National Philanthropy Day 2026

Each fall, the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Central Carolina Chapter joins with national and international colleagues to celebrate National Philanthropy Day, a celebration of exceptional individuals and organizations that have dedicated themselves to philanthropy.

2026 National Philanthropy Day breakfast will be held Wednesday, November 11, 2026 at the Columbia Museum of Art.

Nominations should tell the full story of your nominee's philanthropy and impact in the community (as outlined in the criteria below), as the selection committee's consideration is based solely upon the response written in this nomination. **Nominations will be judged by the AFP Lowcountry Chapter so please write nomination assuming that they are not familiar with the nominee.**

Outstanding Corporation/ Foundation

This award honors a corporation or foundation that demonstrates outstanding commitment through service, financial support, and motivation of others to take philanthropic leadership.

Nominations should include:

- Description, with examples, of this organization's charitable activities and community impact, including philanthropic support (money, time, other resources), innovation and creativity in addressing the issue or cause, and impact of that support on those causes and nonprofits
- Description of approach/philosophy to philanthropy and charitable support.
- Description of segments of the community that have been served by this organization.
- Description of the nominee's work in encouraging and motivating others (employees, clients, customers, the public) to get involved with and/or take leadership roles in philanthropy.

Outstanding Rising Star

This award honors a young fundraising professional who is **new to fundraising within the last 5 years** and demonstrates exceptional potential for success in fundraising, ethics, and support for colleagues.
Nominations should include:

- Position and responsibilities
- Specific projects, events and campaigns completed
- Funds raised – actual number and percentage growth (if applicable)

- Impact of the nominee's work on the organization's fundraising success and programs.
- Examples of leadership potential that is effective, creative, and has resulted in or assisted in funding for a project, organization, or community initiative
- Evidence of nominee's commitment to continuing education, professional development and career advancement

Outstanding Fundraising Executive

This award honors an outstanding individual fundraising professional whose actions and leadership exemplify ethical and effective professional practice and whose performance has enhanced the financial resources and recognition of the organization for which they work. Nominees must demonstrate a strong commitment to philanthropy, volunteerism and professional development, and have actively worked as a professional fundraiser for at least 5 years prior to nomination.
Nominations should include:

- Position and responsibilities
- Specific projects and campaigns completed
- Funds raised – actual number and percentage growth
- Impact of the nominee's work on the organization's programs.
- Evidence of nominee's direct fundraising experience. If nominee is currently not in a direct fundraising role, describe previous direct fundraising experience.
- Examples of leadership that is effective, creative, and has resulted in funding for a project, organization, or community initiative.
- Other career highlights and achievements

Outstanding Marketing Professional in Support of Philanthropy

This award honors a marketing professional, volunteer, or community member who demonstrates exceptional success in marketing to support fundraising efforts.
Nominations should include:

- Position and responsibilities
- Description of career highlights and achievements specific to marketing and public relations associated with fundraising
- Examples of leadership that is effective, creative, and has resulted in funding for a project, organization, or community initiative
- Description of commitment to continuing professional development in this focus area
- Evidence of commitment to this profession and to philanthropy.

Outstanding Philanthropist

This award honors an individual or family for exceptional generosity demonstrated through: civic responsibility and leadership, community involvement and personally meaningful

financial contributions to charitable organizations that result in a positive impact on the Midlands of South Carolina.
Nominations should include:

- Philanthropic support (money, time, other resources) at a level that significantly impacts an agency's services in the Midlands
- Evidence of encouragement and motivation to others to take leadership roles in philanthropy
- Description of participation in and financial support of other community activities
- Evidence of philanthropic support of innovative approaches to problem solving

Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser (Individual or Group)

This award recognizes individuals, families, or co-chairs who have provided exceptional leadership in coordinating fundraising projects or activities for a charitable organization or cause, which has made a positive impact.
Nominations should include:

- Leadership role and responsibilities.
- Ability to organize and manage boards, groups, campaigns and events.
- Funds raised
- Time, effort, and personal philanthropic commitment.
- Innovation and creativity in addressing the issue or cause.
- Impact of that support on those causes/nonprofits and the community