

# The Heart of Black River

Winter 2015

## Your Support Launched First Event with Paragould Rotary



BRTC's inaugural Rotary 5K @ BRTC was a success because of you!

On Saturday, June 3, the Paragould Rotary Club partnered with BRTC to host their first 5K. This event was special: it was the first BRTC Foundation event on the Paragould campus and the first time BRTC partnered with the Paragould community.

You made this event possible. Thank you for your commitment to BRTC and the Paragould community!

## You Made the Golf Tournament a Success!



The golf tournament is the college's largest event and scholarship fundraiser. This year's proceeds will provide more than \$32,000 in student scholarships!

For the first time, we had a player waiting list. But no one had to wait for the food—volunteers from within and without the college took time from their day to make sure no one went hungry.

Thanks to you, many students will be able to afford a quality education. Thank you for helping make a better life for students and their families.



## Speaker Reaches Over 1,000 School Children, Thanks to You!

Did you know BRTC is only 1 of 11 locations *nation-wide* to which the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, with whom we partner, will send a Holocaust survivor, outside of a day's drive, to speak?

Thanks to you, BRTC is able to offer the Holocaust Survivor Series, a forum through which survivors can share their personal experiences of the Holocaust.

With your gift to the Foundation, this year alone you've given over 1,000 school-age kids the chance to hear, first-hand, these incredible, important stories. Thank you for your compassion and your support!





**Karen Liebhaber**  
VP of Institutional Advancement

**“No one is useless  
in this world  
who lightens the  
burdens of another.”**

~Charles Dickens

## Your Support Changes Lives

At a President's Cabinet meeting just a few days ago, Dr. Turner, president of BRTC, and his vice presidents were discussing what they value about the college. One thing that repeatedly came up was the level of support BRTC has from the community.

BRTC has a tremendous amount of support from its donors, its communities, its students, and its employees. In fact, I think you'll be surprised by how much you all give.

More than 200 of you volunteer on program advisory boards. Another 20 volunteer your time as Foundation Board members and Board of Trustee members. More than 75 of you participated in our golf tournament and another 50 were sponsors. Gifts to the Growing Strong campaign grew 26% between academic years 2014 and 2015.

I think you can say BRTC is very blessed!

As the story of Elizabeth Harvey, recipient of the Henry Culver Music Scholarship, illustrates, your support makes a tremendous difference in the lives of our students. Even just a small amount a semester can make the difference in which courses a student can take. As in the case of Elizabeth, a little over \$300 allowed her to be a member of the choir and share her talent with others.

Your support “lightens the burdens of another.” Your gift might enable a student to find his passion, allow a single mom to be home with her children after a full day of school, or help a first generation student earn the first degree in his family.

Your support matters. YOU make all the difference.



## Join us for a night of elegance and fun!

Your attendance at the Foundation Gala supports  
student scholarships,  
academic programs,  
and special classroom activities.

**Register Today!**

<https://goo.gl/xRtA5a>

## Pursing a Dream

Elizabeth Harvey is actually from Florida, but since the age of 12 she visited her grandmother who lived in Arkansas. Her junior year, she “wanted to move to Arkansas that summer and do my entire senior year up here” then attend BRTC, but her mother said no.

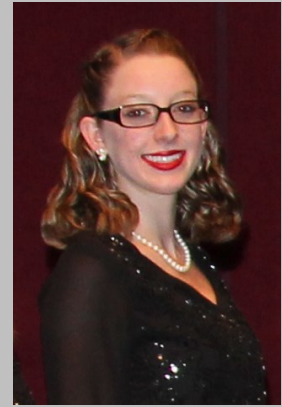
Elizabeth did finish her senior year in Arkansas, but her plans to attend BRTC were almost not realized: “Most of the scholarships had been given away; I was starting to wonder how I’d go to college at all.”

However, after visiting the BRTC campus, she worked hard to earn as many remaining scholarships as possible. She was able to earn three. One of them was the Henry Culver Music Scholarship.

This scholarship enabled Elizabeth to become a member of the Kimbrough Choir. She also achieved a place with the Kimbrough Singers. Music is such an important part of Elizabeth’s life that she plans to audition for the ASU choir when she transfers there next year.

Elizabeth’s academic journey has been less bumpy because of the support of several selfless donors. “Thanks to them,” said Elizabeth, “I will graduate with my AA from BRTC debt free!!”

Because of the generosity of just a handful of people, one student’s life has been “truly blessed and I hope one day to repay them by pursuing my dream job and paying the community back with my services.”



**“Thank you with  
all my heart!  
I truly believe  
they have no idea  
how much they  
have helped me!”**



**“Music is my way  
of giving back  
to others.”**

## The Joy of Music and Giving Back

Music has been Joniece Trammel’s lifelong passion. She began teaching private lessons at the age of 13 and spent 8 years teaching music in the public schools. Today, she is BRTC’s fine arts musical teacher and director of the Kimbrough Choir which was created through the generous gifts of the late Dexter Kimbrough.

Not only is Joniece a faculty member and choir director, she is a donor. In memory of her beloved grandfather, Henry Culver, also a music lover, Joniece created the Henry Culver Music Scholarship. The Culver scholarship is important because it provides tuition funds for student enrollment in the Kimbrough Choir which, in many cases, is the only way in which students can afford to participate.

Joniece says the music at BRTC enriches her life and sees supporting the college as a way to help others: “I would never expect anyone to give on my department’s behalf without my also being a giver.” She and husband Scott, a previous BRTC Trustee, have supported not only the choir but the college as a whole for almost 20 years. Their dedication has made an impression on innumerable lives.

Gifts to the Kimbrough Choir enable members to attend operas, music festivals, and orchestra performances to which they would not usually have the opportunity as well as purchase necessary equipment.



# 2015 *Growing Strong*

Your generosity is  
an investment in generations to come.

## *The Faces of Your Future...*



Please support the Growing Strong  
campaign.

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