



# THE Michael James Cotton FOUNDATION

Newsletter Volume 1, Issue 1      March 2024

Welcome to the first newsletter for the foundation. In this issue, we are very excited to introduce you to our board members and to provide you with updates on how the foundation is progressing. We will also share some of our future plans for the foundation as well. If you have not already had a chance to check out the foundation website, here is the link: <https://themjcfoundation.org/> The website is up and running but we are still working on making it better all the time. We hope you enjoy this first issue!

## Introducing...The Michael James Cotton Foundation Board Members

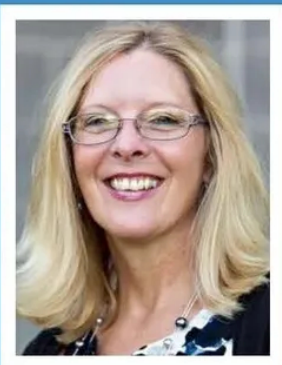
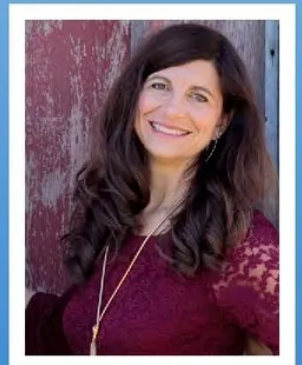


**Casey Cotton**, Board President

Casey spent over 25 years working as a Senior Manager/Director for some of the largest global companies, and is a former NCAA collegiate athlete. Casey learned early the value of *team* and surrounding himself with smart, likeminded people that are focused on raising the bar in every aspect of their lives. After his corporate career, Casey was hired as High School Faith Formation Director at Emmuas Catholic Parish in Lakeway, Texas. He has been involved in youth ministry, coaching youth sports, FFA/4H, and has held several board positions since the 1990's. Service has always been Casey's "ministry". He is a devoted husband of 27 years, and a proud father. When not working to serve his community, Casey spends his free time in his wood shop, caring for the family horses and tinkering with his classic cars.

**Beth Cotton**, Board Treasurer

Beth has over 35 years' experience in the Clinical Research Industry, and most recently as a Global Project Director. She has managed several multi-million-dollar projects across the US, Europe and Asia Pacific delivering outstanding results on time and under budget. Beth was instrumental in establishing the high school youth program in 1999 at Emmaus Catholic Parish in Lakeway, Texas. While raising her two children, you could often find her volunteering at the school, or taking on leadership positions with her children's sport teams, clubs and activities. Originally from Upstate New York, Beth came to Texas to attend St. Edwards University and has lived in the Austin area since 1987. Beth's happy place is in the garden, with her horse, Blizzard, the family pets and her porch swing.



**Valerie Cary**, Board Secretary

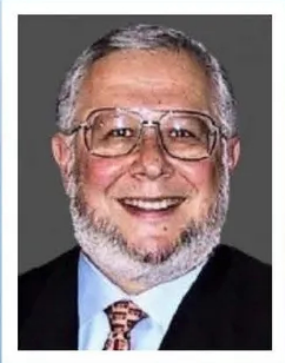
Valerie has over 35 years of experience in the office administration field – most of which providing C-suite executive assistant support for a fast-paced large multinational tech company. Community service has always been a passion of hers. She served as Dell Technologies' liaison to JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) for over 10 years. Valerie has volunteered for numerous 501c3 organizations and is active in her faith-based ministry, in the past having served as board secretary followed by board chairman. Currently, she serves as a prayer chaplain and is working towards a licensed teacher certification. She has training in conflict management and is passionate about supporting and connecting others to accomplish their dreams. She loves gardening, being outdoors and spending time with her husband and fur-babies.



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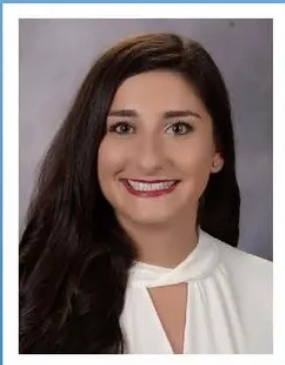


**Alfonso Alanis, MD**, Board Member

A Senior Executive with significant development expertise and global leadership, Dr. Alanis has led global development teams across multiple therapeutic areas for a “Top 10” pharmaceutical company as the Chief Medical Officer and Vice President. He was responsible for more than 12 successful New Drug Applications during his tenure. Dr. Alanis has interacted with most divisions of the FDA during his career. In addition, he has participated on numerous educational, charitable, civic, and academic life-science boards.

**Don S. Crook**, Board Member

Don is a managing partner of Combined Benefits Group, Inc, an independent insurance agency serving public schools. He and his wife, Dena, have resided in Central Texas since 1993, where they have raised their two beautiful daughters. He has considerable experience mentoring young adults and encouraging them to grow their faith and relationship with our Lord, Jesus. He helped start the high school youth group, Life Teen, at Emmaus Catholic Church and was very active in this ministry. Don also has a special place in his heart for supporting those young adults who struggle with addiction. He is involved in God of Hope Ministries which brings the gospel to men behind the walls of our prisons. Additionally, he serves as a board member for Partners in Hope. A ministry that serves the spiritual and life needs of those in the community.



**Emily Cotton, JD**, Board Member

Emily is a recent graduate of South Texas College of Law, Houston, TX, beginning her career in law. As a past collegiate athlete, she was on both the tennis and trap & skeet teams. She enjoys volunteering and helping those in need. She has served the homeless, mentored children in the Respite Care of San Antonio and served as a Legislative Intern for the 86th Legislative Session for Texas State Senator Peter Flores. Emily grew up playing tennis from the age of 4 and raising lambs she showed at stock shows, County Shows and the Majors. Having won Grand Champion Market Lamb in 2016 and Reserve Grand Champion in 2014 at the county level has led her to mentor several FFA and 4-H students over the years.

**Deacon Terry Gilbert, MS**, Board Member

Deacon Terry received his B.S. in Pharmacy and his M.S. in Hospital Pharmacy. He been a manager of Pharmacy services in both the military and private sectors in a career which lasted 45 years. Terry served as an Army Medical Service Corp Officer where he established a worldwide Allergen Extract Pharmacy at Walter Reed Army Medical Center which serves the Army, Navy, Airforce, and coast guard. After retiring from the military as a LTC in 1990, Terry and his wife Linda settled in Lakeway where Terry served as director of pharmacy at St. David's Medical Center for 16 years and as Deacon at the Lakeway Emmaus Catholic Church for the last 14 years. Deacon Terry and his wife Linda are very much involved in serving our community both in the church setting and in area nursing homes.





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**Save  
the  
Date!**

June 1st, 2024, we will be hosting our first official fundraiser, The Michael James Cotton Foundation Gala. Keep your eye out for more details coming soon!

On December 28th, 2023, we awarded our first grant! The recipient had successfully graduated from a rehab facility and needed our assistance to transition to a sober-living facility to continue to work on his sobriety developing the tools he needs to be successful now and in the future. Your support helped to make this possible. We are so grateful to all who have contributed to the foundation!

**Please be sure to follow  
us on social media:**

FaceBook:



Instagram:



## NEW UPDATE

As of March 13th, we have now awarded grants to 5 young adults!!



**Whoo...hoo!!**

**We are very excited to announce we have been granted our 501(c)3 status! Now that is something to celebrate!!**

**Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.**

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
1947