

ASC DONOR STORIES

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CRYSTAL JONES • Donor since 2006 • Mint Hill Resident • ASC Campaign Lead at Parker Poe



DRS. THEA MOORE & MARK SELF

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Crystal Jones

Crystal Jones's grandfather taught her at an early age to be a giver and to give to worthy things. But growing up in a small, South Carolina town afforded Crystal little access to worthy arts and culture experiences.

"Relatives would visit from Texas or New York and talk about the plays they'd seen and the museums they'd visited," Crystal said. "So, naturally, I was jealous."

When Crystal moved from South Carolina to Charlotte, she suddenly had access to the vast variety of cultural experiences our community has to offer. She visited Blumenthal Performing Arts Center and was enchanted. (Their recent production of *A Bronx Tale* is a particular favorite.)

"I thought back to 'younger Crystal' and think about all the little Crystals out there," Crystal said. "I want all the 'little Crystals' to have the access I didn't."

Crystal first learned about ASC through the law firm where she works, Parker Poe. Of her first few years as an ASC supporter, Crystal said, "I just gave a little and wasn't really engaged." Then all that changed.

"I learned about all the ways ASC impacts the community," Crystal said, and getting more involved was "an easy choice."

Since then, Crystal has coordinated Parker Poe's ASC giving campaign and encourages her colleagues to support Charlotte-Mecklenburg's cultural community.

"I know I'm not the only one who benefits from ASC," she said.

Crystal has seen the benefits of supporting the cultural community through her family's eyes, as well.

"The first time I took my family to the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture at Levine Center for the Arts, I was able to talk to my sisters and my nieces about African-American history and art right here in Charlotte," she said. "I was learning while teaching."

Supporting ASC, both financially and through campaign leadership at Parker Poe, is part of Crystal's philosophy.

"I heard a quote about 10 years ago, and I live by it," Crystal said. "'I give because I have. I have because I give.'"

Drs. Mark Self & Thea Moore

Drs. Mark Self, a Market Segment Manager with Clariant, and Thea Moore, a Chemistry Instructor at Charlotte Latin, have been ASC supporters for as long as they've lived in Charlotte.

When Mark and Thea left Rhode Island for Charlotte in 2011, their friends and colleagues warned: "Charlotte's got no kultcha!"

But Mark's arrival at Clariant's Charlotte office proved how wrong the naysayers in Rhode Island were, as it coincided with Clariant's annual ASC giving campaign.