Keowee Key Community Partnership! This scholarship lessens the burden of expenses for my college on my parents and helps me focus on my education. Earning this scholarship has allowed me to further my education beyond the limits of being a registered nurse."



Maria Owens graduated from Walhalla High School and is currently a nursing student at Tri-County. She plans on becoming a nurse practitioner and furthering her education after her graduation by finishing her Bachelor's degree at Clemson University, followed by a Master's degree in nursing. Lofty goals made possible by the generosity of Keowee Key members who, through their donations, funded the Keowee Key Community Partnership Scholarship fund at TCTC.



Madison Rankin, a Walhalla High School graduate, is currently majoring in Business Administration-Entrepreneur Emphasis at TCTC where she graduated this past May with a degree in Early Childhood education. This summer, with the help of this scholarship, she plans to continue her education with the ultimate goal of opening her own Pre-School for children that didn't get a spot in a Pre-K public classroom. She says, "Most children that get held back in kindergarten were most likely not in a Pre-K classroom. I want to help decrease the number of kindergarten "hold-backs" because I have such a strong passion and love for educating children."



Emma, Maria, and Madison all share a common theme, "This scholarship means the world to me. Without it, I would not have been able to continue my education and strive toward my dream profession. Thank you, Keowee Key Community Partnership!"

If you donate to TCTC or any of our other partners, please remember to write "KKCP" on the memo line of your check.

Christ Central Ministries of Oconee First Half 2022 Report

Several months ago, we introduced you to Christ Central Ministries of Oconee (CCMO), one of Keowee Key Community Partners (KKCP) newest partners. This Walhalla-based nonprofit's mission is to **"cultivate change by building healthy relationships with clients, helping restore lives, and giving hope to individuals and families fighting substance abuse and addiction."** Using donated volunteer hours, funding, and grant monies, this much-needed service organization converted the former Oconee County Jail into a multi-purpose residential and learning center. CCMO is staffed by a full-time director and staff and governed by an all-volunteer Board. CCMO offers a full range of services to Oconee County residents and families, including a 30-day in-residence program.

We have just received a report on their activities for the first half of 2022. Overall, 23 men successfully completed their 30-day program Oconee Addiction Recovery & Services (O.A.R.S.) program. Here are several of the success stories CCMO shared with us:



- Congratulations to our graduate Brandon on completing our 30-day Recovery program here at OARS. Brandon will be returning home after his graduation and continuing to attend meetings with his buddies here at O.A.R.S. His one-year plan is this:

1. Keep in touch with God
2. Stay clean.
3. Get and keep a job.
4. Clean his house out.
5. Go to meetings.
6. Try to help friends to get clean.
7. Get a car.
8. See his little girl.
9. Find a new place to live.
10. Sell his house.

- Mike is from Seneca. He graduated from the program in February and continued his recovery journey by joining Miracle Hill/Overcomer Center.

- Congratulations to our graduate Stanley who completed our 30-day Recovery program here at O.A.R.S. Stanley has received health and dental assistance and grown spiritually and emotionally. He would like to thank the staff here for this opportunity for recovery, as he returns home.

- Congratulations to our graduate Jimmy for completing our 30-Day Recovery Program. Jimmy will be moving out of state with his fiancée to start a new life.

An additional 12 clients have completed the Ash Tree substance abuse transitional housing program.

Mike has completed many of his goals while here including employment and building a solid spiritual foundation to further his recovery. Mike moved to the Ash Tree Home for Men to continue on the path to achieving a better life for himself.

As a relatively new facility in Oconee County, you can see from these few stories how important our support is to help individuals find new opportunities in life.

If you would like more information about CCMO and the work that it is doing in Oconee County, please visit our website. You can find it on Member Central, under Philanthropy. If you donate to CCMO or any of our other partners, please remember to write "KKCP" on the memo line of your check.

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What is Happening at the Foothills Areas YMCA

This summer, the YMCA (Y) has two Day Camp (Camp Oconee) sites located at South Cove County Park and the Walhalla City Gym. Thanks to partnerships with Oconee County and the City of Walhalla, 115 children are attending Camp Oconee daily this summer. Activities include swimming, hiking, arts and crafts, movies, games and so much more. The summer camp will end on August 5.

As fall approaches, the second season of the Third Grade Swimming and Safety Program with SDOC begins. This program provides water safety and swim instruction to all third graders in Oconee County schools starting in September. This is a volunteer-based program that requires a lot of “hands on deck.” If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact the Y’s aquatics director, Grayce Howard, at gHoward@faymca.org.

In fitness, a new program called Exercise is Medicine has begun in partnership with Prisma Health where two of our local physicians (Drs. Zeller and Hagenauer) can prescribe exercise for patients that would benefit from participating in a health-based program. This 12-week program, guided by a trainer to encourage lifelong fitness, started in Greenville a few years ago and the Foothills Area Y is excited to add Oconee County to the list.

“Tee Up For a Cause” is the YMCA’s 2nd Annual Golf Tournament fundraiser, scheduled for Friday, October 21 at Cross Creek Plantation with a 10 a.m. shotgun start. The tournament will follow a Captain’s Tournament format including longest drive, closest to the pin, hole-in-one, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes, putting contest, raffle items, and more. This event raises money for the Y’s Annual Scholarship Campaign so that all in need of YMCA memberships, programs, and day camp opportunities can participate. If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities or registering to play, please visit <https://faymca.org/2022-golf-tournament/>.

The Y is so thankful for the support they receive from Keowee Key and the KKCP. Oconee County and our nonprofit organizations like the Y are stronger because of caring individuals like you.

Keowee Key Community Partnership (KKCP) partners with deserving, effective, nonprofit organizations that make a difference in Oconee County. These Partners record those donations from Keowee Key but report only cumulative results back to KKCP, enabling KKCP to seek matching funds. No individual donor names or donation amounts are ever shared with KKCP by Partners, and no money passes to or through KKCP.



YMCA Swim and Safety Volunteers



YMCA Swim and Safety Participants

