



STRONG ROOTS. SMART BUSINESS.

Spring 2022 Newsletter



**Capital
Deployed**
\$77.6M



**Square Feet
Developed**
703,052



**Jobs Created/
Retained**
1,719

(as of March 31, 2022)

High Impact Capital: Three Roots Supports East Tennessee Startups and Small Businesses



IMPACT FUND

Startups and small businesses throughout East Tennessee and Appalachia need access to financing to enable growth, but traditional financing options have not historically been readily available. This access to capital gap has left many innovative thinkers, researchers, and business owners unable to commercialize their technology, expand their production capabilities, or otherwise grow their business in their community.



While Three Roots Capital is extremely proud of its role as a source of financing for numerous impactful real estate and economic development projects, the firm is also enthusiastic and active as a small-business investor. From its founding, Three Roots has

been committed to deploying high impact equity and equity-like capital to growing businesses. To do so, Three Roots created two pools of capital: the Impact Fund and TennesSeed Fund.

[Click to read the rest of the story](#)

Three Roots Valued Partner: Fred Tompkins



Fred Tompkins is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a member of the Three Roots Capital Board of Directors. With his 40+ year career at the university and supporting entrepreneurs in the greater East Tennessee region, Three Roots is proud to work with Tompkins and benefit from his experience and relationships.

“I enjoy what this organization is doing: Trying to better the lives of people in this area,” said Tompkins. “They are trying to create and support businesses, which create employment opportunities. I enjoy that we are doing something that positively impacts the lives of the people we interact with.”

As a self-described “farm kid” from Hamblen County, Tompkins came to UT to study engineering in the 1960s and, aside from a three-year stint in the military, has never moved away from the area. Originally planning to get his engineering degree and transition into industry, he received a faculty position at UTK and has remained there for his career.

[Click to read the rest of the story](#)



A recent event presented as part of the Innov865 Investor Series, which is sponsored by Three Roots Capital, focused on business ownership transition. Session panelists included Randy Smith and Jason Chung of Tradewinds Advisory and our own Grady Vanderhoofven.

You can watch the event in its entirety [HERE](#), or read highlights from the event in this [Teknovation.biz](#) article.

TEKNOVATION.BIZ

Three Roots believes intentional relationship building is instrumental for business owners, operators, and entrepreneurs, and fosters connections which can lead to potential lending and investment opportunities. This [Teknovation.biz](#) commentary discusses the value of cultivating such relationships.

Chris Miller, CFO of Three Roots Capital, provided technical assistance to aspiring business owners in the [CoStarters](#) program at the [Knoxville Area Urban League](#). In addition to discussing access to capital and the power of entrepreneurial thinking, they discussed the five "C's" of Credit - character, capacity, capital, collateral, and conditions.



The Knoxville Chamber has released the latest issue of the "Economic Conditions Outlook" (ECO), financed by First Horizon Bank. To read the latest issue or to register to take part in the survey to be included in the report [click here](#).



Tom Rogers, president and CEO of the **University of Tennessee Research Park** and partner of Three Roots Capital, was presented the "Good Scout Award" by the Mount Le Conte District of the Great Smoky Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Making the presentation was Buddy Heins (pictured on right with Rogers on left) of Merit Construction.



SmartRIA, Inc., a current portfolio company of Three Roots Capital and a prior portfolio company of the **TennesSeed Fund** has been named a 2022 "WEALTHTECH100" Company by FinTech Global. Click [here](#) to read the company press release.

Our Products/Services

Meet the Team

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