

Alan McGregor

Director of Philanthropic Programs

SRDI

Alan McGregor is the Director of Philanthropic Programs for the Southern Rural Development Initiative. He has worked in philanthropy for twenty-two years. Mr. McGregor was the founding director of the Fund for Southern Communities, a community-based foundation started in 1980, the first foundation of its kind in the South. Beginning in 1987, he served as the executive director of The Sapelo Foundation, a family foundation headquartered on St. Simons Island, Georgia. With the trustees of The Sapelo Foundation, Mr. McGregor developed a dynamic program to support community-based social change and community-based development in the poor rural regions of Georgia.

During his tenure with The Sapelo Foundation, Alan was a co-founder of the Southern Rural Development Initiative (SRDI), a region-wide collaboration working to bring new financial and technical resources to the poorest regions of the rural South. Since 1995, Mr. McGregor has served as a consultant and staff to SRDI. In this capacity, he has developed a program to encourage increased philanthropic investment in rural areas. The project has three primary components: 1. development of the community-based philanthropic sector; 2. increasing philanthropic assets in poor rural regions; 3. education and advocacy in the philanthropic community about opportunities for increased investment in rural communities.

Mr. McGregor has worked as a consultant for a number of organizations including the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation and the Southern Regional Council. For Babcock, he developed a program to encourage community foundation involvement in grassroots leadership development.

His board service has included: National Network of Grantmakers, Southern Rural Development Initiative, Social Investment Forum, Boggs Rural Life Center, Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, and the ACLU of Georgia. He currently serves on the steering committee of the Rural Funders Working Group, the board of the National Alliance for Choice in Giving, the program committee of Changemakers, steering committee of the Discovery Alliance, and is the administrator of the Southern Philanthropy Consortium.

Mr. McGregor comes from a long line of Scottish, Canadian and American Angus cattle breeders. He spent much of his youth dodging cow pies and rattlesnakes in rural Georgia.

Early in his career, Mr. McGregor was a founder and director of the Vietnamese Children's Fund and the Prison and Jail Project of North Carolina. He worked with the Southern Coalition on Jails and Prisons where in 1979 he created the Southern Death Penalty Information Center. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He lives in Asheville, North Carolina with his twelve-year-old son, Emmett.