

Hall of Fame

Anne Springs Close - Community Leader

Anne Springs Close is a loyal taxpayer who loves people, especially students and teachers. It would be impossible to list everything she has done to help students, teacher and administrators, not only in Lancaster County, but all schools and students who might have been in the Springs textiles area. Many educators will always be thankful for the financial assistance Mrs. Close helped make available through the Springs Foundation to further our education.



Retired Educator Wofford Bennett Gunter Jr.

- Springs Close Foundation Chair – She has led the efforts begun by her father, Col. Elliott White Springs, to provide recreation, education and community service opportunities to all citizens of Chester, Lancaster and York counties.
- A commitment to lifelong education is the cornerstone of the Foundation which has invested more than \$23 million in grants and programs that help educate and support preschoolers to college students.
- In the early 60's, the Foundation made a commitment to education by supporting early childhood development through adult education. Numerous grants made to: Lancaster County Public Library; Reading Labs for Grades 3-5 in our schools; Computers in the classrooms, and many more grants.
- Leroy Springs Student Loan Program has made 8,788 interest free student loans for a total of \$10.7 million as of the end of 2014.
- School Assistance Program began in 1974 in Lancaster County. In 2003, it evolved into the Quality Schools Initiative Program, which enables teachers to take accredited college courses for recertification or to obtain a master's degree. Another part of this program reimbursed teachers for exam fees paid for National Board Certification. It also encompassed financial support for teachers and teachers' assistants who participated in workshops, special training sessions, conventions and in-service training. \$1.9 million for area teachers who, in turn, continued to improve our children's education in the public school system.
- SC First Steps to School Readiness, (\$1 million, 2002) a statewide initiative to prepare financial and technical resources working with the local partnership boards such as Lancaster County First Steps that identified gaps in service delivery, designed and implemented programs serving preschoolers and their families.
- Major commitments to USC Lancaster – Total \$3.36 million:
 - Initial commitment of \$8,564 in 1960 for the creation of Lancaster campus and to cover the tentative budget which grew to \$300,000 by the end of 1966.
 - An additional \$1.3 million was committed for the library, classroom building and Physical Education complex by the end of 1991.
 - \$1.25 million for Arts & Science Building 1995
 - \$500,000 for the new classroom building, Founders Hall 2008
- Weekend Backpack Program to LCSD (\$190,000, 2010-14) and Lancaster County First Steps (\$115,000 2011-14)
- National Philanthropy Day Outstanding Philanthropist Award 2014
- S.C. Wildlife Federation Legend of Conservation Award 2011
- Humanities Council of South Carolina Governor's Award in the Humanities 2004
- Cornelius Amory Pugsley Local Level Award 2001
- Palmetto Conservation Fund Land & Water Award 2000
- The Conservation Fund & National Geographic Society American Greenways DuPont Award 1995
- Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation Historic Preservation Award 1996
- Palmetto Trails Chairman - a plan to connect trails from upstate S.C. mountains to the coast shores
- Trust for Public Land & the Foundation for the Carolinas Honoree for extensive environmental leadership, including Anne Springs Close Greenway and 400-mile walking trail February 2001
- S.C. Commission on Women Woman of Achievement Award 1991
- York Technical College Foundation Charter Member 1991
- York County Forever Commission District 1 Commissioner Second Term
- National Recreation & Parks Association President 1992
- Wofford College Board of Trustees 1974-76 First Woman to serve on the board 1974-76 Chair 1984-86
- Winthrop University Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree 2003
- Wofford College Honorary Doctorate Degree 1986
- Fort Mill Citizen of the Year 1979
- Vocational Rehabilitation Training Center & Rock Hill Mayor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities – George Bean Award
- Wilderness Society Trustee
- American Farm Trust Director
- Olympic Torch Runner June 1996

[Click to watch Close's induction](#)