

# EC Foundation hands out \$114K in grants

## Trust nets \$50K gift from former resident

By **BOB MONTGOMERY**

*Staff Writer*

The Albemarle Family YMCA and Food Bank of the Albemarle were the largest recipients of \$114,600 in monetary gifts handed out this past year by the Elizabeth City Foundation.

Thirteen organizations received a total of \$71,200 in monetary gifts, while \$43,400 in scholarships was awarded to Camden County High School students, for a total of \$114,600, according to Ray S. Jones Jr., executive director of the foundation.

The foundation is a

publicly supported, tax-exempt community trust founded in 1959 by Elizabeth City attorney Dewey W. Wells. Through continuous gifts and interest earned through the years, today the fund stands at \$3.2 million, Jones said.

The largest gift this past year was \$50,000 from Elizabeth City native Mrs. William G. "Frances" Gaither Jr., who now lives in Rocky Mount. Earnings from the gift will be used by the foundation committee for "unrestricted



**Jones**

purposes," Jones said.

Since the trust's inception, \$3.47 million in gifts have been received through December 2006, he said.

Organizations awarded funds during the April 2006 funding cycle include: Boy Scouts of America, \$2,000; Friends of the Court, \$6,000; Girls Inc., \$4,000; Museum of the Albemarle, \$1,200; Pasquotank County 4-H Club, \$4,000; Port Discover, \$2,000; and Pasquotank County Special Olympics, \$5,000.

Funds awarded in the October 2006 cycle went to Albemarle Hopeline, \$5,000; American Red Cross, \$2,500; College of the Albemarle auditorium, \$3,500; Food Bank of the Albemarle, \$15,000; SPCA of

Northeastern North Carolina, \$1,000; and Albemarle Family YMCA, \$20,000.

The YMCA gift will be used for the YMCA's "All Kids Swim" program, which offers free swimming instruction to every kindergartner in the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Schools system, Jones said. Skills taught include treading water, floating, and the proper use of life jackets.

In addition, the foundation's gift will help ensure that all families in the area have access to the YMCA by providing funds for the Y's financial assistance program, Jones said.

Jones said the foundation is currently accepting applications for the next funding cycle.