

TRIANGLE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FALL 2019

Make a Difference

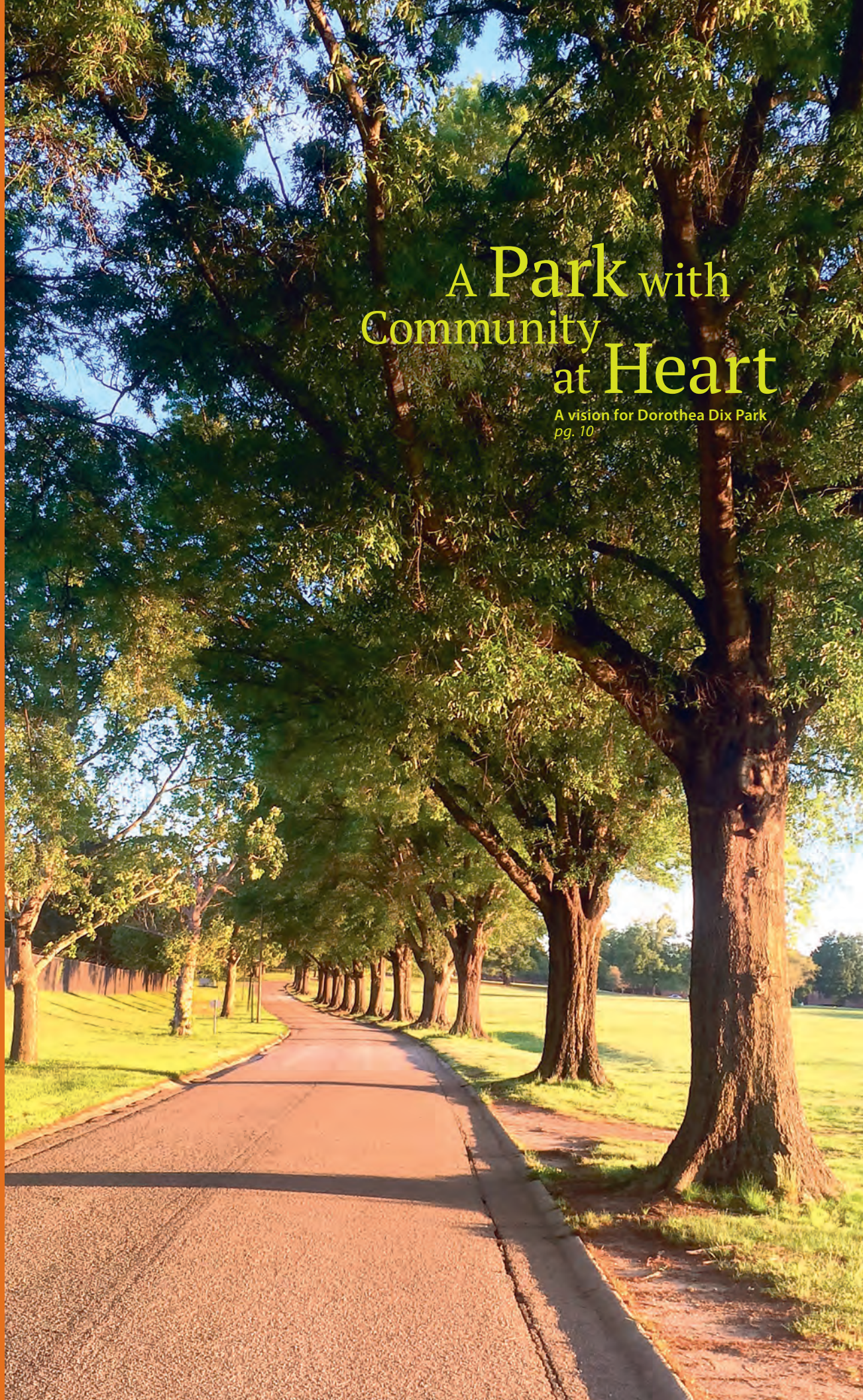
Banding Together
for the Trees

*What Matters: The
Past, the Present,
and the Future*

Giving Your Time:
Why Serve on a
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A Park with Community at Heart

A vision for Dorothea Dix Park
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Message from the President

Our community continues to grow, and with that, our donors and family philanthropists are changing, looking for ways to evolve their support to make a difference where it is needed the most. Locally, nonprofits are feeling a very real pressure to grow even more nimble to impact the ever-changing and increasing needs of residents to ensure that everyone can thrive.

Historically, because of the nature of “giving” to “charity,” we—nonprofits and donors—have often placed a different value and relationship on philanthropic dollars than we would if we were purchasing a good or service. This philosophy of giving has over time created a disproportionate level of control on charitable dollars given to a nonprofit; in particular, donors have been more likely to restrict their giving to programs or direct client services, and not take into account the necessary operational and administrative costs that allow the direct programs and services to be effectively delivered.

Why has it been the case that when we invest in (or donate to) a nonprofit, we don’t recognize that these organizations need the same type of unrestricted resources to deliver their mission, which is their “product”?

I believe it comes down to two factors: trust and control. When we buy a computer, we trust that when we hand over our \$1,000, we are going to receive a product that will do as the company that sold it to us tells us it will. We can see it, we can touch it, we own it, and we know in short order if the company delivered. For nonprofits, it’s different. With our \$1,000 gift, we’re told that 100 homeless individuals will get a meal, or that 50 kids will increase their reading scores by 3rd grade. But often, we can’t see or touch what we’ve “bought” in a way that allows us to trust the nonprofit has expended the donation in a way that delivers these results.

Which leads to the other factor: if we don’t trust, we tend to want control over how the money is spent. By placing restrictions on the gift to only support programs, or by asking the nonprofit to break down how the gift will directly be “received” by the client, we force the nonprofit into a corner that does not allow for any fluctuations in their market, or to take advantage of any opportunities to innovate or expand. They remain on a hamster-wheel of only asking for the dollars that they think they need to directly run their program or deliver it to their client.

Fortunately, we are seeing a trend that is changing this mindset. Many researchers are encouraging both nonprofits and donors to embrace the idea of “full cost,” or “true cost” funding. The idea is that for an organization to be sustainable, continue to innovate, and scale their services, they must consider what it really costs to run their business, and not just focus on the direct impact or service delivery to the client.

We can see this evolution in the way our donors are structuring their giving and crafting their legacies. In this issue, for example, you’ll read stories about how donors are understanding the importance of solid nonprofit governance, and how collaboration is key to success, but takes patience and flexibility. These ideas are not necessarily part of the “program” nonprofits provide, but that flexibility and oversight are key investments to the success of an organization.

The next time you’re making a gift to a nonprofit, consider asking the following questions:

- ▶ Does my funding allow them to become more sustainable?
- ▶ What cash or operating reserves do they have on hand?
- ▶ How will they leverage my investment to support the impact they desire?

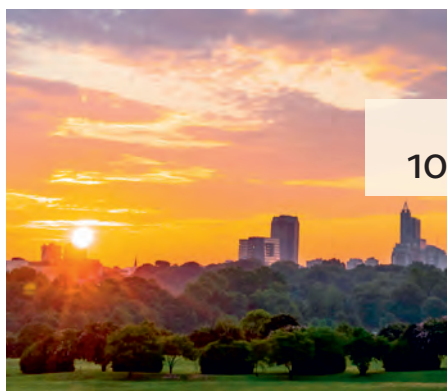
By understanding and trusting how a nonprofit delivers and measures the impact of its work, we can all better support them with the right kinds of investments and donations that allow them the resources to sustain, innovate, and grow—making our community a better place for everyone.

Portions of this message also appeared in the “A Better World” column in Triangle Business Journal’s October issue.



Lori O'Keefe,
President & CEO





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Triangle Community Foundation is building a brighter future for everyone in the Triangle. By working with dedicated donors and strong nonprofits, we are able to guide gifts in a strategic way to fill gaps, reduce inequities, and solve the region's most pressing challenges. Since 1983, we have envisioned a Triangle that works together so everyone can thrive.

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Donor-advised Funds

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Ruth Mitchell Estate Fund

Agency Funds

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Field of Interest Funds

Tom McGuire Memorial Fund
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A Mother's Honor Becomes a Community's Gift

by Julie Johnson

Glioblastoma. Diagnosis of this particularly aggressive form of brain cancer shattered their world in 2004. The next year, they said goodbye to Caroline—a wife, mom of three, daughter, sister, and friend. Today, this family is making a difference in the lives of others to honor the one they loved and lost.

A PhD medical geneticist, Dr. Caroline Laundon practiced for 20 years in Chapel Hill as one of the owners of GeneCare, where she truly loved

Following Dr. Laundon's death in 2005, her family and close friends considered how to honor her life. She and husband Tom always believed in the benefits of high school sports, and all three of their boys stayed actively involved throughout high school. It felt only natural, then, to support future student-athletes and benefit others while also honoring the memory of this wife, mother, and friend.

In 2006, the Caroline H. Laundon Memorial Fund at Triangle Community Foundation was born. The scholarship is open to any varsity athlete at East Chapel Hill High School. Recipients currently receive \$2,500 towards the cost of college.

All three of the Laundon boys, now men—Russell, PharmD; Kregg, MD; and William—sit on the selection committee that decides the scholarship recipients each year. They rotate as the logistics point person and serve with their mom's friends: Karen Lauterbach; Paula Miller, MD; Dianna Lappas; and Kim Christopher, FNP.

Russell emphasizes the significance of being able to impact families by assisting young student athletes in paying for college. Sifting through piles of essays from increasingly impressive applicants, he and the committee feel a deep sense of responsibility in making these decisions. But they wouldn't miss the chance to make a difference.

This eldest son credits his parents for establishing in their family the importance of positively impacting the world. His dad credits the previous generation. Although that generation had less capacity to give monetarily, they prioritized generosity and passed that value down to Tom who—with his wife—imparted it to their sons.

It's easy to think individuals need an excess of treasure to be able to share with others, but Russell Laundon pushes back saying, "We often think of philanthropy as coming from families who have extensive financial resources, but it's important to

"We often think of philanthropy as coming from families who have extensive financial resources, but be careful not to devalue the significance of small gifts. Small amounts pooled together make a big impact, so it's important for us to do smaller things earlier and not wait until we feel like our gifts are big enough. Small gifts matter, too."

—Russell Laundon

providing care to expectant parents. In her free time, she looked for opportunities to invest in others at every turn. Her oldest son, Russell Laundon, says his mom not only cheered for he and his brothers at East Chapel Hill High School where they played varsity sports, but she also celebrated the time spent with them, their teams, and their teammates.



Tom Laundon with his family at his son's wedding

“When we partner with others to contribute together, we make a more targeted impact that’s also more substantial. Individuals may be giving small, but they’re making a big impact.” —Tom Laundon

be careful not to devalue the significance of small gifts. Small amounts pooled together make a big impact, so it’s important for us to do smaller things earlier and not wait until we feel like our gifts are big enough. Small gifts matter, too.”

His dad agrees, and because of that, over the years the family has grown their support of other causes they care about through Triangle Community Foundation’s donor-advised fund options and Giving Together, a collective giving initiative that supports the strong nonprofit ecosystem in the Triangle.

Tom says one of the main reasons his family contributes to Giving Together is that it provides focused resources centered around a cause. “When we partner with others to contribute together, we make a more targeted impact that’s also more substantial. Individuals may be giving small, but they’re making a big impact.”

As a solutions-focused philanthropist with an engineering background, Tom appreciates the multiplier effect. He’s since remarried and moved to Raleigh with his wife, Carol. His desire to make a difference wherever he goes has continued with weekly service at a local food bank and participation in projects at his granddaughter’s school.

The Laundon sons also continue contributing to their communities and the world. From Russell’s involvement with his wife in the NC Science Olympiad, to Kregg’s transatlantic trip serving in a Botswanan medical clinic, and everything in between, the Laundons are committed to gratefulness for what they’ve been given, and generosity with what they can give.

And they have a really wonderful mom to thank for the role she played in their legacy of philanthropy.



Tom Laundon is a fundholder at Triangle Community Foundation.

Banding Together for the Trees

by Emily McNamara



“I believe that you just cannot do work on environmental issues at the local level without the community [being] involved,” says Elaine Chiosso, Executive Director of the Haw River Assembly (HRA). Her organization has spent six years advocating for better environmental protections to be required in Chatham Park, a 7000+ acre planned development community that will be partially situated along the Haw River in Chatham County.

In 2017, HRA formed a committee of community members who have volunteered their time to examine the development plans and identify specific areas of concern.

Since January, their focus has been the trees—they say developers are proposing to save as few as 10-20% of the currently existing trees, and they believe that’s not enough.

“Everything [being built] is going to involve clear cutting,” says Chiosso. Removing mature forest negatively affects air and water quality, temperature regulation, and storm water control. Numerous Chatham County residents will experience these impacts, but many live outside Pittsboro town limits and are therefore unable to elect the town board members responsible for approving Chatham Park’s master plan.

The community committee’s goal is to educate and activate local residents. From creating interactive displays for street fairs to providing talking points and inviting the public to speak at town board meetings, it’s about bringing visibility to the community’s concerns, especially of those residents who are unrepresented in governance. The committee has also been instrumental in giving a voice to those unable to attend other events; for example, a neighbor who uses a motorized wheelchair suggested circulating an online petition asking the town to require Chatham Park to implement healthier development practices. 1,600 signatures were collected.

But, says Chiosso, “If all activism is just people talking, [that] doesn’t capture people’s attention.” In an evocative display of collaborative advocacy, Saxapahaw-based Paperhand Puppet Intervention joined with HRA to host “Procession of the Trees” rallies in February and May of 2019. Community activism was at the heart of these demonstrations. The public was invited to a workshop day where they helped create signs and puppets. Over 150 people later gathered to surround the Pittsboro courthouse. Some protesters were inspired to come dressed as trees or animals; others carried homemade signs or musical instruments.

“If all activism is just people talking, [that] doesn’t capture people’s attention.”

—Elaine Chiosso

“My goal...has always been [to establish] a direct connection with people and their lives,” says Jan Burger who co-founded Paperhand and also serves on HRA’s community committee. He believes that since the puppets his theater uses are “obviously made by people,” there is an inherently compelling message about community that gets transmitted. He also points out that tangible events like these allow advocates to identify sympathetic town residents who have voting power and to ensure that they hear and understand the concerns of nonresidents.

Chiosso acknowledges “a sense of amazement at how deeply people feel about trees,” adding that she met some protestors who had never participated in any kind of demonstration before. “Something about trees really resonates with people.” She believes the rallies have been so powerful because the “fabulous visuals” connect with people on emotional and intellectual levels.

Burger agrees. “I think that a lot of the traditional methods for getting the word out and engaging with folks can be a little bit dry and uninspiring at times,” he says. “I’ve found that with puppets and

beautiful images, that’s one way of speaking to people’s hearts, getting people excited, and having people take notice.” This past spring, Burger also designed yard signs featuring the famous “I speak for the trees” quote from *The Lorax*. 100 signs were installed. “People [still] haven’t taken them down because [they] feel like this is not something that is going away,” says Chiosso. A new batch is currently printed and ready for distribution.

Success has been incremental. In May the town board approved a new Tree Protection Element requiring a wider riparian buffer and an increased number of trees to be preserved along the Haw River. However, much of the conservation language remains vague, and as the Chatham Park developers continue to haggle with the town board and propose new changes, Chiosso believes the advocacy work will need to continue. 🌳

Haw River Assembly is a grantee partner through Triangle Community Foundation’s Environmental Conservation focus area, supported by our Fund for the Triangle.



Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Updates

by Melchee Johnson



Orange County

The Orange County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (OCCGLR) aims to develop childhood readiness and reading by third grade, and, like its counterparts in Chatham, Durham, and Wake Counties, further seeks to address the disparities that exist in learning and reading for children from communities of color. In its early planning stages, the focus was clear: “interrupt the systems” that are the root cause of the disparities. Using a racial equity framework became its model for planning—explicitly, but not exclusively.

How can the Orange County Campaign, through its commitment to collaborative and diverse partnerships, change the outlook on who’s involved in reading, and who’s sitting at the table to yield better outcomes for children?

OCCGLR’s “Community Solutions Action Plan,” was developed by the Orange County Partnership for Young Children (the chapter’s host organization) and representatives from other organizations and the community. It focused on three key areas—Ensuring School Readiness, Bridging the Summer Learning Gap, and Growing a Family of Readers—that would serve as the driving strategies for ultimately ensuring that “Orange County’s children enter kindergarten ready to meet the demands of school and progress toward grade-level reading proficiency in third grade.”

The program gained enthusiastic support from libraries, the health department, and other agencies, and aims to build trust in community through its partnerships with programs such as the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and Reach Out and Read. Parents are also engaged partners of the program.

analyze the problem of structural racism through a racial equity lens, homing in on children and families of color to create solutions and systemic change.

OCCGLR builds on that focus through continued commitment to fostering trust in community and ensuring goals and objectives are met.

“We took an intentional period of time to do racial equity work.”

—Robin Pulver

“We heard the clarity in their voices,” said Kathleen Crabbs of OpenSource Leadership Strategies, of parents who’d expressed experiencing racial inequities and the barriers that stemmed from them.

In Orange County, almost 82.8% of white third graders and 77.4% of Asian third graders across the two school systems are reading at grade-level proficiency. On the other hand, only 45.1% of African American and 37.2% of Hispanic/Latino students are reading at grade-level proficiency.

“We took an intentional period of time to do racial equity work,” shared Robin Pulver, Executive Director of Orange County Partnership for Young Children. The group worked with OpenSource to

“What we have seen are attitude changes,” said Alice Denson, Executive Director of Orange Literacy. Not only are children learning to read, but they’re reading books about *their* stories and *their* culture. Partner agencies themselves are adopting the work, both evidence that the program is working even now. 

The Orange County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is a nonprofit partner of Triangle Community Foundation through our focus area in Youth Literacy, supported by our Fund for the Triangle.



Wake County

During the 2018-19 school year, WAKE Up and Read's book drive program distributed more than 138,000 books at 13 schools, 17 childcare centers, and various community events during the spring and summer. That's 6,800 students in the program's schools, and 1,300 children in its childcare centers impacted across Wake County's growing "literacy rich culture."

WAKE Up and Read (WUAR) is the community coalition of the Wake County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. Its work is focused around three factors, or "pillars"—school readiness, summer learning loss, and attendance—which impact outcomes of third grade-level reading proficiency and learning.

The Wake County Public School System is the backbone organization of WUAR and strives to identify leaders in the community who can mobilize around the three target pillars. The Campaign's


Being aware that their membership wasn't necessarily representative of the community the Campaign was serving, the Leadership Team participated in Racial Equity Institute training (based out of Greensboro, NC), aiming to inform its work proactively using a racial equity lens. The team has recruited more leadership from African American and Latinx communities, building on its goal to be more inclusive and diverse as it seeks to connect more deeply to the community.

The book distribution program is one of several WUAR directs to achieve its goals.

"Book distribution begins with a drive in January that lasts six weeks," shared Lori Krzeszewski, WAKE Up and Read Administrator. "Each school distribution happens over the course of two to four days and includes a family literacy night." Students select 10 books of their choice, and the project lasts several months.

fourth grade, parents receive three text messages per week based on their child's age or zip code, with resources, news of activities and events (like literacy festivals), and other pertinent updates available in English, Spanish, and Arabic. 436,995 messages have been sent since September 2018 with 95% of parents sharing that they participate in Ready4K activities with their children at least once a week.

Later this fall, WAKE Up and Read will move to its own centrally located property, allowing it to become a "literacy hub" with a systematic approach county-wide. The new location grants WUAR more visibility, will be on a bus line for greater accessibility, and overall, continues to build better connection to the community.

Says Krzeszewski, "We look forward to the impact this will make in our ability to collect and distribute books and engage families and the community in creating a literacy-rich culture." 

"We look forward to the impact this will make ... in creating a literacy-rich culture." —Lori Krzeszewski

13-member leadership team uses data to determine strategies for aligning efforts and programs that will ensure, "every child in Wake County is inspired, equipped, and empowered to read."

Along with the book distributions, Wake Up and Read's "Ready4K" serves as an additional avenue for parents to further engage in their child's learning. As part of an evidence-based and customized curriculum for children aged birth to

The Wake County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is a nonprofit partner of Triangle Community Foundation through our focus area in Youth Literacy, supported by our Fund for the Triangle.



A Park with Community at Heart

by Meg Buckingham



A park for everyone, built by everyone. That is the foundational vision driving the creation of Dorothea Dix Park in downtown Raleigh. A place where play and adventure are as large as you can imagine, where lush meadow stretches as far as the eye can see, and where history is taught, rather than forgotten.

“Dorothea Dix Park will have something for everyone. Quiet space? Check. Something for everyone to do and to be? Check. But all set in this lush and beautiful setting that we are privileged to have in our city,” said Sean Malone, President and CEO, Dorothea Dix Park Conservancy. “Along with the City of Raleigh, we [the Conservancy] are asking the community to expand their minds when they think of what a park is—because the opportunity we have here to build something so unique and true to our region is very exciting and it will be so much more than anyone can imagine.”

In July 2015, the City of Raleigh purchased the Dorothea Dix property from the State of North Carolina for \$52 million. The purchase included the 308-acre site and 85 buildings, which total approximately 1.2 million square feet of building space. In July 2017, the City hired Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates to lead a master plan process, in partnership with the community, to develop a plan to guide the park’s future development. After 22 months of planning and significant community engagement and input, the Raleigh City Council voted unanimously to approve the Dorothea Dix Park Master Plan. Shortly after, staff began developing an implementation plan for Phase 1, which will include features like a gateway plaza and children’s adventure play area, enhancement of the Rocky Branch creek area, a land bridge over Western Boulevard, the restoration of historic buildings, cemetery enhancements, and more.

Many destination parks and public spaces in America rely on public-private partnerships to make them vibrant and successful. The effort to create Dorothea Dix Park is a best-

practice public-private partnership between the City of Raleigh and Dorothea Dix Park Conservancy. The City of Raleigh owns and operates Dorothea Dix Park. The Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that supports the City in its efforts, serves as its philanthropic partner, and helps ensure the creation and long-term success of Dorothea Dix Park.

Ensuring a community voice was the major driver in the creation of the Master Plan for the City of Raleigh. Over 65,000 area residents participated in one of the most comprehensive and thorough outreach and engagement efforts in the City’s history during the Master Plan outreach and engagement, according to Grayson Maughan, Parks Planner for the City of Raleigh.

“We are very humbled by residents’ dedication and enthusiasm for the park,” Maughan said. “So many individuals and local organizations have participated, volunteered, and contributed as part of this process and its success. This truly will be a vision come to life by our community.”

During a recent trip with local leaders to visit a similar park in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Lori O’Keefe, President and CEO of Triangle Community Foundation, was struck by the commitment of the Dix Conservancy Board and team to ensure this park truly embodies what our community is. “Great lengths are being taken to guarantee that Dix Park represents the landscape, the culture, and the people within our community,” she said. “Because so many of our donors and nonprofit leaders are investing in this work and connected to the park, we are really excited to participate in its progress.” she said.



65,000+
area residents
participated in
the Master Plan
outreach

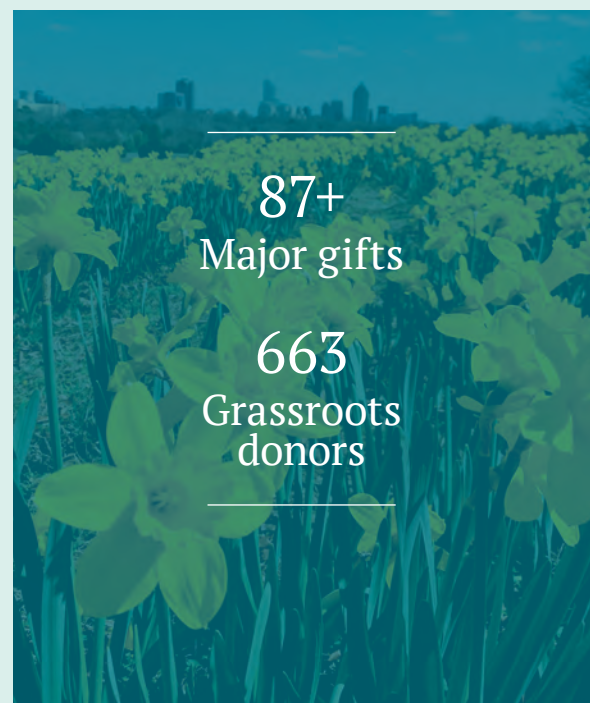


The initial planning-period fundraising goal for Dix Park was exceeded, and to date the Conservancy has raised \$12.5 million, with growing momentum. More than 87 major gifts have been received, and 663 grassroots donors, making up the large majority of donors to the efforts, have shown their commitment to the region, and this destination park in Raleigh. Triangle Community Foundation Fundholder and Dorothea Dix Park Conservancy Board Chair Jim Goodman is enthusiastic about the partnerships that have been formed to get this massive project underway.

“When you get into a large project like this, the best way to ensure that it’s successful is to create a public-private partnership so that you can add philanthropic dollars to the city’s investment,” Goodman said. “We’ve formed some really great relationships at every level on this project, and our goal [at the Conservancy] is to help the city make this happen over the long-term. We’re excited to carry the torch, and hope others will join us as we see this through.”

“As long as we are actively taking responsibility for what hasn’t been done citywide in the South East Raleigh community, and continue to work towards solutions together, we can also hold the vision that Dix Park is an important opportunity for the region and all of its residents.” —Dr. Paulette Dillard





“We don’t deal with our history by ignoring it—so what do we do? Acknowledge it.” —Sean Malone

There are many things to consider when mapping out the renovation and environmentally positive reforestation of this enormous parcel of land, but Malone says that on the forefront of the City of Raleigh and the Conservancy’s mind and action is ensuring that the historical aspects of what this park has been throughout time are not lost.

“Honoring the history of this land is vital,” Malone said. “From 1856 until it closed in 2012, Dix Hospital was a mental health hospital, and it wasn’t just progressive in the sector, but revolutionary in shifting how this country treated people with mental illness. For 150 years before it was a hospital it was a plantation, where people decided that they owned other human beings. And before that, it was Native American land. We don’t deal with our history by ignoring it—so what do we do? Acknowledge it.”

“Along with the City of Raleigh, we [the Conservancy] are asking the community to expand their minds when they think of what a park is—because the opportunity we have here to build something so unique and true to our region is very exciting and it will be so much more than anyone can imagine.” —Sean Malone

Malone says that the City of Raleigh and the Conservancy are committed to telling the story of this land in the Park and recognizing that not all of that history can be celebrated. A Legacy Committee is hard at work envisioning educational opportunities for visitors to the park to learn about the history and interact with each other in dialogue.

One important piece of that legacy lies with Healing Transitions, a beloved staple in the park and the community for nearly 19 years. The peer-based, recovery-oriented nonprofit organization that provides services to homeless, uninsured, and underserved individuals with alcoholism and other drug addictions, will stay at Dix Park, and Lauren Williams, Development Coordinator at the organization, says they are proud to continue Dorothea Dix’s legacy of vital mental health treatment going forward.

“The National Institute of Mental Health classifies substance use disorder as a mental illness, and in that vein, we are providing a legacy of what the Hospital provided,” Williams said. “Dorothea Dix was a leader to bring mental illnesses to light as a disease—that these people aren’t broken, and we—as a community—need to take care of them because they are a part of our society. We are continuing this work and are grateful to pay that tribute in service to the future of this region. This is what community looks like.”

Throughout the planning process, there have been some local concerns that this park opportunity could potentially take away from other neighborhoods, or present inequitable challenges for some residents in the city. Ensuring that the park is truly a place for everyone is a sensitive undertaking,

and it is something that Conservancy Board Member and Shaw University President Dr. Paulette Dillard takes very seriously. Dillard says she is keenly aware of these concerns, and actually sees this as one of the prominent reasons for her board service.

“My role [on the Board] is to ensure that local leaders and the community at large are educated about what this park can mean for everyone, and take it out of the space of comparison,” she said. “Yes, the concerns of affordability surrounding the park do exist—and they are being considered with great sensitivity around the idea of a park for everyone—but I do not believe that this is an either-or situation. As long as we are actively taking responsibility for what hasn’t been done citywide in the South East Raleigh community, and continue to work towards solutions together, we can also hold the vision that Dix Park is an important opportunity for the region and all of its residents.”

For Goodmon, the diversity in our region is what will make this Park amazing. “In this current moment in time, we’re not all on the same team,” he said. “A park for everybody is better than anything I can think of to remind us about the true meaning of celebrating community and diversity. Our diversity is a positive, not a problem. More than anything else we need to understand that we are a community, one that helps each other, lifts each other, invests in each other. I believe that Dorothea Dix Park can be the great community asset that brings us all together.”

The Dorothea Dix Park project has been supported by many Triangle Community Foundation fundholders. To learn about the master plan, proposed phases, investment, and more, visit dixpark.org.

What Matters: The Past, the Present, and the Future

by Jessica Aylor

It has been nearly ten years since Triangle Community Foundation hosted our first *What Matters* event in downtown Raleigh in May 2010. Our goal was twofold: to bring people together to learn about issues that matter to our region and to inspire local giving. A lot may have changed over the years, but this goal has stayed constant.

We had no idea it would be such a success; that first event sold out almost immediately at 500 tickets. Our inaugural event focused on a “diverse and engaged community,” featuring nationally recognized speakers Cokie and Steve Roberts with board member Mary Braxton Joseph moderating. We also presented our first nonprofit innovation award and asked the community to vote on their top choice (think: American Idol). We didn’t expect it, but this turned out to be a pivotal moment for the Foundation.

Community leadership means many things, and *What Matters* helped Triangle Community Foundation define our role as a resource for the community, a connector, and a convener. We have hosted many events over the years: anniversary celebrations, donor education forums, open houses, nonprofit workshops. But *What Matters* was, and continues to be, different.

What Matters is now the Triangle’s largest annual philanthropic gathering that attracts a unique mix of corporate, civic, philanthropic, academic, religious, and nonprofit leaders from

across the region. Each year we have tackled a different topic with a spectrum of national and local speakers, inspiring and provocative community voices, evidence-based solutions, and inventive game changers. Our topics have revolved around community innovation, adapting to change, and the importance of everyone in our community thriving.

We choose topics based on what we hear “on the ground” from our nonprofit partners, what our donors are involved in, and what is resonating with community members. And then we develop calls for action following the event. Actions that can be taken by Triangle Community Foundation, by our corporate sponsors, by our nonprofit and foundation partners—and most importantly by individuals in our community. Our intention is to “set a big table” for community members to learn with each other and then be inspired to make a difference in the Triangle.

We have set that table in a variety of ways over the years. *What Matters* kicked off originally as a benefit dinner. Then we switched to more of a conference-like luncheon format to provide a main program plus breakout sessions for small groups to connect. In 2020, we are shaking things up again, thanks to *your* great ideas!

We want to know what matters to YOU. You are a philanthropist of today. And Triangle Community Foundation is YOUR community foundation.



A Diverse & Engaged Community



Cokie and Steve Roberts

Bold Leadership



Larry Wheeler (NCMA),
Tom Ross (UNC System),
and Mia Hamm (Local
Philanthropist) by phone

Community Innovation



Leslie Crutchfield, FSG Social
Impact Advisors

Adapting to Change



Dan Heath, author of *Switch*

At the Foundation, our mission is to inspire and mobilize local giving, leadership, and action. We are a philanthropic resource and partner to more than 800 families across the region in Chatham, Durham, Orange, and Wake Counties. And just last year we invested more than

\$25M in local nonprofits that help conserve the environment, address poverty, strengthen the arts, provide scholarships, and invest in our kids and families.

But our community needs more.

More collaboration across public, private, and philanthropic sectors. More focus on critical and persistent challenges. More creative and bold philanthropy. More investments in community-based solutions. More civic dialogue that promotes understanding and connection. More healthy, resilient nonprofits.

And we need more people who give where they live.

Every day 78 new people move into the Triangle and now call our community home. Those numbers are projected to hold steady or even increase over the next decade. As our region

Goals for *What Matters*


- ▶ Learn together about important issues facing our community
- ▶ Recognize local innovation and leadership
- ▶ Mobilize local giving, leadership and action

grows and changes, philanthropy needs to grow and change as well. We want you to help us envision what that change looks like.

What Matters 2020 will be a celebration of community philanthropy, and a call for more local giving, leadership,

and action. Do you consider yourself a philanthropist?

The word philanthropy means to love others, and a philanthropist puts that love into action. Too often we don't see ourselves as philanthropists, and at the Foundation, we think it's time for all of us to reclaim that title. Because a student organizing a book drive, a grandparent tithing to their church, a young professional making a donation to a local shelter, a passionate advocate coordinating outreach—are all philanthropists. *It takes everyone to make this community thrive.*

Join us on May 27 for *What Matters 2020* as we hear your stories of giving, celebrate the work being done in our community, and learn what we can be doing together to ensure positive change in our region. 

Matters

A Region
of Opportunity

Our Kids

Women

A Thriving
Community



Tony Iton, The California Endowment



Sonia Manzano, "Maria" from Sesame Street



Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole



Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI)

Tools for Involving the Next Generation: the Donor-advised Fund

by G. Rhodes Craver, Kennon Craver, PLLC

My clients don't always come to see me with philanthropy foremost on their mind. Of course, sometimes they do, but often their focus isn't on philanthropy. Instead, they have pressing family issues to cover that are a higher priority. Because of this, as their advisor, I believe that it's often wise for me to bring up philanthropic possibilities when we meet. The use of a philanthropic component to the estate plan can not only mitigate taxes, both income and estate taxes, but it can also be used as an important teaching tool within the context of the family estate plan.


"If you are fortunate enough to have a generously sized estate, then I believe that philanthropy ought to be part of the conversation in formulating your estate plan." — G. Rhodes Craver

For my clients who are fortunate enough to have a larger estate, I believe that the conversation about giving back to the community should grow commensurate with the size of their estate, and not just because of the tax incentives. If you are fortunate enough to have a generous sized estate, then I believe that philanthropy ought to be part of the conversation in formulating your estate plan.

Creating a donor-advised fund (DAF) can be a particularly useful tool for these clients. If clients come to see me with a \$20 million dollar estate and I know these assets will pass within their family to the succeeding generation, I will often talk with them about creating a DAF. There are some significant tax advantages to setting up this type of fund, particularly when dealing with retirement accounts so the client can eliminate income and estate taxes on the gifted assets. The tax incentives for gifting retirement plan assets to charity at the death of the surviving spouse can be particularly high because the combined tax burden on retirement plan assets can be onerous as these

assets move from one generation to the next. Apart from the tax incentives, having a philanthropic arm for a client's estate is a wonderful way to teach the next generation of the client's family the importance of the social responsibility that comes along with wealth and how to use it for the betterment of the community and to carry on the family legacy. A DAF is a helpful vehicle that can teach these principles over the generations. Often my client (the parent) will not only use the DAF for their own charitable giving, but also involve their children and grandchildren in making philanthropic decisions, and teach them powerful lessons about the needs in the community and the importance of giving back.

That's where Triangle Community Foundation can be very helpful. For many years I've recommended to my clients that they speak with the Foundation, particularly when clients haven't had a long history of philanthropy and don't have a full understanding of what it means. Philanthropy is an educational process that the Foundation is well equipped to help with. The educational resources of the Foundation and their accumulated knowledge of organizations doing good work in our community can be most helpful to clients that are developing their family philanthropic goals and mission. The support that the Foundation staff offer their donors is significant. This local resource can be an invaluable asset to a client.

My job is to help educate the client, and just because a client has a sizable net worth doesn't mean that a client is sophisticated in understanding what philanthropy is all about. I want my clients to recognize the helpfulness of the DAF as a tool in their estate planning toolbox, and I want them to understand the resources that they can get from the experienced staff at the Foundation. Many of my clients want to see what a meaningful impact they (and their families) can make in their community, and Triangle Community Foundation can help them achieve that goal. 



"The educational resources of the Foundation and their accumulated knowledge of organizations doing good work in our community can be most helpful to clients that are developing their family philanthropic goals and mission." — G. Rhodes Craver

Rhodes is a native of Charlotte, North Carolina. He obtained his undergraduate degree at the University of North Carolina and his law degree from Wake Forest University. Rhodes specializes his law practice in estate planning for high net worth clients.



PHOTO CREDITS: DENNIS GEISER

Celebrating with child of partner family for Habitat Cambodia.

Giving Your Time: Why Serve on a Nonprofit Board?

by Meg Buckingham and Michelle Pavliv

For Michelle Pavliv, it happened by accident. In 2004, when her friend suggested they join The National Charity League Inc., a national nonprofit organization with local chapters providing ways for mothers and daughters to serve in their communities together, Pavliv saw it as good bonding time with her own daughter, and agreed. It turned out, though, that the closest chapter was full, and so Pavliv was thrust into board service when she founded the local Cardinal chapter.

“When I was presented the opportunity to work with The National Charity League, I was open to it because I was already giving back in the community, and personally, it was a really great way to connect with my daughter and share some of those values,” Pavliv said. “But it turned into so much more that I wasn’t expecting, and gave me the tools I needed to be the best board member I could be in the future.”

In addition to the “very valuable experience” she gained from starting that chapter, Pavliv says she was able to learn about all the parts of an organization because what they were doing was entirely grassroots with no paid staff. “I am happy being a governing board member or a chief cook and bottle washer, as long as I am staying busy” she said. Over time, she was able to join the organization’s national leadership training team and benefited from excellent training; she credits her facilitation expertise to that period of time when she would travel to different chapters and provide training for their boards.

Being able to positively impact her community has always been important to Pavliv. A past volunteer for the Jimmy V. Celebrity Golf Classic, and most recently a board member for Habitat of Wake County, Pavliv has years of service and philanthropic support under her belt, and says that knowing what she could offer organizations was really important for her—and for them.

“I’ve been volunteering for nonprofits my entire life. As I got older and more experienced, the service opportunities changed. The skills I had to offer in leadership and management had more value than the volunteer labor I provided

“I’ve been volunteering for nonprofits my entire life. As I got older and more experienced, the service opportunities changed. The skills I had to offer in leadership and management had more value than the volunteer labor I provided when I was younger. I want to offer an organization the best of what I have at this point in my life. As long as I’m passionate about their mission, I’m happy to give back.” —Michelle Pavliv



Bending rebar for a home in Buenos Aires, Argentina with Habitat.

when I was younger. I want to offer an organization the best of what I have at this point in my life. As long as I'm passionate about their mission, I'm happy to give back.” 🍷

Michelle Pavliv is a retired food scientist who now spends her time actively engaged in service in local and global communities. She considers herself a philanthropist: a person who not only donates money, but donates time, experience, skills or talent to help create a better world. She offers her time and talent with unskilled labor, leadership, and management expertise.

Why Board Service?

- ▶ Serving on a board is an opportunity to do even more for an organization that you are already passionate about.
- ▶ As a board member you are entrusted with the fiduciary responsibility to see that donor funds are well spent, and to protect their best interests and the best interests of the organization.
- ▶ You likely will get to work on the organization's strategic direction, alongside some of the most passionate staff in any sector, to grow and/or focus the vision of what they can do in the community to make a stronger impact. That's exciting and important.
- ▶ You have a skill set, and organizations need it. Maybe you're bringing experience with finance, or a legal perspective, or maybe you're a connector and you can bring in community or business leaders to the organization. Every board is different, and they all need different expertise that you could bring—but be careful, you want to fit their needs, and not the other way around.

What to Think About First

- ▶ Make sure you understand the time commitment, because it varies by organization. You should ask what they require and be prepared to commit to it. I try not to say yes until I can give it my all—and that includes prep work and serving as an ambassador when you're out in the community too.
- ▶ Conflicts of interest are okay because they show a diverse board, but be prepared to disclose them so you don't get yourself or the organization in trouble down the road.
- ▶ You should protect yourself—ask about directors' and officers' insurance, and find out about the stability of the organization, the relationship between board and staff, to make sure that the organization is healthy. Go with your gut if you don't like something you hear.
- ▶ Be prepared for that first meeting. Look at their 990, at their website, and learn about the organization as much as you can. And then do the work to understand the things you don't normally shine at (in my case, financials).
- ▶ Don't be afraid to ask questions. In reality, asking that question you think is stupid may alert them to something that wasn't seen before. Too often organizations have the tendency to do things the way they've always done them, and it's up to you to offer the opportunity for change if needed—they may need to hear they have permission to change.



The volunteer-led staff at Vidas de Esperanza pose for a photograph together (above). A patient hugs his doctor with gratitude (right).

Care for All: Vidas de Esperanza by Hiral Patel

We all want to go to the doctor when we're sick, injured, or for regular checkups, but not everyone has access to medical care due to resources, lack of access to healthcare, or circumstances. It was with this in mind that Vidas De Esperanza, a local nonprofit health clinic, was founded.

Ten years ago when Ascary Arias settled down in Chatham County, he knew that he wanted to help his community, but wasn't sure the best way to do so. He began to do extensive research on where the pressing needs were and looked to the community of Siler City for answers. He discovered that there was a large gap in medical care in his county, particularly for the Latino population. To his surprise, much of the population was under the poverty line and had never seen a doctor or a dentist. It was because of this research that Arias began to dream about the creation of a medical clinic in the area.

"Because my background is in Sociology, I knew that I needed someone with a more specific focus and expertise in the medical field to turn this dream into a reality," said Arias. "Enter Dr. John S. Kizer."

Knowing very well about the healthcare needs in the community, and recognizing that there was trouble communicating with patients who spoke Spanish, Kizer signed on to help. With his connection to UNC Healthcare, specifically the hospital in Chapel Hill, Vidas de Esperanza was able to create a vital partnership to bring in physicians who would not only provide healthcare services to the community at no cost but were able to properly communicate with patients in Spanish.

The start of the clinic in 2009 was small, with fourteen to sixteen patients coming through. It has since grown to having forty-five to sixty patients frequenting the clinic on any given day. Additional medical services such as dental care and in-home visits by nurses that include food, school supplies, and even holiday gifts have also been added to the clinic's necessary services.

"It takes strong partnerships to make this all work." —Ascary Arias



PHOTO CREDITS: VIDAS DE ESPERANZA




“I do not have insurance and make a low income. Vidas de Esperanza has helped me and benefited me a lot because I could not pay for my dental emergency. Everyone there is kind and respectful with us.” —An anonymous clinic patient

“I do not have insurance and make a low income. Vidas de Esperanza has helped me and benefited me a lot because I could not pay for my dental emergency. Everyone there is kind and respectful with us,” says an anonymous patient at the clinic.

It takes strong partnerships to make this all work, according to Arias. “The clinic now provides a wide range of medical services from checkups, and primary care to women’s healthcare,” says Arias. “We’ve been able to partner with local businesses such as Pittsboro Discount Drugs, a local pharmacy, to provide medicine, and Labcorp to do free blood tests for our patients.”

While the free medical services provided by Vidas de Esperanza make them unique, they stand out for other reasons too. This organization is 100% volunteer based. The doctors, dentists, nurses, and the people who help with administration are voluntarily giving their time and talent. Why? “We are doing this work solely for the best interest of our community. We are comforted by the thought that people don’t have to make decisions between paying for school supplies for their children, dinner tonight, or medicine,” says Arias.

Vidas de Esperanza has created a safe home for the Latino population in Siler City and across Chatham County. The organization prides itself on being a safe space for many who use their services. “It’s important that the patients feel comfortable when they come here. Compared to other health clinics, they know that here they will never be asked for more than a phone number and address when checking in,” says Arias.

The organization does not just offer medical services but provides support and care. “Patients may call us when they need transportation to doctor visits because they are afraid to go alone and know they can rely on us,” says Carolina Torres, Assistant Director of the Medical and Dental clinics at the organization. “This place is like a family to everyone.” 

Vidas de Esperanza was a recipient of a grant from the Arthur Carlsen Charitable Fund at Triangle Community Foundation during the 2019 grant cycle.



Top Ten Responsibilities of a Nonprofit Board Chair

by Chuck ReCorr

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Good nonprofit Board Chairs are made, not born. Here are ten practices to achieve best outcomes from the Board you are leading:

1. Every Board Member participates, but no one dominates.

Chairs must facilitate the dialogue, going so far, at times, to ask each Board Member for their thoughts and not accept responses like, "I agree with Bob." Chairs must also be able to control enthusiastic dominant members."

2. Decisions or approvals presented to the Board need to be triaged.

Not all decisions require the Board's intellect and time. The three key questions are: how impactful could this decision be? Which stakeholders are affected and how? Who, if the decision needs to be made, should make it—the entire board, a committee, management, a stakeholder?

3. During decision-making discussions, identify assumptions, determine conviction levels.

All decisions involve expectations about the future. Those assumptions should be clearly identified by the board. A probability, based on past events or subjectively agreed upon should be assigned to each assumption.

4. In Board discussions, separate facts from opinions.

The Chair should ask Board Members to distinguish between what they can evidence to be true versus what they believe. There is nothing wrong with opinions, but facts should carry more weight.

5. When prompting a vote, the Chair should issue the consistent voting instructions.

The independence of a board can sometimes be gauged by its voting history. If all votes are unanimous it may be a signal that your board is disengaged. The Chair should make it clear, when a vote is called for are, that a Board Member's options are: "Recuse yourself, abstain, vote for or against and you have a right to make a comment for the minutes. Vote your convictions."

6. The Chair is responsible to set the Board meeting agenda.

The agenda is the control document for the meeting; its creation should not be delegated but input from Board Members and management is important and should be solicited in advance. The use of consent agendas can be practical to save time, but the Chair must be careful to insure significant issues are formally addressed.

7. Executive Session should be held at every Board meeting.

Executive Session is a meeting without any management representatives. It is an opportunity for Board Members to be candid in their comments and express concerns. No minutes are taken, nor should votes be held. Having executive session at each Board meeting desensitizes management to not being included in the discussion.


8. Testing for the organization's Succession Plan.

Succession planning for the Executive Director or CEO of the organization is not an event, it is a continuous process. The Chair must routinely ask this question, "Has anything happened that would lessen the effectiveness of our succession plan?" If there has been a degradation of the plan, the Board must begin to address the circumstances immediately.

9. Job descriptions for Board Members as a management tool of the Chair.

The Chair should ensure that the Board job descriptions are useful in describing expectations, and not simply boilerplate and limited to conceptual support of the organization. Adding behavioral elements should be considered, such as, "Board members are expected to participate in board discussion, but not dominate." If clear behavioral goals are not formulated, it is difficult for the Chair to hold Board Members accountable or coach them to improve.

10. The Chair should seek feedback from Board Members outside of board meetings.

The Chair is the facilitator and arbitrator of the Board, but at the same time Chairs can use constructive criticism. Rarely does a Chair come full grown to the Board. Some Board Members may be reluctant to speak up during the formal board meeting or even in Executive Session. Providing them an opportunity to give feedback can be therapeutic for them and educational for the Chair. 

Chuck ReCorr is a Triangle Community Foundation fundholder, Managing Director of Wealth Management at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, and founder of the Harvard 100.

Confronting Poverty by Honoring Human Dignity

by Julie Johnson

Up the stairs and around a corner, a hallway echoes with a child's chatter and a mother's hushed tones. Members sit waiting to get groceries, checking in with each other, and chatting with volunteers, who come to offer a hand.

A peek inside Chapel Hill's former Town Hall reveals a vibrant network of staff, volunteers, and other community members who are squeezing every ounce of usefulness out of the space before moving into a new building next summer.

In April of this year, Inter-Faith Council for Social Service (IFC) temporarily moved its offices and food pantry into the historic building with their community kitchen. In spite of the current space limitations, all are fully functional and provide great support to the community.

IFC was founded by seven local women in 1963 and has since become the largest nonprofit provider of social safety net services in Orange County. It has also become a Community Development Capacity Building (CDCB) grantee partner of the Foundation, a partnership that builds the capacity of IFC to better support members experiencing poverty in Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

Last year Valeria Hernandez, a member of the pantry staff, participated in the CDCB learning cohort, which brings together young professionals from each grantee partner and provides them opportunities for peer learning, facilitated discussions, and professional development. The topics included training in leadership; collaboration; equity, diversity, and inclusion; interpersonal and relationship building communications; and innovation, risk taking, and decision making.

What Hernandez took away from it was inspiration and courage, fueled by conversations with other nonprofit leaders facing similar challenges. She also discovered practical solutions she could immediately apply.

"Talking to other people in community development nonprofits that have similar challenges was so helpful," she says. "I now have a structured approach for innovation, with clear steps for trying out new service delivery strategies."

The most tangible result of her experience has directly benefited IFC pantry members. Many take advantage of walk-in hours on weekday mornings—so many, in fact, that at times they've waited up to two hours.



PHOTO CREDITS: ERIK ATKINSON


To address this issue, Hernandez and her capacity-building cohort brainstormed solutions, coming up with a revised pantry layout that coordinates with the food checklist that members use to choose groceries. When IFC moved into Town Hall, Hernandez worked with her colleagues and volunteers to implement this plan. The change allows the pantry list to function more like a map, so it's easier to find food items and, not surprisingly, takes a lot less time.

Taking the project a step further, Hernandez and her colleagues asked for feedback from members and learned the food list, itself, was more than a little confusing. They've now modified it, as well as the signs in the pantry, and added separate Spanish materials for those who can only read in that language.

While these may sound like simple changes, their effects are profound. They create significant impact largely because they honor the dignity of IFC members. And that's IFC's bigger purpose. User-friendliness for the sake of time is important, but for the sake of dignity, it's priceless. IFC Director of Development Anna MacDonald says, "We're honoring people's dignity and their choices in the processes we already have in place."

Part of how they're hoping to do that more efficiently is by implementing more components of a member-choice model in the next year. This means shifting away from having volunteers shop for others to allowing members to shop for themselves. It also means listening to members through surveys and other feedback, and reducing the amount of information requested on intake.

MacDonald says, "The timing of the capacity-building training was fortuitous because it gave us opportunity to think of time in this temporary space as experimental, to make the process as member-centered as possible." She says IFC will take what they learn while in the town hall and make adjustments accordingly in the new building.

With a network of more than 6,000 people—including members, staff, residents, donors, and volunteers—IFC will use these lessons to keep their mission front and center. And they'll continue confronting the causes and responding to the effects of poverty in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro community into the future. 

IFC is a grantee partner of Triangle Community Foundation's focus on Community Development, supported by our Fund for the Triangle.

"Talking to other people in community development nonprofits that have similar challenges was so helpful. I now have a structured approach for innovation, with clear steps for trying out new products and services." —Valeria Hernandez





Save the Date for What Matters: A Celebration of Community Philanthropy!

May 27 | 4-7 pm | Raleigh Convention Center

During the tenth year of What Matters, we're excited to shake things up! Save the date as we dive into community philanthropy, where we'll hear from people giving locally of their time, talent, and treasure. Visit our website to learn more!

[#Iamaphilanthropist](#)



I am a philanthropist! Are you?

We're guessing the answer is yes. The word philanthropy means to love others, and a philanthropist puts that into action. Too often we don't see ourselves as philanthropists, and at the Foundation, we think it's time for all of us to reclaim that title. Because a student organizing a book drive, a grandparent tithing to their church, a young professional making a donation to a local shelter, a passionate advocate coordinating outreach—all are philanthropists. It takes everyone to make this community thrive. **We want to hear from you—if you are, or know a philanthropist, help us highlight the work being done in our region.** Submit a story at trianglecf.org/whatmatters, and let us lift up the love you give to our community!

Board Leadership Boot Camp: Helping Nonprofits Thrive

by Jennifer Roeder

About 4 years ago, Michael Williams began volunteering for Executive Service Corps (ESC), helping them provide affordable consulting and capacity building services to nonprofits in the Triangle. Since 1987, ESC's 72 volunteer consultants do *pro bono* work provide support nonprofits in Chatham, Durham, Orange, and Wake counties. Volunteers come from a variety of management backgrounds, are in different stages of life, and are all committed to making a difference in their communities. This includes people who are working, people who are in transition, and retirees.

"ESC helps other nonprofits thrive through capacity building, strategic approaches to maximize missions, coaching, and board development," explained Williams, who lives in Cary with his wife and two sons and now has a new role with ESC, as its Executive Director. "I love being in this role. We are impacting the growth and sustainability of the more than 150 nonprofits we touch a year, so they have the best opportunity to be a vibrant part of our society."

One of the programs Williams helps oversee at ESC is their Board Leadership Boot Camp, funded by Triangle Community Foundation's Fund for the Triangle. ESC brings together members of nonprofit board leadership teams for a series of training sessions, with a new group of 25 participants announced twice a year. The series is aimed at board chairs and board members who are key to board leadership, and the goals are to strengthen the performance of nonprofit boards of directors, increase understanding of roles, and promote better board leadership through increased knowledge.

The six training sessions are designed to inform nonprofit board leadership about best practices in critical areas that will impact their effectiveness and provide significant guidance for those volunteering in the nonprofit sector through board service. This includes governance, fundraising,



PHOTO CREDITS: LCI

"For us, it was a chance to take a time out and talk about what is governance, what is the role of the board versus managing the day-to-day. That time is something that can be hard to carve out in busy schedules." —Jim Sheegog

financial oversight, the difference between what the staff does and what the board does, and how the board and executive director should work together.

"We are ensuring that the nonprofits supporting the infrastructure of the Triangle have the best chance to be sustainable," shared Williams. "That's why this training and peer learning are so important."

Nonprofit organizations are selected twice a year from a large pool of applicants to participate in the boot camp. Each of them commits to send three to four board members, including their Board chair, to the series of six training sessions.



LCI Board member Jim Sheegog (center), with LCI Board President Amy Cipau (right) and Paige Humble, LCI Executive Director at the Lung Cancer Action Network meeting in San Carlos, CA in August 2019.

“We want our boards to walk away knowing what they can and should be doing to support their communities and how they can make a difference. Board governance is essential for success and we want to be a part of that.” —Michael Williams

“The first session is always an awakening in terms of leadership,” explained Williams. “It really allows people to take a quiet inventory of who they are and what they should be doing.”

Amy Cipau, President and Founder of Lung Cancer Initiative (LCI), a recent participant, recognized early on that she and her board members could benefit from the program. The highlight of the experience to her was “learning more from other organizations.” In addition, she shared that learning other steps her board could take to be better leaders would be vital to the future of the organization.

“Networking with other local nonprofit leaders was a rare experience,” said Jim Sheegog, Board Member, LCI. “For us, it was a chance to take a time out and talk about what is governance, what is the role of the board versus managing the day-to-day. That time is something that can be hard to carve out in busy schedules.”

Erin Kauffman, Executive Director of Durham Central Park (DCP), also participated in the program this spring, and is glad she had the chance, after wanting to participate for a few years.

“It was a good opportunity to give us the tools to look internally at our organization and to bring it up to speed as the organization and the park itself has grown over the past 20 years,” she said.

She and DCP’s board are still putting what they learned into practice. “The boot camp ended in June but we are still talking about it,” Kauffman said. “We learned that we need to update things. The organization has grown really rapidly, and the development around the park as well. We’ve been working hard to keep up with everything that is going on, and finally had an opportunity to look internally at our operating practices, board structure, and board commitments.”

That is exactly what ESC wants the boot camp participants to do. “We want our boards to walk away knowing what they can and should be doing to support their communities and how they can make a difference,” shared Williams. “Board governance is essential for success and we want to be a part of that.” ✍️

To learn more about ESC’s Board Leadership Boot Camp and apply for the next series of training sessions, visit www.esctriangle.org.

The Art of Giving

by Jennifer Roeder

Virginia Lee was in the locker room at her local gym in 2015, and saw a flyer that intrigued her. The Art of Giving (TAG) was inviting women to join their philanthropic efforts and provide grants to support local nonprofit organizations.

“I was at a point where I wanted to get more involved in the community,” she shared. “It just sort of dropped in my lap—it was serendipitous.” She made her first \$600 annual commitment to join TAG and seized the opportunity.

TAG is a giving circle started in 2009 by Diane Amato to help women join together and realize the power of collective philanthropy. By pooling their resources, each year the group gives out one \$10,000 grant (sometimes two). The grants support local nonprofit organizations, often those with a

budget of \$1 million or less. Each year the call for applications has a different focus to address issues that affect girls, women, and their families.

This year, Virginia chaired TAG’s grant committee. The call for applications focused on supporting women and girls affected by domestic and sexual violence.

“It seemed like a very natural thing to do [support those affected by domestic and sexual violence] as a giving circle that was primarily focused on women and girls in the Triangle,” shared Lee. “And this year we made a commitment to align ourselves with the #MeToo movement.”

TAG awarded this year’s grant to Stand Up Speak Out of North Carolina (SUSO) to support their Girls SpeakOut programs. SUSO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on working with young people who have experienced domestic or sexual violence. What makes them distinctive is their use of art therapy.

As a part of the grant review process, TAG does a site visit with each applicant to learn more about the organization and the impact their grant can have. “When we went on a site visit [with SUSO] we were blown away by the dynamism, dedication, and capabilities of the founder, Monica Daye,” said Lee.

In 2004 Daye founded SUSO on the belief that every woman and child has a right to feel safe, free from fear, violence, and all forms of abuse. Daye herself is a survivor of both sexual and domestic violence. “I was sexually abused at 11. I was in an abusive relationship at 13 and at 17,” she shared. “The aftermath created a domino effect of bad choices.”

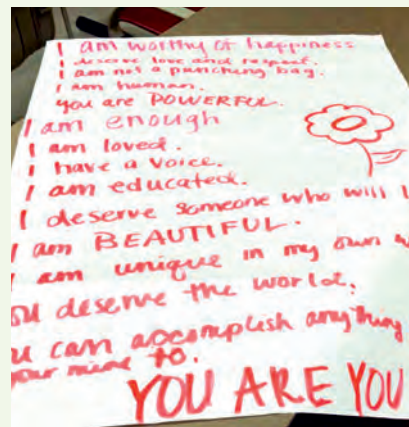
She discovered that spoken word and poetry were healing outlets of expression for her experiences. And as she spoke out in the community, she “noticed a gap,” she said. “There were so many organizations providing services for victims but very few focused on children.”



PHOTO BY: CAROLINE Z. PHOTOGRAPHY

The Art of Giving members Diane Amato and Virginia Lee at What Matters 2019

“It seemed like a very natural thing to do [support those affected by domestic and sexual violence] as a giving circle that was primarily focused on women and girls in the Triangle.” —Virginia Lee



SUSO's Girls SpeakOut Summer campers celebrate visual arts and dance.

“Children mimic what they see. If they have been abused or seen abuse it becomes a part of their make-up. If they don’t have safe spaces to talk about these things they don’t know how to cope with what they have experienced.” —Monica Daye

It got her thinking about what could have helped her cope as a young girl. And SUSO was created.

“Children mimic what they see,” said Daye. “If they have been abused or seen abuse it becomes a part of their make-up. If they don’t have safe spaces to talk about these things, they don’t know how to cope with what they have experienced.”

SUSO is providing that safe space and helping women and young girls through holistic therapeutic services including art therapy.

“When you go to therapy as a child you don’t know how to articulate what you are feeling in your body, experiencing thought wise in your mind, and you don’t know how to say what this is. You just know something bad has happened,” said Daye. “When we use art forms, it allows people who have experienced trauma to create what it feels like. Through art, we have a way of expressing that pain and trauma.”


In the last five years, SUSO has experienced significant growth. In 2015, SUSO became a 501(c)(3) and in 2018, Daye resigned from her full-time job to focus on being the Executive Director of SUSO.

Today SUSO offers support groups for women and girls (Breathe Life Sister Circles), hosts

youth programs for girls during the school year and summer (Girls SpeakOut), and partners with another organization to offer a mentorship program for girls (The Butterfly Effect).

“I didn’t know with the growth that was coming how we were going to continue to sustain ourselves especially with the growth with the summer camps and after school programs,” shared Monica. And then they received the grant from TAG to support the Girls SpeakOut programs. Specifically, the grant is providing funds to support staff and supplies. Now SUSO will have more resources and capacity to run their programs.

“Not all foundations or giving circles are willing to give funds for capacity building,” shared Lee. “The fact that we are willing to do that sets us apart.”

Daye is very thankful that TAG believes in the work SUSO is doing. “We are so thankful that they took this leap of faith with us,” said Daye. “Just seeing us, hearing us, and believing in us. We hope to make them proud.” 

To learn more about The Art of Giving (TAG), a Giving Circle hosted by Triangle Community Foundation, visit trianglecf.org; to learn more about SUSO visit susonc.org.

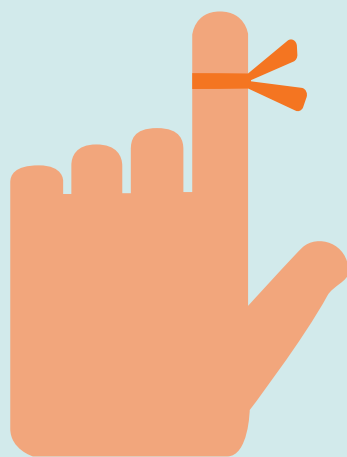
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Read more of Our Stories on the web at trianglecf.org



Important Reminder!

Below are some important dates to remember when giving back this time of year. As always, we are grateful for your support of our community.

To secure a 2019 charitable deduction for a gift *into* a fund, please observe the following deadlines:

Checks	Dated and Postmarked on or before December 31
Cash	Received by wire or delivery on or before December 27
Publicly-traded Stock	Received in our Schwab account on or before December 27
Mutual Funds & Restricted Stock	Initiated on or before December 6 or sooner if needed to close gift transaction
Real Estate & Business Interests	Initiated on or before November 1 or sooner if needed to close gift transaction

To ensure grants are made *from* a fund by December 31, we must receive a grant recommendation by midnight on December 8.

Visit our website at www.trianglecf.org to enter the DonorCentral portal and recommend a grant. Don't use DonorCentral? Call the Donor Services line for assistance at 919-474-8363.

Questions? Call the
Donor Services line at
919-474-8363.