



Annual Report


2025



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Message From the President



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2025, I am grateful for the remarkable generosity, collaboration and care that continues to define the Cherry Bekaert Foundation. This past year, our people came together with intention, compassion and a shared belief in strengthening our communities.

In the past year, we built upon the strong foundation laid in recent years — expanding our grantmaking, deepening our relationships with community partners, and broadening opportunities for our teams to engage in service. Whether supporting local youth programs, advancing education initiatives, or responding to critical needs in times of crisis, our people showed up with the same spirit of service that has become a hallmark of this Foundation.

The Foundation was established as a sister organization to Cherry Bekaert to carry our Firm's values into the communities where our people live and serve. By intentionally directing our resources to the organizations where our employees are investing their time, we support their personal philanthropic goals while creating meaningful, employee-driven impact in our communities. As we look ahead, our focus remains steadfast: to inspire service, support meaningful causes, and respond with agility wherever our communities need us most.



Matthew Socha

President, Cherry Bekaert Foundation

2025 At-a-Glance

**FEB
2025**

Officer Election Changes

The Foundation announced new officer appointments for 2025, including Matthew Socha stepping in as President and Chair of the Board, accompanied by Ann Behrens as Treasurer and Mitch Weintraub as Secretary.

**MAR
2025**

Updated Grant Policy & Season of Giving Initiative

A refreshed Community IMPACT Grant Policy was launched to better align volunteerism with the Foundation's philanthropic focus areas. Additionally, the Seasons of Giving initiative was launched, with volunteer and grant cycles organized into focused trimesters to promote year-round volunteer engagement.

**APR
2025**

Board Member Matching Gift Program

The Foundation formally launched its new Board Member Matching Gift Program, offering dollar-for-dollar donation matches up to \$2,500 annually (or \$5,000 for board chairs). The program encourages greater nonprofit board service among Cherry Bekaert professionals and disbursed over \$65,000 in matching funds for 2025.

**NOV
2025**

Employee Giving Program

The Foundation introduced an Employee Giving Program that enables employees to contribute directly through payroll deductions. Open enrollment begins each November, with contributions activating in the new calendar year (2026 for the first cycle). This new avenue supports year-round giving and participation.

Focus Areas

When we started the Foundation, it was important for our focus areas to reflect what was important to the people of Cherry Bekaert. We held a Firmwide survey that resulted in our selection of three primary categories of need that we felt could make the most impact in our communities: basic needs, community resources and education.



BASIC NEEDS

Everyone deserves to have their basic needs met. Whether that is food, shelter or clothing, providing the dignity and value of life preserving goods.



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Strengthening our family and child resources helps strengthen our communities overall. Whether after school programs, child enrichment or civic centers, or opportunities that care and teach, these offerings create a backbone on which community members can rely.



EDUCATION

Our brightest future is in tomorrow's youth. By investing in equal access to education, including programs for financial literacy, we can help build a foundation for our next generation's opportunity and potential.





Mission, Vision & Goals



MISSION

We support and collaborate with organizations that align with Cherry Bekaert's shared values, contribute impactful resources, and inspire our people to engage in their communities.



VISION

Through inspired action, we positively impact the communities where we live and work.



GOALS

The Cherry Bekaert Foundation supports meaningful community impact through targeted fundraising to strengthen its endowment and strategic investment in aligned nonprofit organizations. We promote employee volunteerism across Cherry Bekaert offices, provide grant funding to complement volunteer service, cultivate national nonprofit partnerships, and offer matching contributions for employees serving on nonprofit boards.

Junior Achievement

Since 2024, the Cherry Bekaert Foundation has partnered with Junior Achievement USA (JA), a national partner, expand access to financial literacy education across the Firm's markets. Through this partnership, the Foundation provides grant funding to Junior Achievement area affiliates, strengthening program delivery and enabling broader community impact.

In 2025, Cherry Bekaert employees dedicated **772 hours** across multiple markets in support of financial literacy and career readiness. Employees served as classroom volunteers through both "JA in a Day" and multi-day traditional classroom engagements, working alongside educators to deliver Junior Achievement

programs and help students connect academic concepts to real-world career pathways. In select markets, employees also supported students through JA Finance Park and JA BizTown, immersive simulated city experiences that challenged participants to make critical household financial decisions — such as housing, transportation, childcare and insurance — while managing a budget.

Together, these efforts helped equip students with practical financial knowledge and reinforced Cherry Bekaert's commitment to empowering communities through education.

JA Finance Park allowed me to use my educational and career background, as well as my parental experience, to guide middle school students in a simulation as a wage-earning, bill-paying adult. Each student was given a family scenario and a salary. With this information, the students made choices on how much they would budget for life's expenses. When a student 'overspent,' it was heartening to hear them ask their peers, 'What would you cut?' and 'Wow, my parents have tough choices.'



Nancy Irish,
Finance & Accounting
Outsourcing Manager





Junior Achievement Spotlight



Volunteer of the Year: Chuck Summers

Client Experience Director Chuck Summers was named Volunteer of the Year at the Kentuckiana Business Hall of Fame on February 26, 2026, for the 2025 year.

Chuck's unwavering commitment to Junior Achievement of Kentuckiana has made a lasting impact on the students we serve. Through his leadership, generosity, and dedication to empowering young people with financial literacy and career readiness, Chuck exemplifies what it means to give back to the community.

We are grateful for Chuck's continued support.



Volunteerism

By-the-Numbers

79

TOTAL ORGANIZATIONS
VOLUNTEERED WITH

2,818

TOTAL VOLUNTEER
HOURS*

\$35,490

AMOUNT RAISED
DURING 50/50 RAFFLE

Top Markets by Volunteer Hours

362

hours across eight events

AUSTIN / HOUSTON

345

hours across five events

CHARLOTTE / GASTONIA

Top Markets by Office Funds Raised

\$21,500

RALEIGH / FAYETTEVILLE

\$20,000

ATLANTA / ALPHARETTA

*Volunteer hours are self-reported and may not be a complete account.



Seasons of Giving

In 2025, the Cherry Bekaert Foundation expanded its impact through Seasons of Giving, a year-round framework designed to inspire continuous community involvement and deepen philanthropic engagement across all Firm markets. By organizing service into intentional seasons, broken into three trimesters, the Foundation continues to build a culture of compassion, generosity and shared responsibility — one that carries forward our mission of making a difference all year long, a marked expansion from our previous Volunteer Week.

Each season focuses on a core philanthropic area paired with our national partnership with Junior Achievement USA: **Education** from January through April, **Community Resources** from May through August, and **Basic Needs** from September through December. This structure helps local markets concentrate on their efforts while still offering flexibility to support the organizations and causes that matter most to their people. Offices are encouraged to plan at least one volunteer event per trimester, with additional activities always welcome and celebrated.

The Foundation supports these efforts with up to **\$10,000 in grant funding per trimester** for eligible market requests, ensuring teams have the resources to amplify their volunteer impact. Seasons of Giving has fostered greater connectivity between our people and the communities they serve, driven diverse volunteer opportunities, deepened our partnership with Junior Achievement USA, and empowered markets to deliver meaningful, measurable impact.

Volunteer Stories

Empowering Classrooms Through Teachers' Treasures

In July (Trimester 2), Cherry Bekaert employees in Indianapolis demonstrated what it truly means to create an impact for the next generation and those teaching them. Recognizing that every pencil, pen and notebook can create a ripple effect of possibilities across classrooms, our people rallied around Teachers' Treasures during their annual Gr8 Paper Push Donation Drive. Teachers' Treasures is a not-for-profit dedicated to ensuring educators and students in Marion County, IN, have access to essential school supplies.

According to the organization, every day at public, charter and parochial schools located throughout the county, children of all ages attend class without the most basic supplies they need to get a good education. To fill the gap, dedicated teachers spend, on average, \$800 to \$1,200 a year out-of-pocket on school supplies for their students. This is no small sum.

The Indianapolis office collected more than 230 classroom supplies and helped raise \$4,000, which included a \$2,500 Community IMPACT Grant from the Cherry Bekaert Foundation, over a two-week period. These donations, and the over \$20,000 raised in total during the Gr8 Paper Push Drive, directly support Teachers' Treasures', helping to ensure their free teacher resource stores that serve over 6,000 educators across more than 333 schools are stocked with the tools and resources they need to feel empowered for classroom success.

After the donation drive, the gratitude from Teachers' Treasures was heartfelt and immediate. Cherry Bekaert was recognized as one of the top three contributors to 2025's campaign in a special shout-out on their Instagram, and as a token of appreciation, a representative from the organization personally stopped by the office to deliver a hand-signed thank you board filled with notes from teachers who directly benefited from the donations. To sweeten the moment, the team was surprised with apple-shaped sugar cookies to enjoy.

Teachers' Treasures, through its gratitude and tangible impact, stands to remind us that small acts — multiplied across a team — can transform entire learning environments and lives.



Supporting Families in Need Through Central Texas Food Bank & Jeffrey's Tree

Trimester 3 (September - December) showcased how our people, specifically in the local Austin/Houston market, embody the spirit of community service during a season when families often need it most. Through our contributions and volunteerism efforts to the Central Texas Food Bank (the Food Bank) and Jeffrey's Tree, our team helped feed local communities while bringing joy and dignity to children and families experiencing hardship.

On December 9, 2025, the day began with our Austin office spending the morning at the Food Bank, an organization that feeds and nourishes more than 530,000 food-insecure individuals each year across 21-county service areas. Our team of over 20 volunteers worked side-by-side in the Food Bank's warehouse to inspect, clean, sort and prepare nearly 5,000 pounds of food for local distribution. To further strengthen these efforts and support the Food Bank's distribution programs, mobile pantries and fresh food initiatives that hungry families depend on, the Cherry Bekaert Foundation awarded a \$2,500 grant. After the morning shift at the Food Bank, the Austin team continued making an impact and turned their attention to Jeffrey's Tree. Jeffrey's Tree is a small family-run nonprofit which honors the memory of its founder's son, Jeffrey, a young philanthropist, who tragically passed away and, like many children, whose favorite holiday was Christmas. The organization supports 300 - 400 children of low-income families across Central Texas to provide basic needs programs and items throughout the year, but during the holiday season, the organization offers a program to "adopt" or "sponsor" a child for Christmas.

With the support of \$14,500 of raised office funds and another \$2,500 Foundation grant, 16 volunteers spent the afternoon shopping for gifts off 30 children's wish-lists and wrapping those gifts. The sponsorship also included a holiday meal for each family that signed up for the program.

Together, these experiences illustrate the heart of Trimester 3: meeting basic needs while uplifting the human experience. From sorting food that feeds thousands of Central Texans to wrapping gifts that restore hope and dignity for local children, our people showed what it means to stand with our communities during the holidays.







Summer Learning at the Lexington Public Library

Continuing a beloved annual tradition of volunteering at the Lexington Public Library, the Lexington office dedicated more than 49.5 hours supporting the Library during its busiest stretch of the summer season. Working alongside Library staff at both the Marksbury Family Branch and Eastside Branch, the team provided essential on-the-ground help as families poured in for summer learning, enrichment and exploration. Volunteers assisted with way-finding, supported collection management, and helped families navigate crowded program days with ease — all gestures that relieved pressure during an exceptionally busy season.

This year, the Cherry Bekaert Foundation amplified that impact through a \$5,000 Community IMPACT Grant, awarded during Trimester 1 (January - April) to help underwrite the Library's 2025 summer programming, "Summer at the Library." That investment made possible hundreds of high-quality educational

opportunities for local Fayette County children — including exciting special events like "KY Down Under!", where young learners could experience hands-on exploration and live animal encounters that brought science and curiosity to life.

The Library's summer programming serves a vital purpose: preventing "summer slide," the academic learning loss that disproportionately impacts children from lower-income families when school is out of session. But through more than 800 free programs, the Lexington Public Library ensures that every child — not just those with access to private enrichment — can experience high-quality educational activities, creative play and abundant reading materials.

Participation in reading or enrichment for as little as 20 minutes a day can interrupt the cycle of learning loss, and thanks to the combined power of volunteer service and grant funding, thousands of Lexington children were given access and opportunity to stay engaged, confident and curious throughout the summer months.

Community IMPACT Grants Awarded

50

TOTAL NUMBER OF
GRANTS AWARDED

\$211,000

TOTAL AMOUNT
AWARDED

Organizations Awarded Grants

- ▶ American Heart Association
- ▶ Armed Services YMCA, Hampton Roads Branch
- ▶ Beds for Kids
- ▶ Blessings in a Backpack Floyd County (New Albany Floyd County Education Foundation, Inc.)
- ▶ Boys and Girls Club of Wake and Johnston County
- ▶ Canopy Housing Foundation
- ▶ Centennial Park Conservancy
- ▶ Central Texas Food Bank
- ▶ Children's Theatre of Charlotte at ImaginOn
- ▶ Conductive Education Center of Orlando
- ▶ Cradles to Crayons
- ▶ Cristo Rey
- ▶ Feeding Georgia
- ▶ Feed My Starving Children
- ▶ Friends of Fonticello Park
- ▶ Freestore Foodbank
- ▶ Glamorous Gemz, Inc.
- ▶ God's Pantry Food Bank
- ▶ Golden Harvest Food Bank, Inc.
- ▶ GraceWorks Ministries Inc
- ▶ Greater Richmond SCAN
- ▶ Habitat for Humanity of the Charlotte Region
- ▶ Habitat for Humanity of Wake County
- ▶ Home of the Innocents
- ▶ Hope for Miami
- ▶ Humane Society of St. Joseph County
- ▶ Interfaith Social Services
- ▶ It Pays to Read
- ▶ Jeffrey's Tree
- ▶ Lexington Public Library Foundation
- ▶ Little Hands Virginia
- ▶ Make A Wish Mid-Atlantic
- ▶ Martha's Table
- ▶ Nashville Rescue Mission
- ▶ Newtown Connection
- ▶ Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation
- ▶ Promising Pages
- ▶ Ronald McDonald House Charities of Richmond
- ▶ Ronald McDonald House Charities of Augusta
- ▶ Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Cincinnati
- ▶ Ronald McDonald House Charities of Kentuckiana
- ▶ Special Olympics North Carolina
- ▶ Special Olympics Virginia
- ▶ Teachers' Treasures
- ▶ The Salvation Army
- ▶ Tuscarawas County Humane Society
- ▶ Women Giving Back

Board Member Matching Grants

Alignment Collaborative for Education

Sheri Taylor, Elgin

Augusta Symphony, Inc.

Beth Morrison, Augusta

Band Together

John Gonella, Raleigh

Baptist Healthcare

Jennifer Thomas, Louisville

Belmont Community Resources Services

Steve Holliday, Richmond

Berks Nature

Nicholas Bieber, Reading

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Kentuckiana

Todd Rosenbaum, Louisville

Bleeding Disorders Foundation of North Carolina

Daniel Gougherty, Charlotte

Blessings in a Back Pack - New Albany Floyd County Education Foundation

Karen Ballard, Louisville

Bluegrass Greensource

Debbie Smith, Lexington

Boy & Girls Club of Wake

Jessica Simmons, Raleigh

Canines for Disabled Kids

Haley Melanson, Waltham

CASA of McHenry County

Michael McAvoy, Elgin

Chatham Baroque

Brittany Nimal-Deighan, Pittsburgh

Chesapeake Conservancy

Jeffrey Sabot, Rockville

Families4Families DMV, Inc.

Tracy Bowers, Tysons

Friends of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences

Amelia Crawford, Raleigh

Georgia Center for Nonprofits

Melinda Battle, Atlanta

Giant Steps Illinois

Beth Ulbrich, Elgin

Greater SCAN of Richmond

Kasey George, Richmond

Gwynedd Mercy University

Regina O'Keefe, Spring House

Habitat for Humanity - Northern Fox Valley

Nina McAvoy, Elgin

Habitat for Humanity of Metro Louisville

Todd Rosenbaum, Louisville

Home of the Innocents

Blake Kirk, Louisville

Junior Achievement

Doug Helm, Louisville

Junior Achievement of Greater Hampton Roads

Logan Booth, Virginia Beach

LexArts

Michelle Deans, Lexington

Lexington Montessori School

Dylan T Schneider, Lexington

Literacy Council of Reading-Berks

Jennifer Cerra, Remote

Live Healthy and Thrive Youth Foundation

Latonya Bryan Bent, Atlanta

Local Boys Do Good

Mareena Register Smith, Greenville

Loves & Fishes

Laura Turner, Greenville

Make-A-Wish Southern Florida, Inc.

Chris Rux, Tampa

Nativity Academy at Saint Boniface

Taylor Townsend, Louisville

Nazareth Home, Inc.

Jennifer Thomas, Louisville

NC Independent College Fund

Matthew Socha, Charlotte

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Augusta

Jennifer Heath, Augusta

The Bridge Youth and Family Services

John Fedus, Chicago

The Holiday Heroes

Ann Behrens, Elgin

The IM ABLE Foundation

Corey Robinson, Remote

**The Salvation Army of Greenville,
Oconee and Pickens County**

Aaron Parris, Greenville

Tree of Learning, Inc.

Anne Reed, Atlanta

United Way of the CSRA

Bonnie Cox, Augusta

University Radio Foundation, Inc.

Matthew Socha, Charlotte

Voices of Hope

Evan Wilt, Lexington

Wake Education Partnership

Scott Duda, Raleigh

\$69,364

**TOTAL MATCHING
GRANTS**

Disaster Relief Texas Flood

Our collective response to disasters has consistently demonstrated our readiness to act. In 2025, devastating floods in Texas prompted the Cherry Bekaert Foundation to launch a matching gift of up to \$15,000 to those affected in our neighboring communities through donations.

Cherry Bekaert raised \$34,000, making the combined total \$49,000 gifted between two charitable organizations identified by the Austin market that were actively funding relief efforts in the impacted communities.



[Central Texas Flood Recovery Fund](#)



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
— of the —
TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

[Kerr County Flood Relief Fund](#)

Oscar Mike Foundation Giving in Honor of Veteran's Day

At Cherry Bekaert's Annual Partner Meeting, our dedicated partners and leaders, in collaboration with the Firm and the Cherry Bekaert Foundation, successfully raised an impressive \$137,880 in a single evening. This remarkable achievement was made in remembrance of Veteran's Day and will greatly benefit the Oscar Mike Foundation, which is dedicated to supporting injured veterans.

During the event, Cherry Bekaert Tax Partner and U.S. Marine Corps veteran Chris DeBlanc had the honor of introducing Noah Currier, founder of the Oscar Mike Foundation. Noah is a fellow veteran who served as a U.S. Marine. After sustaining a spinal cord injury, Noah founded the Oscar Mike Foundation to empower injured veterans through adaptive sports. Noah shared his incredible story of perseverance, describing how he spent six years getting out of his "funk" following a traumatic accident that paralyzed him from the chest down.

The Oscar Mike Foundation's mission is to keep veterans "on the move," providing them with opportunities to participate in sports and physical activities that promote rehabilitation, camaraderie and independence. We are proud to support the Oscar Mike Foundation and commend Noah and his team for their unwavering commitment to the veteran community.

"A friend talked me into trying an adaptive sport before I called it quits. Feeling fear, adrenaline, and excitement again was like I had been handed a key that unlocked a door to a future worth living. I want to share that key with all my peers to keep their lives Oscar Mike."

Noah Currier

2025 Financial Report

The Cherry Bekaert Foundation has graciously accepted donations from our Cherry Bekaert partners, associates and community members. Our initial pledge period jumpstarted our ability to immediately start giving back to our communities and organizations that support our focus areas. The following figures represent the Foundation's financial activity from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

\$357,984

TOTAL REVENUE

\$563,494

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED

\$21,505

INVESTMENT INCOME

\$4,539

MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES

\$700,322

TOTAL ASSETS ON HAND AT YEAR END



How To Donate

Make a difference today by donating to the Cherry Bekaert Foundation:

Donate With Credit Card

Cherry Bekaert Foundation

Use PayPal to donate by credit card. If you have a PayPal account, you may also use other payment options set up on your account.



Scan with mobile device to donate

Donate With Venmo

@CHERRYBEKAERTFOUNDATION

Use Venmo to donate if you already have a Venmo account and the app is downloaded to your mobile device. **Venmo donations only accepted via mobile app.**



Scan with mobile device to donate

Cherry Bekaert Foundation Leadership

FOUNDATION BOARD



Matthew Socha
President



Mitch Weintraub
Secretary



Ann Behrens
Treasurer



Jackie Connor
Board Member



Cynthia Daniel
Board Member



Doug Helm
Board Member



Brad Smith
Board Member



Melissa Quinn
Board Member

COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Kasey George
Community Impact



Sarah Tucker
National Impact



Cynthia Daniel
Grant



Mitch Weintraub
Governance



Melissa Quinn
Communication



Ann Behrens
FUNraising Committee



 Follow the Cherry Bekaert Foundation on LinkedIn

About the Cherry Bekaert Foundation

The Cherry Bekaert Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, gives back to the communities where we live and work. The Foundation seeks to collaborate with and support organizations that align with Cherry Bekaert's shared values, provide impactful resources and inspire individuals to actively engage with their communities.