



“Local journalism keeps communities informed and holds the powerful accountable. It is the key to an informed citizenry and provides the tools to safeguard a healthy democracy — but the industry is in crisis.”

– American Journalism Project

Purpose

The Cobb Journalism Fund (CJF) of the Cobb Community Foundation provides a charitable vehicle whose mission is to preserve local journalism in Cobb County. The CJF will accomplish this goal by adding staff – a full-time investigative reporter – for the Marietta Daily Journal (MDJ). This journalist will cover the societal issues and trends brought on by Cobb’s growing population and changing demographics. Among the topics will be county and city governments, the school systems, public safety, taxes, and transportation. Investigative journalism done correctly is resource intensive and time consuming. This will be a new position to complement current MDJ staffing. Funds contributed will not subsidize existing MDJ newsroom expenses.

The Problem

Over the past 15 years, over 2,500 U.S. newspapers have closed leaving millions of Americans without a local newsroom. Local news plays a vital role in all communities as informed citizens are foundational to civic health. These “news deserts” create black holes for misinformation and disinformation to spread along with the issues of lower voter turnout, community engagement and local economic decline. As more newsrooms close, it is vital that we protect our community and prevent Cobb County from becoming the next “news desert” by ensuring that our citizens have access to unbiased, reliable information.

Accountability

Donors to The Cobb Journalism Fund should be aware that the MDJ is taking the following steps to ensure complete editorial independence and integrity:

- MDJ will publish an annual list in January of each year of all donors who have contributed in excess of \$1,000 during the previous calendar year and shall make the same available for public inspection upon written request.
- MDJ editors and reporters will operate independently of funders and will maintain full editorial control over stories pursued and written by the Investigative Reporter and published by the MDJ.
- Donors to the Cobb Journalism Fund will not be made aware of specific stories the Investigative Reporter is pursuing nor be given special access to any MDJ reporter or editor.
- Donors to the Cobb Journalism Fund will periodically be updated on the journalism their dollars helped produce.

Likewise, to ensure that funds distributed are used for stated purposes, Cobb Community Foundation will take the following steps:

- Reimbursement requests must be accompanied by documentation.
- Require annually a list of links to stories published by the Investigative Reporter.

Please help preserve local journalism in Cobb County - journalism that is in service to our community and for our community.

Meet our Founders

Otis Brumby



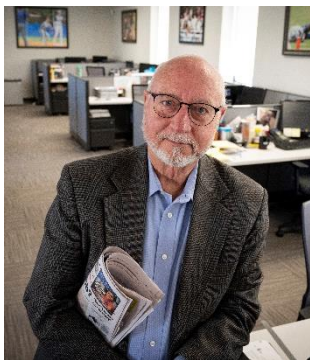
Otis Brumby is a third-generation president and publisher of Times Journal, Inc and lifelong resident of Cobb County. He is a “Double Dawg” earning a finance and law degree from the University of Georgia.

Times Journal has been family owned and operated for over 100 years and is currently in 17 Georgia counties with over 20 newspaper, magazine and digital products including daily newspapers in Cobb, Cherokee, Floyd and Gwinnett. The company also provides commercial printing services for several daily and weekly newspapers in the northwest Georgia region.

Otis is involved in numerous civic and professional organizations throughout Cobb and Georgia. He is the past Chairman of the Wellstar Health System Board of Trustees and past President of the Georgia Press Association.

Otis and his wife Ashley have two daughters, Libby and Margaret, and a son, Otis IV. Otis enjoys coaching numerous youth sports, attending Georgia football games and Lake Allatoona.

J.K. Murphy



J.K. Murphy is publisher of the Gwinnett Daily Post and Vice President/Content for all Times-Journal publications. He grew up on the south side of Indianapolis.

After earning a bachelor's degree in journalism from Indiana University in 1980, he began work as a reporter/photographer at the Greensburg (IN) Daily News and was named editor of that paper in 1983.

He later moved to The Republic newspaper in Columbus, IN, where, over the next 13 years, he served as city editor, news editor and managing editor.

J.K. came to Georgia in 1998 as executive editor of the Gwinnett Daily Post. He was named Publisher in 2005. In 2013, he was named Vice President/Content with responsibilities for all seven newspapers of Southern Community Newspapers, Inc.

He moved to Marietta in 2015 to begin work with the Marietta Daily Journal and the Times-Journal company. In November of 2022, Times-Journal purchased six newspapers from SCNI, including the Gwinnett Daily Post.

J.K. and his wife Pam have three children and seven grandchildren.

**Sample series launches
&
Contribution information below**



The Cobb Journalism Fund (CJF) of the Cobb Community Foundation (CCF) provides a charitable vehicle whose mission is to preserve local journalism in Cobb County. The CCF is a public charity under section 170(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code and the Cobb Journalism Fund is neither a donor advised fund nor a supporting organization. The CJF can accept unlimited personal, business, and trust contributions.

I/we support the Cobb Journalism Fund. Enclosed is my/our contribution of \$_____

Please make checks payable to: **Cobb Community Foundation**
Memo line: **Cobb Journalism Fund #48241**
Mail to: **Cobb Community Foundation**
1100 Circle 75 Pkwy, Ste 1000 – Atlanta, GA 30339

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Work Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

By signing below, I/we represent that this contribution is drawn from my/our personal funds and not from an account or credit card maintained by any other person or entity.

Signature: _____

Credit Card (fill out below) or to give online, please visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/CobbJournalismFund>

Name on card: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____ Signature: _____

*If you have any questions, please call the finance team at 678-249-7207 or
cobbjournalismfund@mdjonline.com*

Banking Information

Check

Make check payable to: Cobb Community Foundation
Referenced in memo line: Cobb Journalism Fund #48241
Mail to: Cobb Community Foundation
1100 Circle 75 Parkway, Suite 1000
Atlanta, GA 30339

Credit Card

<https://tinyurl.com/CobbJournalismFund>

ACH or Wire

Bank Name: Synovus
ABA Routing Number: 061100606
Account Name: Cobb Community Foundation
Account Number: 1014453656
For Further Credit to: Cobb Journalism Fund
Fund Number: 48241

Marketable Securities

Depository Trust Company Account: Fidelity Investments
DTC Account Number: #0226
For further credit to Account of: Cobb Community Foundation
Account Number: #645102128
For Fund: Cobb Journalism Fund
Fund Number: 48241

*** Please notify us at cobbjournalismfund@mdjonline.com of incoming transfers.

IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution

We confirm that Cobb Community Foundation (CCF) is a public charity under section 170(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code and that the Cobb Journalism Fund is neither a donor advised fund nor a supporting organization. CCF's tax identification number is 20-5652970.

Make check payable to: Cobb Community Foundation
Referenced in memo line: Cobb Journalism Fund #48241
Mail to: Cobb Community Foundation
1100 Circle 75 Parkway, Suite 1000
Atlanta, GA 30339