



CENTER FOR  
HEIRS' PROPERTY

*Rightfully home.*

# HEIRS & ACRES

Protect.

Grow.

Secure.

Strengthen.

Expand.



Volume 1 • January 2026

# MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



## **Rightfully Home: Celebrating 20 Years and Building a Stronger Future**

As the Center for Heirs' Property® (CHP) marks 20 years of service, we are entering our next chapter with clarity and purpose. Over the past two decades, we have helped

families protect land, secure ownership, and plan for the future—while building trusted, community-centered models now used across the South and beyond.

Our refreshed brand reflects this focus: helping more families remain Rightfully Home.

Here in South Carolina and across our partner communities, CHP provides legal and forestry education and technical assistance so families can understand their options and make informed decisions about their land. Through this work, families gain clarity, strengthen ownership, and plan for the long-term use of their land.

Together, we are helping ensure the next generation inherits not only land, but the knowledge and confidence to steward it well.

With gratitude,

**Jennie L. Stephens, Ph.D.**  
Chief Executive Officer

## **Our Mission:**

CHP empowers under-resourced families and small-acreage landowners to protect what matters most—the roof over their heads and the land under their feet—for generations to come. Working in deep relationship with landowners and partners, we provide legal support, financial education, and help families grow working landscapes that sustain generational wealth.

## **Our Vision:**

Rooted in South Carolina, while advancing a nation where every family can enjoy the legacy of home—securing ownership, protection, and prosperity for generations to come.

## **2026 Board Members**

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## **More Ways to Give**

*Support CHP through:*

- Donor Advised Funds
- Gifts of Appreciated Assets/Stocks

### **Build a Lasting Legacy**

Give to our Endowment Fund and create a permanent source of support for families safeguarding their land and home. Your gift grows – and what grows sustains our mission for generations.

Contact our development team at [development@heirsproperty.org](mailto:development@heirsproperty.org) or call us at (843) 745-7055 to learn more.

# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF IMPACT: A GALA TO REMEMBER

On Friday, June 20, 2025, nearly 300 supporters, partners, and friends gathered at the Charleston Gaillard Center for the Center for Heirs' Property's 20th Anniversary Gala: **Rooted in Legacy** — an elegant black-tie evening celebrating two decades of impact across South Carolina and beyond.

The evening featured a keynote address from acclaimed musician and environmental steward Chuck Leavell, who spoke to the enduring connection between land, legacy, and stewardship. The celebration continued with an electrifying performance by Grammy Award-winning artist Charlton Singleton and the Contemporary Flow, keeping guests on their feet throughout the night.

The evening also recognized visionary leadership and long-standing staff whose commitment has helped CHP grow into a nationally respected organization.



We are profoundly grateful to our Presenting Sponsor, Wells Fargo, and to all our generous sponsors for making this celebration possible. Thanks to your support, we raised over \$140,000 — a powerful reflection of the community's belief in CHP's mission to help families protect land, secure ownership, and build generational opportunity.

While the evening honored our history, it also looked toward the future. The joy, connection, and shared purpose in the room reminded us why this work matters — and that together, we can build a future where every family has the tools to remain Rightfully Home.



# LAND, LEADERSHIP & LEGACY:



## LANDOWNER SYMPOSIUM

This year's theme, Our Land, Our Future, reflects CHP's mission to help families understand, protect, and plan for the long-term use of their land. The symposium brought together landowners, legal and forestry professionals, and community partners for a day focused on practical guidance, shared learning, and real-world application.

Sessions addressed common heirs' property challenges, including title issues, succession planning, and long-term land management, alongside practical strategies families can use to move forward. Landowners also shared firsthand experiences, offering insight into the decisions and steps that helped them protect their land for future generations.

By bringing together landowners, professionals, and community partners, the Landowner Symposium reinforced the value of shared learning and collaboration in strengthening landownership and planning for the future.



# STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

## CELEBRATING OUR WOODLAND COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

On September 25, 2025, CHP proudly celebrated the graduation of our latest Woodland Community Champion (WCC) class at the Opportunity Center. Family, friends, past WCCs, community leaders, and CHP staff gathered to recognize the hard work and dedication of this inspiring group of graduates.

The Woodland Community Champions program empowers landowners and community members with tools, training, and resources to strengthen their communities. Participants learn practical strategies for sustainable forest management and generational land planning—skills that reinforce stewardship and long-term land security.

This year's graduates demonstrated a deep commitment to learning, collaboration, and leadership. Their work advances a shared goal: safeguarding land as a lasting resource that benefits

families, communities, and local economies—today and for generations to come.

We congratulate our Woodland Community Champions and thank them for the leadership they bring to their communities.



# SPONSOR RECOGNITION

With gratitude, we thank the individuals, organizations, and partners whose generosity sustains Heirs & Acres—the heart of our work to protect land, strengthen families, and build lasting opportunity for generations to come.

## 20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

### **Presenting Sponsor**

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# EAST TEXAS HEIRS' PROPERTY INITIATIVE

## WILLS CLINIC – HOUSTON, TX



The East Texas Heirs' Property Initiative (ETHPi) Wills Clinic recently brought CHP's legal service model to families in the Houston area, providing access to essential estate planning support and guidance. Through one-on-one assistance, participants received guidance on wills and related legal documents that help secure ownership, protect family land, and plan for future generations.

This clinic demonstrates CHP's approach to meeting families where they are while extending a proven, community-centered approach beyond South Carolina.

Learn more about the East Texas Heirs' Property Initiative at [www.heirsproperty.org/ethpi/](http://www.heirsproperty.org/ethpi/).



## A CLEARER PATH FORWARD



As CHP marks 20 years of service, we are entering a new chapter with a clearer expression of who we are and how we serve families — reflecting both where we've come from and where we're going.

Rooted in South Carolina, with a growing national footprint, CHP's updated brand is a clearer articulation of our purpose. Our tagline, Rightfully Home, captures what drives us every day. We know that land is more than property — it is history, connection, and opportunity. And we believe every family deserves the knowledge, support, and tools to remain rightfully home.

Over the past two decades, CHP has walked alongside families facing legal uncertainty, financial hardship, and long-standing challenges — offering legal services, forestry education, and practical tools that help families move from uncertainty to clarity. Our updated brand reflects the scale of this work and the responsibility that comes with it.

As we step into this next chapter, our work remains the same at its core. The families we serve remain our compass. And our vision — a nation where everyone can enjoy the legacy of home — continues to guide us forward.

We invite you to explore CHP's updated brand and learn more about the future we are building together at [heirsproperty.org](http://heirsproperty.org).



VISIT OUR WEBSITE



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