

MASON G. SMOAK



FOUNDATION

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE



GROWING DEEP • REACHING OUT • CARING FOR OTHERS

The Mason G. Smoak Foundation is focused on carrying on the legacy of its namesake by reaching out and caring for the needs of the Heartland area. Mason's roots grew deep in Highlands County, he reached out to help people wherever he saw a need and he deeply cared for those around him. Through the Mason G. Smoak Foundation we hope to spark that same level of compassion for our community.

Impacting those in need; whether to help a family in difficult times, to educate those in business desiring to learn more about leadership, to assist an environmental project or aid a student in attending college; the Foundation is a proactive, concerned organization who responds to community needs. Annually, the Foundation will look at grant requests from local nonprofits and provide funding to help meet needs that otherwise may have gone unmet.

“Mason’s attitude about life was apparent to all that knew him. He believed that every day was a gift from God and he lived each one to its fullest. He never missed the opportunity to lend a hand, make a personal connection with someone, help his industry and community, or take the time to show someone they were special.”

– Tracee Smoak

Mason's spirit of lending a helping hand and impacting his community led to the creation of the Mason G. Smoak Foundation. The Foundation hopes to raise support to meet the mission of the organization and continue to build an endowment which will fund the Foundation for many years to come. Annual gifts to the Foundation will do just that, help to meet the needs of the community and establish a legacy which will have an impact well into the future.



Mason Smoak, his wife Tracee and children Gabe, Landon and Ellie.



MISSION

The Mason G. Smoak Foundation is a faith based organization that will partner with non-profits dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of children, youth and families and will assist those who suddenly find themselves in need. The Foundation is dedicated to supporting education, preserving and protecting the environment and fostering opportunities for leadership development.



"In life we are to be oaks of righteousness. The oak draws from its roots, as we should the word of God. It reaches up, as we should to glorify our king. It reaches out, as we should to save those around us and live by example. It gives back bearing fruit and shade as needed by those around us. BE AN OAK, plant your roots deep in your faith, drink up the water of life and you will grow, reach out, and shade."



LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

The Leadership Circle of the Mason G. Smoak Foundation seeks to annually fund the programs and endowment of the Foundation. Through leadership level annual gifts, grants and scholarships will be awarded and the endowment will grow to continue funding the Foundation for years to come.

Membership in the Leadership Circle is extended to donors who contribute gifts of \$500 or more to the Mason G. Smoak Foundation Annual Fund each year. As a member of the Leadership Circle, you will be provided periodic updates about the Foundation and its activities, invited to special events for the Foundation, and receive special recognition on our Web site.

- Red Oak Sponsor*.....\$500 to \$999
- Chestnut Oak Sponsor*\$1,000 to \$2,499
- Water Oak Sponsor*.....\$2,500 to \$4,999
- Live Oak Sponsor*.....\$5,000 to \$9,999
- Big Oak Sponsor*\$10,000 and up

Your annual gift to the Mason G. Smoak Foundation will build on Mason's legacy and assist in meeting the mission of the Foundation.



HISTORY OF THE MASON G. SMOAK FOUNDATION



The Mason G. Smoak Foundation was founded in 2008 after the tragic death of Mason G. Smoak. Mason was a third generation Floridian from Lake Placid, Florida. As the youngest son in a citrus and cattle family, Mason took his work in agriculture, his love for his family, and his responsibility to serve those around him seriously.

Mason's leadership abilities and servant heart were evident to everyone. His Christian character and values led him to consistently help people in need. Mason was active in his church, Memorial United Methodist in Lake Placid. His family and friends remember how when Mason saw a need, he did not just contribute money to a cause, he rolled up his sleeves and got involved to help.

He also participated actively in agriculture, leadership and his community. He served on numerous nonprofit and agriculture related boards. In 2005, Mason received the Horizon Award from the University of Florida's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for his contribution to agriculture and natural resources. He completed UF's Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources. He was inducted posthumously into the Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame as a 2009 recipient of that honor.

Despite the numerous activities that vied for Mason's time, his family remained his top priority. He loved outdoor activities with his boys and spending time with his wife and daughter. His wife Tracee, sons Gabe and Landon and daughter Ellie, will now keep Mason's legacy alive for generations to come.



Mason Smoak was tragically killed in a plane crash in June of 2008. The accident happened while Mason was assisting Dr. David Maehr with a University of Kentucky conservation study of the Florida black bear population, one of the programs that was close to Mason's heart.