

## **UUTC Community Outreach Endowment Fund**

**April 21, 2023, Report**—Submitted by Roberta Miller, Carter Heyward, and Richard Mills of the UUTC Community Outreach Endowment Fund Committee for the 2022-23 year.

This year's awards were shared between two entities of the same organization, the Mary C. Jenkins Cultural and Community Center. The immediate impact of the Center on the surrounding community confirmed the Committee's belief that it was important to be supportive of the Center's initial programs.

### **Black History Month/HBCU Community Dinner Held on February 24, 2023 \$2000.00**

The dinner was catered by Daddy D's, a Black owned business, and guests were welcomed by the Mary C. Jenkins Director Tyree Griffin. Sheila Mooney explained the connections to the October 2022 HBCU Experience twenty-two Transylvania County School students of color had had, in large part because of last year's UUTC Endowment Award. The students had a two-day trip to visit five HBCU campuses (with an additional drive through two other campuses).

At the dinner there were several Transylvania County individuals present who had attended HBCUs who spoke briefly about their experiences. The audience was treated to an excellent video of students from across the country talking about the value of their HBCU educations. The main speaker for the evening was HBCU graduate Brian Foster, originally of Brevard, who is currently in charge of a large division of Home Depot Corp. He also met and talked with several of the students who had been a part of the 2022 campus visit. Funds covered the dinner, the speaker's stipend, and the high schoolers' gift certificates. The event also included raffles.

Perhaps the most important part of this \$2000 award and the previous \$4400 award is that both events are now scheduled to be continuing programs, including contact with students who went on the original two-day trip. Also, Rise & Shine is planning to do at least one short HBCU trip during the summer, so the impact of the original awards is spreading throughout the community. Efforts will also be made to include younger students.

### **The Legacy Project Beginning August 24, 2023**

**\$6000.00**

The Legacy Project is a course in which participants will receive a clear and honest description and analysis of Black History in American and the role of white Americans. It will deliver an understanding and knowledge of our local Black Americans, their history, their culture, their communities, and their accomplishments.

The eight sessions will begin with an Orientation on August 24, 2023, and end on January 4, 2024. Topics will include The Significance of Slavery, Economics/Business, Healthcare, Culture (Arts, etc.), Law and Justice, Education, the Role of Churches, and Lives of Black Women. There will be a Closing Session and Celebration.

Preliminary expenditures were small ones for DVDs of PBS programs pertaining to related course subjects. Future payouts will be for payments to speakers, funding for materials, and minor expenses such as refreshments and publicity. There will also be scholarships of \$100.00 for those who need help with the session costs.

**Please note:** The Steering Committee: Co-chairs—Edith Darity & Susan Threlkel, and members: Dan Carter, Sim Cozart, Carter Heyward, Spencer Jones, Tony Kilgore, Carl Mooney, Diana Refsland, and Laura Sperry.

**The 501(c)(3) Community Focus Foundation will be the vehicle for these two awards.**