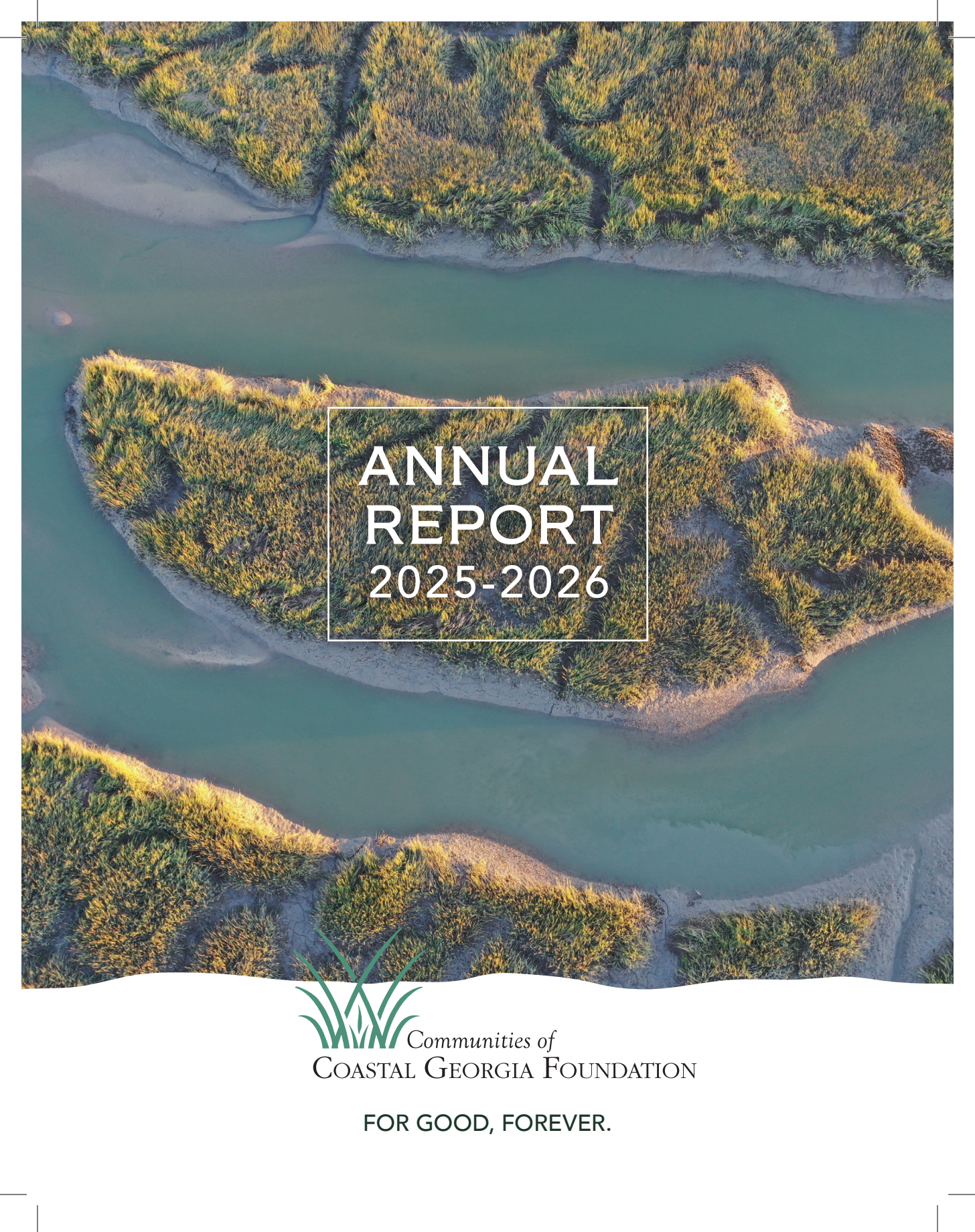


An aerial photograph of a winding river with lush green grassy banks. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom right, with several small islands and peninsulas. The grass is a vibrant green, and the water is a calm, light blue-grey color. The lighting suggests a late afternoon or early morning scene, with long shadows and a warm glow.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026



Communities of
COASTAL GEORGIA FOUNDATION

FOR GOOD, FOREVER.



2026 BOARD OFFICERS & MEMBERS

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Father Alan Akridge
Vice Chair

Hillary S. Stringfellow
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Treasurer

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John J. Rogers

Philip F. Saussy

David W. Wright

Sugandha "Sugar" Yadav

Cover photo by Sam Ghioto

A FRESH LOOK

The Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation (CCGF) has unveiled a refreshed website, making it easier for donors, fundholders, nonprofits, advisors, and community members to connect with the

Foundation's work across Coastal Georgia. The updated site features streamlined navigation, enhanced giving and grant information, and new tools showcasing CCGF's growing reach.

The refreshed site reflects CCGF's commitment to accessibility, transparency, and engaged philanthropy across Coastal Georgia.

CHECK IT OUT!



A DEDICATED TEAM



**John
FitzGerald**
Finance

**Meizi
Wolven**
*Project Manager
for Engaged
Philanthropy*

**Keeva
Kase**
*President
& CEO*

**Shannon
Crawford**
*Executive
Services*

**Maddison
Moore**
*Communications
& Administrative
Coordinator*

Dear Friends,

This year was defined by the power of partnership. Across Coastal Georgia, we witnessed what is possible when donors, nonprofits, businesses, civic leaders, and community members come together around a shared vision for a stronger future. Whether investing in students, strengthening nonprofits, supporting housing initiatives, responding to disasters, or protecting our region's natural treasures, CCGF continued to serve as a trusted partner, convener, and catalyst for positive change.

One of the most exciting milestones of the year was the continued growth of Under One Roof, our community-wide effort to address housing insecurity in Coastal Georgia. Through strategic philanthropic investment and broad community collaboration, this initiative is helping create lasting housing solutions for veterans, families, and individuals working toward stability and independence.

We also celebrated the inaugural recipients of The Lowe/Ashmore Family Scholarship Fund, expanded opportunities for nonprofit leaders through the Nonprofit Leadership Roundtable for Coastal Georgia, advanced the True Charity movement across Southeast Georgia, and supported recovery efforts following the devastating Brantley County wildfires. These efforts reflect our commitment to addressing both immediate needs and long-term opportunities throughout the region.

This year also brought global recognition to one of our region's greatest natural assets. The designation of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge as a UNESCO World Heritage Site was a historic achievement and a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished through collaboration, education, and sustained community investment.

The stories throughout this report highlight individual accomplishments, but together they tell a larger story: philanthropy is thriving in Coastal Georgia. More people are engaging in charitable giving, more organizations are working together, and more opportunities exist to create meaningful impact. Since 2021, CCGF Fundholders have delivered \$33.5 million in grants to causes in Coastal Georgia and beyond.

As we look ahead, I remain inspired by the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our nonprofit partners, and the passion of the volunteers and board members who help guide our work. Thank you for being the driving force behind everything we do at CCGF.



With gratitude,

Keeva

Keeva Kase
President & CEO

INVESTING IN TOMORROW'S INNOVATORS



Mr. George Ashmore

Established to support Glynn Academy graduates pursuing degrees in the hard sciences and related fields, the **Lowe/Ashmore Scholarship** reflects a commitment to expanding educational opportunities for future generations. In its inaugural year, 2026, six outstanding students were selected to receive scholarships of \$2,500 per semester for up to eight semesters, helping them pursue ambitious academic and career goals.

More than financial assistance, the scholarship represents an investment in future innovators, researchers, healthcare professionals, and problem-solvers whose talents will help shape their communities and beyond. The highly competitive selection process recognizes students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement, leadership, character, and commitment to excellence.

The scholarship was made possible through a generous gift from Kenneth E. Lowe (1933–2025), a member of Glynn Academy's Class of 1952, and honors both Mr. Lowe and his brother-in-law, George H. Ashmore, Jr. (1934–2006), a fellow member of the Class of 1952. For both men, higher education was a transformative opportunity. As the first members of their families to attend college, they understood the power of education to open doors and change lives. Through this scholarship, their legacy will continue to inspire and support promising students for years to come.



Glynn Academy graduates: Audrey Lowe Bunkley, Kenneth Lowe, and Nancy Lowe Ashmore

THE QUIET POWER OF GIVING

Some of philanthropy's most meaningful contributions happen without recognition or fanfare. **The Coastal Georgia Community Betterment Fund** is a powerful example of how anonymous generosity can create a lasting impact for an entire community.

Established through an anonymous gift of approximately \$4.7 million, the Betterment Fund was created to enhance the quality of life throughout Coastal Georgia. Guided by a vision for long-term community improvement, the fund has already played a transformative role in addressing some of the region's most pressing needs.

Through the Betterment Fund, \$1 million was invested in the Reynolds Cottages project, helping expand options for workforce housing.

An additional \$1 million was directed to Under One Roof, the community-wide initiative working to increase transitional housing and supportive services for individuals and families experiencing housing insecurity in Coastal Georgia.

While the donors chose to remain unnamed, the impact of their generosity is visible throughout the community. The Betterment Fund is a reminder that philanthropy is not about recognition, but about creating opportunities, strengthening lives, and leaving a legacy that benefits generations to come.



Reynolds Cottages

BUILDING STRONGER NONPROFITS TOGETHER

Launched in December 2025, the **Nonprofit Leadership Roundtable for Coastal Georgia** brings nonprofit executives together to connect, collaborate, and strengthen their collective impact across the region. Established to foster a thriving nonprofit sector, the Roundtable provides a forum for leaders to share insights, address challenges, and build meaningful partnerships.

The inaugural gathering, held at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center, united nonprofit leaders around a shared commitment to advancing excellence, expanding community impact, and identifying opportunities for collaboration that improve the quality of life throughout coastal Georgia.

Since its launch, the Roundtable has grown to include 50 nonprofit leaders representing organizations serving a wide range of community needs. This expanding network reflects both the strength of the region's nonprofit sector and the value of peer-to-peer engagement.

Through the Roundtable, CCGF is helping build nonprofit capacity by fostering relationships, encouraging knowledge sharing, and strengthening the partnerships that make communities more resilient and vibrant.





A GLOBAL HONOR FOR A NATURAL TREASURE

In July 2026, the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, becoming Georgia's first World Heritage Site and the first U.S. National Wildlife Refuge to receive the designation. This historic achievement recognizes the Okefenokee's extraordinary ecological significance and is expected to increase global awareness, tourism, and economic opportunity throughout the region.

For CCGF, the milestone reflects years of partnership, advocacy, and philanthropic investment. CCGF proudly houses the Okefenokee Swamp Park Fund and, in 2024, co-hosted a Partners in Philanthropy event that helped launch a successful campaign to fund the World Heritage nomination effort.

Okefenokee Swamp Park Executive Director Kim Bednarek described the Okefenokee's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site as "a landmark achievement for the Okefenokee, our region, and the State of Georgia. CCGF has been a valued partner throughout this journey, helping bring people together, build philanthropic support, and advance a shared vision for conserving one of the world's most significant natural wonders. This achievement shows what is possible when communities, conservation partners, and state leaders unite around a place they believe is worth protecting for future generations."

This achievement demonstrates the power of collaboration and serves as a lasting reminder of what communities can accomplish when they unite around a shared vision for conservation and stewardship.

ADVANCING EFFECTIVE CHARITY ACROSS SOUTHEAST GEORGIA

During 2025-2026, CCGF continued to advance the **True Charity** movement across Southeast Georgia, helping nonprofits, churches, and donors adopt approaches that promote dignity, self-sufficiency, and lasting transformation.

In December 2025, CCGF partnered with the St. Marys Methodist Church Foundation and True Charity to host a Partners in Philanthropy luncheon that brought together donors, nonprofit leaders, and community stakeholders to explore effective charity practices. By then, 26 local organizations had joined the True Charity Network, gaining access to training and resources focused on long-term empowerment rather than short-term relief.

"Southeast Georgia has become a model for what is possible when donors, churches, and nonprofits come together around a shared commitment to dignity-centered charity. CCGF has been an invaluable partner in advancing this movement and creating pathways that help people move from crisis to lasting stability and independence." – *James Whitford, Co-founder and CEO, True Charity*

The event also launched an effort to establish a dedicated regional leader to expand the movement's impact. That vision became reality in June 2026 with the appointment of Katrina Bue as True Charity's first Southeast Georgia Ambassador, made possible through support from CCGF, the St. Marys Methodist Church Foundation, and other local philanthropists.

As a convener, educator, and philanthropic partner, CCGF continues to unite donors and nonprofit leaders around a shared goal: empowering individuals and families to achieve greater stability, opportunity, and long-term success.



Patrick Eades, CEO, Skylark and James Whitford, Co-founder and CEO, True Charity

RESPONDING TOGETHER: SUPPORT AFTER THE BRANTLEY COUNTY WILDFIRE

Following the devastating Brantley County wildfires in April 2026, CCGF mobilized its **Southeast Georgia Disaster Relief Fund** to help affected families and communities begin the recovery process. As residents faced the loss of homes, property, and livelihoods, donors, nonprofits, businesses, churches, and community foundations came together to provide critical support.

CCGF distributed more than \$150,000 in grants to organizations delivering emergency assistance, including frontline nonprofits, faith communities, and volunteer fire departments serving residents in the immediate aftermath of the disaster.

Recognizing that recovery extends beyond emergency response, CCGF partnered with the Greater Valdosta United Way and the Community Foundation of South Georgia to support long-term housing and recovery efforts for displaced families. Matching gift challenges and generous contributions from individuals, businesses, and philanthropic organizations further strengthened these efforts.

The wildfire response demonstrated the power of collaboration and CCGF's role as a convener of resources and partnerships. While recovery continues, the community's collective response reflected a shared commitment to ensuring that neighbors facing hardship have the support they need to rebuild and move forward.



ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

For generations, Mallery Park has been a place where children learn, families connect, and lifelong memories are made. This beloved St. Simons Island landmark is now entering a new chapter with a nearly \$4 million renovation that will enhance its ability to serve the community for years to come.

The **Mallery Park Renovation Project** stands as a testament to the impact of local giving. Backed by community leaders, CCGF, and its fundholders, and open to public donations, this investment will ensure that Mallery Park continues to thrive as a community hub.

Among the project's lead supporters is former Major League Baseball star and Glynn Academy graduate Adam Wainwright, who spent his early years playing at Mallery Park. Reflecting on its impact, he shared, "Places like Mallery Park are where it all begins. Before the stadiums and the big moments, there are fields like these, where kids fall in love with the game, learn about teamwork, and build friendships that last a lifetime."

For CCGF, the renovation represents more than an investment in recreational facilities. It is an investment in community, ensuring that future generations have a place to play, grow, connect, and create lasting memories.

To become a part of this historic transformation and support the capital campaign, community members are invited to donate directly to the fund through CCGF.



UNDER ONE ROOF

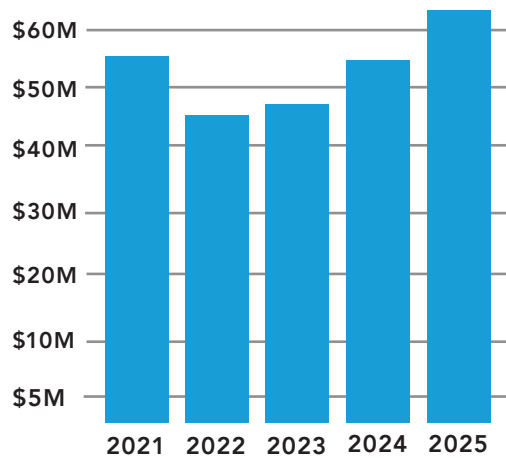
Few challenges affect families more deeply than the lack of safe, stable housing. In response, CCGF launched **Under One Roof**, a community-wide initiative dedicated to expanding transitional housing and supportive services for individuals and families experiencing housing insecurity in Coastal Georgia.

Since its launch in late 2024, the campaign has generated remarkable momentum, raising more than \$5 million in private philanthropic support and investing nearly \$3 million in transformational housing solutions. Fueled by a landmark \$5 million matching commitment from The Anschutz Foundation, along with generous support from local donors, businesses, faith communities, and foundations, Under One Roof is helping turn bold ideas into lasting solutions. These investments are already making a tangible difference. Saved By Grace acquired and began renovating a former church campus to provide housing and supportive services for men working toward long-term stability. Golden Isles Veterans Village completed construction of a neighborhood of 29 tiny homes, welcoming its first residents and creating a new pathway to housing for local veterans. Foundations for Families advanced plans for transitional housing and supportive programming for women and children to establish City of Refuge Golden Isles.

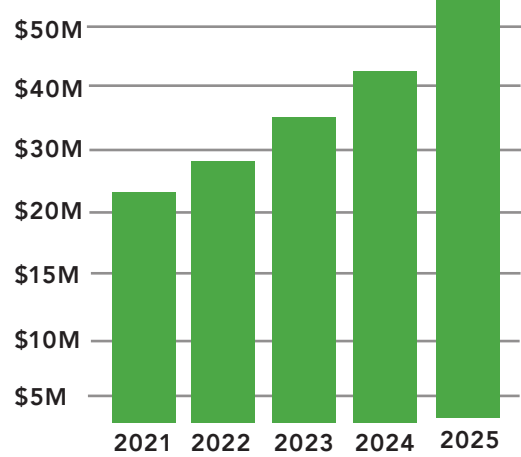
More than a fundraising campaign, Under One Roof is a community commitment to ensuring that no one faces a housing crisis alone. Through collaboration, strategic investment, and a shared vision, the initiative is creating opportunities for individuals and families to rebuild their lives and thrive.



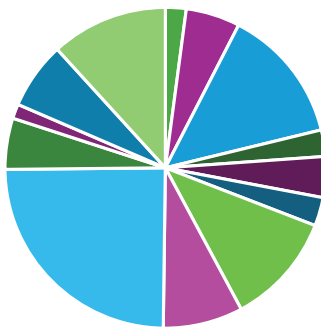
TOTAL ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT



CUMULATIVE GRANTS AWARDED

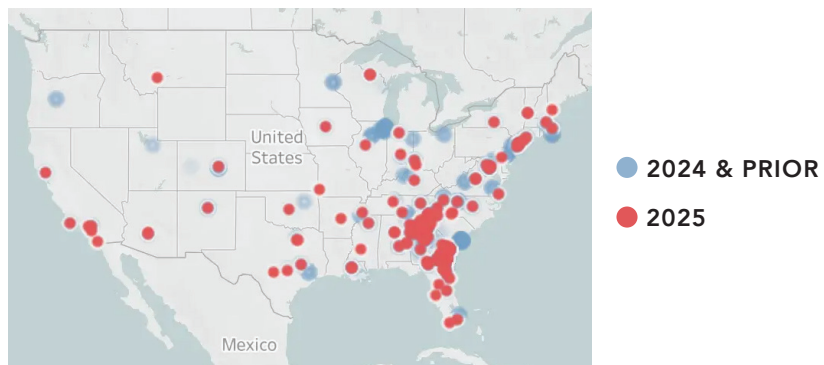


GRANTS AWARDED IN 2025



- Animal Protection
- CCGF
- Community Impact
- Education & Childhood Literacy
- Health & Social Services
- Public Service
- Youth Services
- Arts & Culture
- Community Economic Development
- Disaster & Emergency Management
- Environment
- Historic Preservation & Heritage
- Religious & Faith Based

GRANTS BY ZIP CODE IN 2025



A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP AND GROWTH: HONORING JACK KILGORE



After more than twelve years of dedicated service on the CCGF Board of Directors, Jack Kilgore leaves a lasting legacy of leadership, growth, and community impact.

A Glynn County native, Jack retired in 2014, after a distinguished 36-year career in the food products industry, from Rich Products. Throughout his career and in retirement, Jack has been a dedicated community leader, contributing his time and talents to numerous civic and nonprofit organizations, including the College of Coastal Georgia Foundation, Communities in Schools, the Golden Isles Development Authority, all of which benefited from his service as Board Chair, and the St. Simons Land Trust.

Jack's introduction to CCGF came through his work with the College of Coastal Georgia Foundation and his long-standing relationship with former Foundation President Dr. Valerie Hepburn. When Hepburn invited him to join the CCGF Board, he welcomed the opportunity to support philanthropy in a new way.

Reflecting on his tenure, Jack points to CCGF's remarkable growth as one of his proudest accomplishments. During his years of service, he watched CCGF expand both its assets and its reach, growing from an organization primarily known in Glynn County to one with a significant presence and positive impact across Southeast Georgia.

He has also seen philanthropy evolve, becoming more visible and collaborative as nonprofits, donors, and community leaders increasingly work together to address regional challenges and opportunities. For future donors, volunteers, and board members, Jack offers simple but meaningful advice: "Don't be bashful. Jump in and get your feet wet. Make a difference. I promise you'll benefit greatly in return by being part of a great organization."

As Jack concludes his board service, we are deeply grateful for his leadership, wisdom, and commitment. His contributions have helped strengthen CCGF and position it for continued growth and impact throughout Coastal Georgia for years to come.

COMMUNITIES OF COASTAL GEORGIA FOUNDATION
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

Assets

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,168,629	\$ 4,750,819
Investments, at fair value	55,494,689	48,769,434
Operating right-of-use assets, net	453,816	496,645
Program-related investment loans, net	575,000	400,000
Beneficial interest in trusts	50,000	50,000
Property and equipment, net	4,468	-
Other assets	<u>6,340</u>	<u>8,887</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 60,752,942</u>	<u>\$ 54,475,785</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 21,940	\$ 7,336
Accrued expenses	-	10,520
Obligations under operating leases	472,310	507,715
Amounts held to benefit agency funds	<u>4,476,585</u>	<u>4,586,505</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>4,970,835</u>	<u>5,112,076</u>

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	55,732,107	49,313,709
With donor restrictions	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Total net assets	<u>55,782,107</u>	<u>49,363,709</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 60,752,942</u>	<u>\$ 54,475,785</u>

COMMUNITIES OF COASTAL GEORGIA FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Support and Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 8,616,062	\$ -	\$ 8,616,062
Investment income	1,447,704	-	1,447,704
Investment expenses	(147,712)	-	(147,712)
Net gains on investments	4,458,679	-	4,458,679
Management fee	35,117	-	35,117
Net assets released from restriction	-	-	-
Total Support and Revenue	14,409,850	-	14,409,850
Grants Awarded	7,089,626	-	7,089,626
Operating Expenses			
Salaries	407,354	-	407,354
General and administrative	494,472	-	494,472
Total Operating Expenses	901,826	-	901,826
Total Grants and Operating Expenses	7,991,452	-	7,991,452
Increase in Net Assets	6,418,398	-	6,418,398
Net Assets, Beginning	49,313,709	50,000	49,363,709
Net Assets, Ending	<u>\$ 55,732,107</u>	<u>\$ 50,000</u>	<u>\$55,782,107</u>

