

# the Bailey



# Family foundation

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

## Message from the President:

Dear Family & Friends:

*I'd like to begin by mentioning the tremendous loss of my dad in December 2024. He founded The Bailey Family Foundation in 1997, and through his support and guidance, it's still thriving after nearly 30 years. The number of lives touched by his generosity is unmeasurable. I have big shoes to fill but believe the Foundation will continue to thrive for years to come. His presence is missed by everyone at the Foundation and all who knew him, whether through his work at the Foundation or in his personal life.*



*In loving Memory*

*See the full obituary on page 6.*

*This year's application period ended strong, with close to 2,100 applications received. The awards will be finalized in late March, but I'd like to officially congratulate the 2025 Bailey Scholars on receiving a \$5,000 scholarship for 2025-2026 tuition.*

*Thank you to the 244 Scholarship Selection Committee members who reviewed and scored each application we received. With their help and support of our mission, we were successfully able to award close to 500 scholarships.*

*As the end of this school year approaches, I'd like to wish everyone a happy and safe summer and good luck to all who are graduating college this year. We were honored to be a part of your academic success, and we hope you continue to keep in touch.*

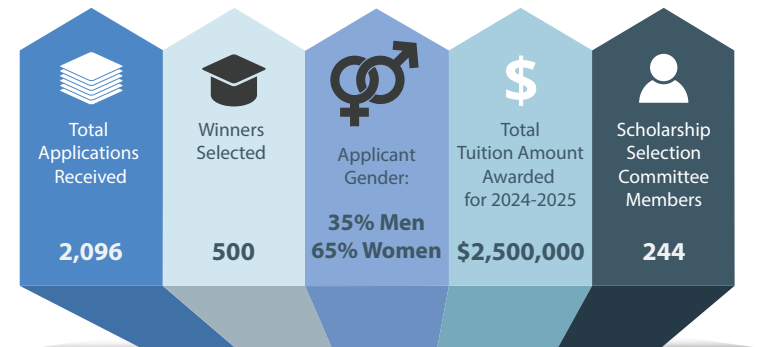
*Please enjoy this edition of the Bailey Family Foundation Newsletter.*

Warm Regards,

Kyle Bailey  
President

## 2025 Scholarship Period:

With the help of our Scholarship Selection Committee, we reviewed and scored close to 2,100 applications this session.



## DON'T FORGET:

**The Annual Bailey Family Memorial Day Reunion**  
**Saturday, May 24, 2025 12:00 noon**  
**Camp Creek State Park**

## What's Happening?

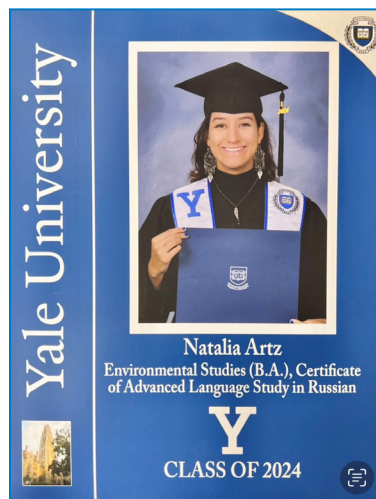
### NEWS & UPDATES

#### Bailey Family Members:

**Bailey, Ronnie K:** died peacefully in bed at Tampa General Hospital in the morning hours of Wednesday, December 11, 2024, surrounded by family and loved ones.

(See full obituary on page 6.)

#### Scholarship Recipients and Friends of the Foundation:



**Artz, Natalia:** graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degrees in Environmental Studies, and Advanced Language Study in Russian.

*Natalia Artz: 2020 Bailey Scholar & Yale University Grad*

**Raines, Susan:** graduated from USF-Tampa earning her Master's Degree as well as earning a concurrent Graduate Certificate.

*Susan Raines: 2016 Bailey Scholar*

She writes, *"I want to write and again thank the Bailey Family Foundation for all they have done to help me along my academic journey. I am thrilled to share that*



*I graduated this past December from USF-Tampa earning my Master of Public Administration degree. I also concurrently earned a Graduate Certificate in Management of Non-Governmental and Non-Profit Organizations. I would not be where I am today without having received the assistance I received as a Bailey scholar while I was earning my undergraduate degree. Getting help during that season of my life made it possible for me to believe that I could go even further! I will be eternally grateful to the Bailey Family Foundation for this!!"*

#### **Update from our 2025 Bailey Scholars in Kenya**

(from Scholarship Evaluator Janet Jalloul, and teacher, in Kenya, Africa)

1. **Grace Lemona**, 16, very good in math and wants to be a business woman one day and hire lots of women.

2. **Simon Lemakoman**, 17, speaks 4 languages. Wants to be a high school or college teacher. Has five sisters and three brothers.



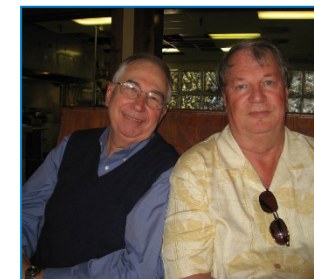
*Students at the Samburu School in their new uniforms*

## Foundation News & Activities

### **Happy Retirement, Stan!**

Stan Elmore, a lifelong friend to Founder Ron Bailey, has worked at The Foundation since its early beginnings in Virginia and recently retired in December 2024. *Thanks for everything, Mr. Elmore!*

*Stan Elmore & Ron Bailey (Feb 2008)*







*Stan's new home office (in 2013)*

**Stan** writes, *"It has been an honor to have worked with the Bailey Family Foundation for the last 25 years. I do feel a great sense of accomplishment and satisfaction when I think of the thousands of lives that have been made better with the generosity of the Bailey Family. Just being a part of the foundation*

*has made my life, and my families lives so much better. It gives us all a sense of pride to have been a part of the execution of the vision that the Bailey Family had for the Foundation.*

*It has been the best Job ever! Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the success of the Bailey Family Foundation."*

### 2024 Red Kettle Kick-off Salvation Army Luncheon

BFF Accountant, Stacy Regan, and Scholarship Administrator, Kimberly Czabaj represented the Foundation at the Salvation Army's 2024 "Doing the Most Good Luncheon." This event is a great kick-off to the festive holiday season.

*The Bailey Family Foundation was recognized by The Salvation Army Tampa Area Command as a Partner of Hope by Majors Mark & Rhea Woodcock.*



### Rays of Hope

Rays of Hope Outreach Ministry is a non-denominational global ministry that reaches the lost, heals the hurting, and equips believers to live victorious lives.

*With the help of the Bailey Family Foundation, members of Rays of Hope toured Alabama State University.*



*Members of Rays of Hope also received bicycles for Christmas*





## Tampa Theatre's WineFest 2025

The annual WineFest is the landmark theatre's biggest annual fundraiser for artistic and educational programming, as well as ongoing preservation and restoration. The 2025 WineFest theme was *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Wine*.

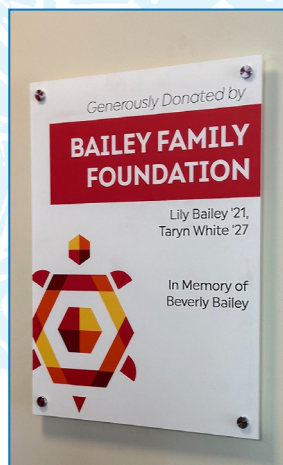
*WineFest 2025: Kimberly Czabaj & Stacy Regan, along with Tampa Theatre Member Katy Alderman*



## Tampa Prep Atrium Dedication



*Kyle & Kent Bailey stand in front of The Beverly Bailey Atrium dedicated in honor of their mom, Beverly.*



## Christ the King Bailey Center Dedication

*Founder Ron Bailey (front), President Kyle Bailey and his family attend the dedication ceremony at Christ the King Catholic School*



## Letters of Appreciation:

*"It is a tremendous encouragement to know that an organization such as yours is willing to invest in my future."*

**-Emory Hubbard**

*"I can only say with my deepest gratitude and excited pleasure that I was selected for this scholarship."*

**-Ashley-Nicole Huff**

*"I will forever be grateful for your amazing help and your generous scholarship that has helped with my Bachelor's degree. I couldn't have done it without you. Thank you."*

**-Kristine Januchowski**

*"I am deeply honored and appreciative of your generosity and support. I am truly excited about the opportunities this scholarship will open for me. Thank you once again for your belief in my capabilities."*

**-Emilee Nevaril**

*"You have relieved a huge financial burden from my family and I, making my dreams come true. None of this would be possible without you. Thank you once again for your generous donation and support. Your investment in my education will not only have a lasting impact on me, but the lives I plan to touch in the future."*

**-Michelle Pure**

*"I just wanted to take the time to send my thanks once again for all the amazing work the Bailey Family Foundation has done and for making it easier for me to attend college. I cannot express my gratitude enough."*

**-Colton Ray**

*"This scholarship will impact my education greatly as I am paying my way through college. After one year of excellence at CPC, I will keep it up and not let you down! Thank you!"*

**-David Thomas**

## Message from the Editor:

It has been my pleasure serving as editor for the Spring 2025 Bailey Family Foundation Newsletter. Thank you to everyone who shared photos and stories with us. Please keep 'em coming!

*Kimberly Czabaj & son, Tyler (Feb 2025)*



## SEND US YOUR NEWS

We want to hear from you. If you have any questions, suggestions or would like to contribute to the next newsletter, don't hesitate to contact me. I would love to hear from you.

Email: [kim@bailey-family.org](mailto:kim@bailey-family.org)

## Board:

*Cameron, Justin, Kyle Kent,  
Lily, Brandon and Ron Bailey*



## Staff:

*Kimberly Czabaj, Stacy Regan,  
Wes Wong and Stan Elmore*





## RONNIE BAILEY OBITUARY

### Bailey, Ronnie Kenneth

83, died peacefully in bed at Tampa General Hospital in the morning hours of Wednesday, December 11, 2024. The specter of death had been trying to take Ron for decades, placing in his path, first, two separate bouts with the deadly illness Gullain Barre syndrome, and then a cancer diagnosis, but Ron stubbornly refused to quit living. His children and grandchildren were in need of a great deal more bossing around and directing here on earth. It took the piling on of a worsening heart condition as well as liver and kidney failure and, finally, an internal infection before he agreed that death had made a convincing argument for his departure.

Ron was born to Versie Bailey in Princeton, West Virginia on March 7, 1941. He grew up poor in a coal mining town and attended a one room country schoolhouse which taught kids of all ages. When he wanted a sip of water he had to go outside and hand pump well water from the spigot, then catch the water in a cone of paper, which he would have to borrow from a friend because he rarely had any paper of his own. Later, he attended and graduated from Princeton High School where he remembered being one of the worst students in school, once earning points with his friends for sneaking out the window during class, getting a haircut and then sneaking back in before the teacher noticed he was gone.

After High School Ron joined the army and was selected to work on a new technology called computers. His aptitude for computers meant he spent most of his years in the army working at the pentagon instead of the jungles of Vietnam. During this time he went to buy a bracelet for a girl he had a crush on, but he fell in love with the sales girl at the jewelry store and started dating her instead. Ron and Beverly Welsh Bailey married in 1962 and remained married for 56 years until her passing in 2018.

After the army, Ron completed his studies in computer information systems, earning a Masters degree from American University in Washington, DC. He then went on to teach computer information systems at Strayer University. When the owner of Strayer University wanted to retire Ron scraped together his savings, borrowed all the money he could, and bought the company. He turned it around and made it profitable, and then later sold it on Wall Street through a public offering. With the proceeds of this sale he moved to Tampa and started the Bailey Family Foundation where he has given away tens of millions of dollars in scholarship money to deserving students in the Tampa area and supported countless Tampa charities.

In addition to his professional and philanthropic achievements he was also an accomplished athlete. He was the self-proclaimed "Horse" basketball champion of Loisdale estates in Springfield, Virginia throughout the 70's and 80's and the perennial "Bailey Cup" tennis champion of Harbour Island, Tampa, Florida in the Two Bounce Division in the early 2000's. His greatest success, however, was as a Dad to Kyle Bailey, Kent Bailey, and Piroj Piboolnuruk, as a father-in-law to Michele Bailey, Stephanie Bailey, and Tina Piboolnuruk, and as a Poppop to Brandon, Justin, Cameron, Megan, Lily, Sofia, Taryn, Finley, Hazel, Bailey and Isabella.

His sons remember him shirtless on the front porch drinking Stroh's and watching them play in the front yard. As soon as they were old enough to hang on to the handlebars he put them both on dirt bikes. Ron and sons could be found most Sundays riding the trails through the acres of undeveloped woods behind their home in Virginia. When approaching any particularly rough and steep hills he was sure to stop at the base and make his eldest son, Kyle, go first to test it out. He once set himself on fire trying to exterminate an ant hill with gasoline which resulted in a visually spectacular run across the backyard to jump in the pool while engulfed in flame. He once ate butter wrapped in tinfoil while traveling because he thought it was cheese. It took him far longer than one would expect to realize he was chewing on tinfoil. He was always pointing his fingers and telling his kids, grandkids and spouses where to go and what to do. He was physically incapable of watching a family member enter a parking lot without telling them where to park. In short, his sons remember him as the best Dad ever. And they don't know what they're going to do now without him pointing his fingers.

Rest easy, Ron. Enjoy that cold Stroh's in your hand and Beverly by your side again. You've earned it.

