



COOPER
FOUNDATION



Madison Cooper at his desk.

The Cooper Foundation Board of Trustees and staff are proud to celebrate the foundation's 75th anniversary.

A core piece of this story is the legacy of Madison Cooper, the man, who established the foundation in 1943 in honor of his parents, Madison Alexander Cooper and Martha Roane Cooper, with the sole purpose of making Waco "a better or more desirable place to live."

Indeed he has! The presence of the Cooper Foundation can be felt throughout the City of Waco - from city centers like the amphitheater at Indian Spring Park to the Waco Regional airport, from Family Health Center to the Civic Theatre. This report captures but a glimpse of the impact the foundation has had on our great city, demonstrating the stewardship of the legacy left by Madison Cooper.

We hope that Madison would have been proud of the achievements of the Cooper Foundation over the past 75 years, and we look forward to extending his generous reach to the people of Waco for many decades yet to come.



Dr. Roland Goertz,
Board Chair



Felicia Chase Goodman
Executive Director



COOPER FAMILY & FOUNDATION HISTORY

- Madison Alexander Cooper Sr. moved to Waco from North Carolina in the early 1870's and found work selling apples and potatoes from a mule-pulled wagon. By 1897, he had purchased a small produce operation and renamed it The Cooper Grocery Company.
- Madison Sr. met and married Martha Dillon Roane of Arkansas and they had three children – Lucille, Christine, and Madison Alexander Cooper Jr. Madison was born on June 3, 1894.
- In 1905, the Cooper Family began construction on a home located at 1801 Austin Avenue. The home took two years to complete and eventually became Madison Jr.'s home and then the Cooper Foundation's headquarters.
- Madison graduated from The University of Texas in 1915, joined the U.S. Army in 1917, and served as an intelligence officer in France during World War I, from 1918 to 1919. Upon returning to Waco, Madison was given a management position at Cooper Grocery, where he worked for several years.

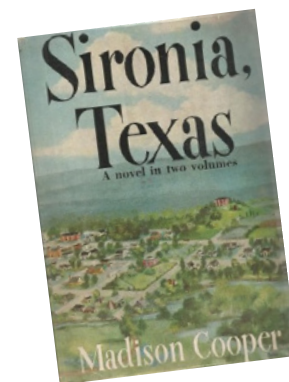


Madison Cooper

Although he was a well-to-do business man, Madison was known for his eccentric, frugal ways and could be seen strolling down Austin Avenue wearing baggy, khaki pants and a worn plaid, flannel shirt while carrying a ragged leather briefcase.

- On September 7, 1943, just a few years after his parents' death, Madison founded The Madison Alexander Cooper and Martha Roane Cooper Foundation, a charitable trust in memory of his parents. Today, Wacoans think of it simply as the Cooper Foundation. Madison specifically required that all income from the trust be used "for any charitable, educational, or benevolent purpose which in the opinion of the trustees will make Waco, Texas a better or more desirable city in which to live."

- At the time, most Wacoans were unaware that when Madison was not pursuing his philanthropic ventures, he was writing a novel, *Sironia*, in the converted third-floor office of the Cooper House. The novel took just over a decade to write and was finally published in 1952 by Houghton Mifflin. *Sironia* gained fame as a fascinating critique of rural America and spent eleven weeks on the New York Times best-seller list. Additionally, the novel earned Madison the 1952 Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship Award.



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- On September 28, 1956, at the age of 62, Madison went for his regular mile-long run at the Waco Municipal Stadium Track. After his run, Madison suffered a massive heart attack while sitting in his car outside the track and died.

Madison left the entirety of his \$3 million estate (\$27.6M in today's dollars), including the family home, to the Cooper Foundation to ensure the foundation had sufficient means to make Waco a better place.

- Seventy-five years later, the Cooper Foundation has granted over \$28 million to more than 200 nonprofit organizations in the Waco community.





“The Cooper Foundation has been well served by the simple genius of Madison’s desire that the foundation be governed by people from diverse walks of life bound together by their love for the community and a shared mission to make Waco a better place to live. Madison expected the board and staff to serve without a whisper of self-interest or a whit of regard for who gets the credit. That is Cooper’s distinctive quality and a beautiful thing to behold.”

— Bill Nesbitt, *Trustee*



The Foundation has always supported education in a myriad of forms, starting with the purchase of the Waco-McLennan County Library’s first book mobile in 1949.



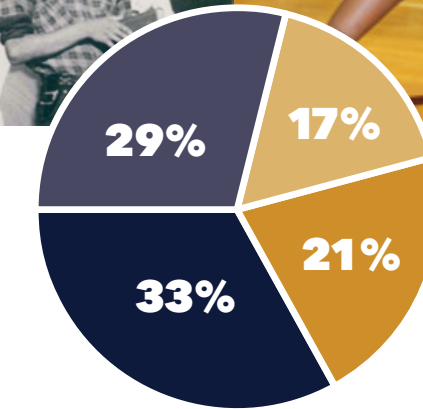
WHAT WE DO.



Waco Cultural Arts Fest
Doris Miller Memorial

1: GRANTS

The Cooper Foundation’s mission is to make Waco, Texas, a better or more desirable city in which to live. To help make that vision a reality, the foundation has awarded more than \$28 million in grants to worthwhile projects in the Waco community. We are proud to fund projects that impact all aspects of life in Waco – education, health, arts and culture, community building and social services.



WAYS WE HELP

- Community Building & Social Services
- Arts, Culture & Recreation
- Education
- Health





DEVELOPMENT OF QUINN CAMPUS

"In 2000, I took the job as the ED for Quinn Campus, Inc., whose charge was to revitalize the historic Paul Quinn College campus. Not knowing much about



the overall project, but knowing what the campus meant to me as kid growing up in East Waco, taking the job was a no-brainer. I quickly learned how much the Cooper Foundation was involved by the quiet care of Elizabeth Smith and

Len Brown. Much later I learned that the financial contribution from Cooper was the largest in the history of the foundation, at that time. Knowing the history of Madison Cooper and the reputation of the foundation made me proud to be a part of this project in my neighborhood."

– Rodney Clark, Community Leader

Paul Quinn College had called East Waco home since 1877 and was a vibrant part of that community. When the historically black college relocated to Dallas in 1990, community leaders concerned about the future of the campus created a plan for its redevelopment. Over the course of about ten years, the Cooper Foundation provided almost \$1 million in funding toward redeveloping the land. Combined with grants from the Rapoport and Waco Foundations, as well as federal funds secured by U.S. Congressman Chet Edwards and support from the City of Waco, the campus was redeveloped and Quinn Campus, Inc. is now home to the City of Waco Multipurpose Center, the Doris Miller Y, the Centex African American Chamber of Commerce, and the Rapoport Academy.



The Cooper Foundation funded Indian Spring Park's Amphitheater.



SUPPORTING WACO

"Meals on Wheels and the older individuals we serve have benefited greatly from our relationship with the Cooper Foundation. Throughout the years they have granted us funds to enable us to move from cramped offices to a spacious building at the corner of 5th and Waco Drive, which also houses our central kitchen. They have provided new kitchen equipment and office equipment and vehicles, which then freed up other local donations to provide meals to homebound seniors. I have had the opportunity to work with three of the Cooper Foundation Executive Directors; it is the relationships we have developed over the years that have provided me with mentors and partners in serving our community and for that I am deeply grateful."

– Melody McDermott, former Executive Director of Meals on Wheels Waco.



The Foundation provided initial funding in 1957 for the Waco Civic Theatre and have funded multiple projects since.





"Through thick and thin, the Cooper Foundation has been there. In

the beginning, Cooper was there to help us as a fledgling organization establish a foundation for success. Their grants gave us a credibility when reaching out to other funders. It's meaningful when an organization values what you're trying to accomplish and are willing to fund projects in the early stages, when other funders aren't willing to take the risk. This foundation has opened doors for countless young nonprofits to bring real change to Waco."

– Jill McCall, Executive Director of Compassion Ministries



"Some folks may not know that Cooper Foundation provided

leadership, staff, and office space to Waco Foundation in our early days. Waco Foundation got a jump start thanks to the generosity of Cooper Foundation, which allowed us to grow into what we are today. Over the years we've continued to partner and work collaboratively on many projects to leverage the community's philanthropic dollars and create the greatest impact. We will forever be grateful to Cooper Foundation for giving us our start and walking alongside us as we work together to create a brighter future for Waco."

– Ashley Allision, Executive Director of Waco Foundation



75 YEARS OF GRANTS TO WACO – OVER \$28 MILLION

ACTION Planning Committee
Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children
Aeronautical Council of Texas, Inc
Alliance of Mexican-Americans
Altrusa Club of Waco
Alzheimer's Association- North Central Texas Chapter
American Cancer Society
American Gateways
American Heart Association
American Red Cross-Heart of Texas Chapter
Animal Birth Control Clinic
Arc of McLennan County
Art Center of Waco
Arthritis Foundation- Heart of Texas Branch
Association of Selective Career Opportunities
Association of Waco Libraries
Athletes in Action
AVANCE Waco
Baylor University
Bellmead Lions Baseball Park
Bellmead Neighborhood Center
Better Business Bureau of Waco, Inc.
Big 12 Task Force
Big Brothers Big Sisters- Waco and McLennan County
Black Market Concepts, Inc.
Bosqueville Baseball Association
Boy Scouts - Heart O' Texas Council
Boys & Girls Clubs of Waco
Brazos Forum
Brazos Valley Public Broadcasting Foundation (KWBU)
Brook Oaks Senior Residences
C.O.N.J.U.N.C.T., Inc. of Central Texas
Cameron Park Zoological & Botanical Society, Inc.
Camp Fire USA, Tejas Council
CareLinc Network
Caritas of Waco
Carter BloodCare
CASA of McLennan County
Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce
Cenikor Foundation
Center for Action Against Sexual Assault
Center for Learning and Development
Central Texas Senior Ministry (Meals on Wheels)
Christian Mission Concerns
Christian Women's Job Corps of McLennan County

Cities of Lacy-Lakeview and Northcrest
City Center Waco
City of Bellmead
City of Lacy-Lakeview
City of Waco
Communities in Schools of the Heart of Texas
Community Cancer Association
Community Hospice of Texas/Providence Hospice
Community Training Center, Inc.
Compassion Ministries
Council for Private Schools in McLennan County
Creative Waco
Crippled Children's Hospital
Department of Human Services
Downtown Waco, Inc.
Dr Pepper Museum
DRAW - Brazos Riverside, Inc.
Eastern Waco Development Corporation
Economic Opportunities Advancement Corporation
Enrich Seniors
Evangelia Settlement
Faith Covenant Support Services
Family Abuse Center
Family Counseling and Children's Services
Family Health Center
Fort Fisher Museum
Friends for Life
Friends of the Waco-McLennan County Library
Fuzzy Friends Rescue
Girl Scouts
Grassroots Community Development Corporation
Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce
Greater Waco Community Education Alliance
Greater Waco Council for the Arts
Greater Waco Regional Planning Committee
Greater Waco Sports Commission
Heart O' Texas Fair Complex
Heart O' Texas Pony Colt League
Heart of Texas Black Chamber of Commerce
Heart of Texas Builders Association/Fire Safety House, Inc.
Heart of Texas Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Heart of Texas Enterprise Alliance
Heart of Texas Goodwill Industries
Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition

Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center
Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council
Heart of Texas Soccer Association
Heart of Texas Urban Gardening Coalition
Helen Marie Taylor Museum
Historic Waco Foundation, Inc.
Humane Society of Central Texas
Images of Waco
Joyce Stamps Day Nursery
Junior League of Waco
Keep Waco Beautiful, Inc.
Kids & Co.
Kiwanis Park
La Vega ISD
Lake Air Little League Park, Inc.
Lake Air Pee Wee Football League, Inc.
LaRue's Learning Center
Latin American Christian Center
Laura Edwards Christian Early Learning Center
League of Women Voters of Waco Area
Learning Club of Waco
Lighthouse for the Blind
Links Foundation
Little League of Texas, Inc.
Living Word Christian Daycare Academy
Lyric Opera of Waco
Making Awesome Things Happen
Master of Social Work at UT-Community Scholarship
McLennan Community College
McLennan County
McLennan County Association for Mental Health
McLennan County Cardiopulmonary Foundation
McLennan County Child Care Association
McLennan County Council on Alcohol
McLennan County Dispute Resolution Center
McLennan County Hunger Coalition
McLennan County Juvenile Detention Center
McLennan County Juvenile Probation
McLennan County Medical Education & Research Foundation
McLennan County Medical Society
McLennan County Sheriff's Department
McLennan County Teen Pregnancy Task Force
McLennan County Youth Council and Texas Youth
Methodist Children's Home
Mission Waco

Museum Association of Waco
National League of Cities
NeighborWorks Waco
North Waco Youth Center
Northern Little League
Northern Teenage Baseball
Oakwood Cemetery Association
Palmer Drug Abuse Program
Parents for Public Schools
Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
Paul Quinn College
Philanthropy Southwest
Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas
Police Activity League
Potter's Vessel Ministries, Inc.
Prosper Waco
Providence Foundation
Public Television-Education TV Station
Quinn Campus, Inc.
Rapoport Academy Public School
Ray of Hope Ministry
REACH Therapeutic Riding Center
Rebuilding Together of Greater Waco
Regis/St. Elizabeth Center
Religion in American Life
Retired Senior Volunteer Program
RiverCity Corp.
Robert L. Gilbert Youth Enrichment Organization
Robinson Baseball Association
Salvation Army Waco
Samaritan Counseling Center
Sanger Heights Neighborhood Association
Scott & White Healthcare Foundation
Senior Teenage League
Skillpoint Alliance
Smart Start Child Care Association
Solide', Inc.
Southern Little League
Stilwell Retirement Residence
Tadpole Foundation
Talitha Koum Institute
Texas Audubon Society
Texas Bureau for Economic Understanding
Texas Ramp Project
Texas Ranger Hall of Fame
Texas Special Olympics
Texas Sports Hall of Fame
Texas State Technical College
Texas Institute of Letters
Transformation Waco

Triple Crown Commission
U.S. Conference of Mayors and City of Waco
United Way of Waco
McLennan County
Vanguard College Preparatory School
Viable Options in Community Endeavors
Waco-McLennan County Bar Auxiliary
Waco-McLennan County Teen Pregnancy Council
Waco-McLennan County Young Lawyer Association
Waco Boys & Girls' Choir
Waco Chamber of Commerce Community Development Foundation.
Waco Civic Theatre
Waco Cotton Palace Pageant, Inc.
Waco CrimeStoppers
Waco Cultural Arts Fest
Waco Family Home Care
Waco Family Practice Foundation
Waco Foundation
Waco Habitat for Humanity
Waco Heart Clinic
Waco Housing Authority & Affiliates
Waco Human Relations Commission
Waco Independent School District
Waco ISD Education Foundation
Waco Legal Aid Clinic
Waco Library Foundation
Waco Literacy Council
Waco Mammoth Foundation
Waco Montessori School
Waco Municipal Airport
Waco Musical Theatre, Inc.
Waco Performing Arts Company
Waco Radium Bank
Waco Soccer Association
Waco Symphony Association, Inc.
Waco Technology Expanding Community Horizons
Weather Bureau
Wesley Woods Alzheimer's Care Center
Woodland Springs Nursing Center
Woodway Boys' Club
Woodway Foundation
Woodway Little League, Inc.
World Hunger Relief, Inc.
YMCA of Central Texas
Youth Connection
Youth Cultural Center
Youth Enterprises
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority



2: COOPER HOUSE

Located at 1801 Austin Avenue, the historic Cooper House serves as the foundation’s headquarters and is available free of charge to qualified nonprofit organizations to use for board meetings, staff development retreats, strategy sessions, or special events.

A landmark for the city, its Corinthian columns, leaded glass windows, molded ceilings, and wrap-around porch reflect early 20th-Century Southern elegance. It’s fair to say that Madison Cooper would never have built this house, as he was far too frugal for such a spend. But the home was his—passed down by his parents—and he was committed to making good use of it both during his lifetime and for the decades following.

Construction on the Cooper House, home of Mr. and Mrs. Madison Alexander Cooper Sr., began in 1905. It took two years to build and is estimated to have cost approximately \$35,000 (in today’s dollars, almost \$1 million). The home was designed by the Waco architect Glenn Allen, who also designed Waco’s First Baptist Church, located in downtown Waco. The Cooper House has both Victorian proportion and Greek revival detailing, which “represented the finest turn-of-the-century architecture.” During World War II, Madison Cooper Jr. hosted weekends at home for servicemen referred by the local USO. His long-time housekeeper Bertha Walton prepared wonderful meals for the men, and Cooper engaged his guests in long conversations by the living room bay window or on the front porch.

Cooper said that the house should “be used as headquarters for the foundation, or wrecked and the ground rented on long-term lease.” He expressly prohibited renting the home “for any purpose,” and favored its use as “a civic center, a source of practical instruction, and cultural improvement.” Every year, hundreds of community members enjoy using the house for nonprofit board meetings, retreats, and other gatherings.



“If practicable, I would like my home ...to become not only the headquarters of the Cooper Foundation, but a civic center, a source of practical instruction and cultural improvement.” – Madison Cooper



3: NONPROFIT NETWORK

The Cooper Foundation believes that strong nonprofits help to build a strong community. To help build the capacity of nonprofits in the Waco area, the foundation hosts the Nonprofit Network, a monthly gathering of Waco area nonprofit professionals and volunteers for networking, peer learning, and professional development.

The foundation also offers board governance trainings to area board members and those interested in serving on boards.



“The Cooper Foundation has been a tremendous blessing to our organization. Not only have they helped fund many of our programs over the years, they have been instrumental in training and equipping our board and organization to be the best possible. I really appreciate the executive directors, who have listened to our ideas and offered counsel on improving the ideas that we presented. The Cooper Foundation has been instrumental in our organization’s success.”

– Mike Stone, Executive Director of Grassroots Waco

4: WACO LEADERSHIP FORUM

In the 1980s, the Cooper Foundation sponsored the initiation of the Waco Leadership Forum, a gathering of leaders from a broad cross-section of the community for the purpose of identifying issues of relevance to the community, exploring and promoting an increased understanding of those issues, and providing an opportunity for leaders to seek responsible, collaborative solutions for community issues. **Waco Leadership Forum members include:**

- Baylor University President
- Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce Executive Director
- City of Waco Mayor and City Manager
- Community Race Relations Coalition Member
- Cooper Foundation Executive Director and one Board Member
- Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce Board Chair, Chair-Elect, and President
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Executive Director
- Independent School Districts Local Superintendent
- Junior League of Waco President and President-Elect
- Leadership Plenty Institute Recent graduate
- McLennan Community College President
- McLennan County County Judge
- Midway Independent School District Superintendent
- Rapoport Foundation Executive Director
- State Representatives
- State Senator
- Texas State Technical College Waco President
- United Way Executive Director and Board Chair
- Waco Business League President and President-Elect
- Waco Foundation Executive Director and Board Chair
- Waco Industrial Foundation President
- Waco Independent School District Board President and Superintendent
- Waco Arts Community Individual in a leadership role
- Waco Medical Community Individual in a leadership role
- Three At-Large Members



Cooper Foundation has been for me like ‘oxygen,’ in that is everywhere in the Waco community. My introduction to the foundation may have been when I was selected to participate in the Leadership Waco Class – decades ago. That opportunity raised my awareness of the vast number of avenues where Cooper Foundation made its mark in the Waco community, and where it continues even today. It remains a catalyst for participation by countless individuals and organizations whose aim is to improve the quality of life for citizens of Waco. – Jewel Lockridge, Community Leader



“As I think I have made plain frequently, I want Cooper Foundation to be an active living part of the City of Waco in its development along all beneficial lines functional as well as cultural. I hope sincerely that you (trustees) will do all in your power to make Cooper Foundation the great power for constructive good it can be in our community, and guard its good name carefully.” — Madison Cooper

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



R.B. Hoover
1956 – 1968



Jerome Cartwright
1968 – 1994



Elizabeth Smith
1994 – 2012

AS TRUSTEES WE TAKE MADISON’S MANDATE SERIOUSLY.

“When I was a new administrator, a former superintendent challenged me in my leadership to leave any situation better than I found it. My faith, mentors, and that challenge have guided me professionally and personally through the years. When presented with the opportunity join the board of one of Waco’s premier foundations—whose goal mirrors my own hope that we can “make Waco a better or more desirable city in which to live,”—I knew it was a perfect match. I am sincerely honored to represent the greater Waco area public schools on the foundation. I am equally honored to represent individuals from paths and backgrounds similar to mine as decisions are being made to make Waco a better place to live.” — Dr. Sharon Shields, Trustee

“This is where Cooper is at its best: when we make a grant in the 1950’s – or today – that the grant is still paying dividends to our city 60 years later.”

— David Lacy, Trustee

“Madison Cooper’s mindful gift to Waco serves as a model for all to consider how “giving forward” may significantly impact lives in ways we never ourselves see.”

— Virginia, DuPuy, Trustee



CURRENT TRUSTEES

(left to right, top to bottom)

William “Bill” Nesbitt, 1986 – Present
Roland Goertz, 2005 – Present
David Lacy, 2005 – Present
Dale Fisseler, 2017 – Present
Michael Morrison, 2015 – Present
Sharon Shields, 2007 – Present
Virginia DuPuy, 2001 - Present

PAST TRUSTEES

Madison Cooper, Jr., 1943 – 1956
Edward Barrett, 1943 – 1952
Edward Boynton, 1943 – 1966
Raymond Goddard, 1943 – 1986
Hilton E. Howell, 1943 – 1968
J. R. Milam, 1943 – 1951
U. Calvert Sterquell, 1943 – 1947
Thomas Gallaher, 1948 – 1956
R. M. Sherman, 1951 – 1952
Johnny Morrow, 1952 – 1956
William “Billy” Smith, 1952 – 1963
E. N. Dennard, 1956 – 1958
Lloyd Russell, 1956 – 1968
R.D. Pattillo, 1957 – 2004 (Emeritus)
Franklin Smith, 1959 – 1984
Bill Bush, 1963 – 2000 (Emeritus)
Abner McCall, 1966 – 1995
Joe Ward, 1968 – 2001 (Emeritus)
Hilton H. Howell, 1968 – 1986
Dean Mayberry, 1984 – 2005
David Kultgen, 1986 – 2007 (Emeritus)
Robert Sloan, 1995 – 2005
William “Bill” Clifton, Jr., 2000 – 2014
Larry Groth, 2004 – 2017



GIVING & RECEIVING

THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

STAGE 1:

Contact Cooper Foundation.
We know how precious time and resources are to nonprofit organizations, and we want to ensure that your time developing a proposal is well-spent. For that reason, nonprofit organizations should contact the foundation prior to applying for any funding to see if their request fits within foundation guidelines, interests, and current priorities.

STAGE 2:

Application.
For projects that fit within the foundation's guidelines and mission, organizations will be asked to submit an online grant application.

STAGE 3:

Consideration.
Board consideration and awarding of funds to select organizations.

"WHAT WOULD MADISON DO?"

is a question often heard at the Cooper board table.

We keep this in mind as we review each and every proposal.

DONATIONS:

While the Cooper Foundation does not engage in active fundraising, the foundation is a public charity and benefits from contributions by generous individuals. Many have honored the memory of a loved one, just as did Cooper in providing this charitable foundation as a tribute to his parents. Since then, others such as Adine Beaty, Gladys Ueckert, Paul Murphey, Jane Beville, and Scott Poage, have made the foundation a beneficiary of their estate. In each of these donor dispensations, we greatly value the confidence placed in the foundation.



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