



# Facts and Figures

## **Why does Ashe County Schools have an endowment fund?**

Federal, state, and local sources of revenue are continuously being cut which limits the funding educators have for new and innovative approaches to learning. Keeping students engaged in learning is a major challenge for educators today. The days of lecturing behind a desk or podium while students sit still and take notes are long gone. Students have different learning styles and when an educator taps into what works best for students, he/she often needs resources to incorporate that “style” in the classroom. Resources that most likely cost money. The Ashe County Schools Endowment Fund helps ensure that there is money available for educational purposes despite cutbacks on any level.

## **How did it all begin?**

Ashe County Schools Endowment was founded by the Ashe County Board of Education in 2000 to manage an initial endowment of \$25,500 donated by an unnamed individual. Since 2000, the principle in the endowment has grown to \$403,182.99.

## **What is the fund used for?**

The interest from the fund balance is used to support new and innovative approaches to learning in the classroom. Mini grants are available to local educators to enhance learning and to support the mission of the Ashe County School system. Since 2003, more than 120 grant proposals have been submitted and over \$166,00 has been awarded to Ashe County Schools’ educators.

## **How do we increase the fund balance?**

The Endowment grows through gifts of cash, contributions of real estate, stocks, bonds, personal property and other items of value from individuals, corporations, foundations, businesses, and other organizations. Through fundraising efforts, the fund is able to grow annually. A golf tournament is held each year, alternating between Jefferson Landing Club and Mountain Aire Golf Course.