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# The Lancaster News

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019

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## Big Thursday splits \$40K between USCL, Clemson

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Gamecocks and Tigers rallying in close proximity isn't something you see often – unless they're filling a stadium one Saturday each fall.

But the cross-state rivalry takes a backseat when kids' futures are on the line.

And that's exactly what happened on Wednesday when Big Thursday Scholarship of Lancaster presented checks for \$20,000 each to the USC Lancaster Educational Foundation and Clemson University.

"It was another successful event in a long line of successful events," said Rodney Thomas, president of the Lancaster County Clemson Club. "We're blessed with what we've gotten. And we'll probably give away four scholarships this year. We've been blessed to have the support of Big Thursday and Lancaster County.



PHOTO SUPPLIED

From left, Tim Hallman, Shana Dry, Steve Sherrill, Walt Collins, Sharon Novinger, Phil Scott, Evan Scott and Rodney Thomas gather for the Big Thursday check presentation at USC Lancaster.

"A national championship is good, but providing scholarships to Lancaster County kids is great," he said.

Since 2000, the annual scholarship program has raised more than \$600,000 for local students' scholarships. Each year the amount is split evenly between USCL and Clemson.

The funds are presented an-

nually to students from Andrew Jackson, Buford, Indian Land and Lancaster high schools who will attend one of the universities. Students are awarded up to \$4,000 per year.

Partners for Youth selects the Clemson scholarship winners, while USCL recipients are chosen by the school's scholarship committee.

Big Thursday Chair Evan Scott said while he's happy with the money raised, he was disappointed that the golf tournament portion was rained out this year.

"This is the first time it's ever happened, and the first time we've had to outright cancel it," he said. "Wish we could raise more money – as always.

But it's wonderful to see the people of Lancaster come together for a good cause. Anytime Tigers and Gamecocks are in the same room, it's good."

Partners for Youth Executive Director Sharon Novinger said the program brings the community together and transcends team rivalry.

"It's so much more than your favorite team. It's about educating our students here," she said. "Anyone can be involved in this. Whether you're a Michigan or a Georgia fan, you can still support local schools for local students.

"We're really excited and honored by the commitment to education that our community has here. We really couldn't do it without the community's support," Novinger said.

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