

Acadia Community Foundation, Inc.

MISSION STATEMENT

The **Acadia Community Foundation** (“**Foundation**”) was founded to help protect and preserve the environmental and civic life of the Saluda River Basin in South Carolina. All of its work is performed by volunteers, and all of its funding comes from public contributions.

This Foundation was inspired by the 1996 creation of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor (<http://www.sc-heritagecorridor.org>). The Saluda River Basin forms the upper region of this Heritage Corridor; it is one of five National Heritage Areas (<http://www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/FAQ>). The Acadia Community is located along the Saluda River in this Heritage Corridor. The Heritage Corridor offers a cross-section of the area’s historical, cultural, and natural resources that tell the vibrant story of South Carolina’s centuries-long evolution and culture. The South Carolina National Heritage Corridor describes the progression of upcountry life in the Saluda River Basin, from simple farms to textile mill villages and urban centers, and how their history affected South Carolina as a state, and America as a nation. The Alliance of National Heritage Areas encourages groups and individuals to support these Heritage Areas (<http://www.nationalheritageareas.com>). Such designation comes with limited financial and technical assistance from the National Parks Service.

The Acadia Community Foundation has been inspired to support this National Heritage Corridor. Heritage conservation efforts are grounded in a community’s appreciation of its history and traditions, and in residents’ interest and involvement in retaining and interpreting the landscape for future generations. It offers a collaborative approach to conservation, both environmental and cultural.

The Saluda River Basin was historically a river of trade and commerce. The textile mills operating along the river have vanished, and water pollution from them ceased with the Clean Water Act of 1974. However, the river basin is still under environmental threat from waste water treatment plants and point-source run-off of phosphorous that kills fish and endangers the river habitat. (See attached news articles.) This problem has placed the Saluda River as #6 on the list of the nation’s most-threatened rivers. Part of the Foundation’s mission is to organize volunteer Saluda River Clean-Up days, to help remove trash and to promote cleaner water. This will help improve water quality and recreational uses, like kayaking and fishing. Also, the Foundation’s volunteers plant native plants and trees to help minimize soil erosion and pollution run-off in the basin area. Foundation volunteers also give guided public and school tours to educate on the unique botany of the area, the effects of pollution, and the importance of land conservation.

The Saluda River Basin is also known for its history as an important river system for Native Americans. The Saluda Indians were part of the Shawnee tribe that hunted and lived in this basin area. They gave their name to the Saluda River. The Foundation promotes this history of early settlement, and honors their native contributions with historical markers, cultural trails, civic days and school tours. In these ways, the Foundation performs its mission to protect and preserve the environmental and civic life

of the Saluda River Basin area, and help fulfill the goals of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor.

Description of Fundraising Programs:

All solicitations, whether by email or in person, ask the donor to support the Foundation's mission by giving money and volunteer time to the Foundation. The primary appeal is to help in the environmental clean-up of the Saluda River and to improve the basin-area ecology. Contact us at colleen@acadiasc.com, or call 864.269.1430.

Contributions may be made to:

**Acadia Community Foundation, Inc.
Attn.: Caleb C. Freeman, President
P.O. Box 8580
Greenville, SC 29604**

Thank You!