



TRIANGLE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

IMPACT

How the COVID-19 Pandemic
Changed our Philanthropy



FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

We are a community and over the last seven months we have faced so much together. Everything we knew changed when the COVID-19 pandemic struck our region and while it is easy to focus on what we've lost, there is so much we have done together that should be celebrated. I am continuously humbled by the generosity of our donors and so proud of our team.

Almost immediately, the Foundation made changes to our grant programs in an effort to be flexible and responsive to nonprofit needs. We worked with local rapid relief efforts to ensure immediate funding was getting where it was needed most. And you joined us.

We turned to the region's nonprofits to ask what they were seeing, what needs weren't being met, and funded aid for families who were ineligible for federal assistance. And again, you joined us.

We worked with partner funders to make grants to organizations led by and serving people of color, knowing they were hit the hardest twice - by the pandemic and by systemic racial injustice. And again, you joined us.

We provided additional support for students and artists in our community, both struggling during this time, and again, you joined us.

I am struck by the humanity and generosity of our donors, and the desire to help in times like these. You truly make this community a better place, and for that, I thank you.



RAPID RESPONSE

The pandemic forced everyone to adapt to new ways of doing things, and for our region's nonprofits, including the Foundation, that quick pivot was of utmost importance because there were vital needs to be met in our community.

In March of 2020, the Foundation granted more than \$100,000 to two of United Way of the Greater Triangle's Rapid Response Funds, five local Artist Relief Funds, and the NC Funders Collaborative for Strong Latinx Communities' rapid response fund, to support growing community needs. Also during March, our fundholders granted over \$1.1 million to local nonprofits from donor-advised funds.

**\$1.1M IN DONOR-DIRECTED GRANTS;
OVER \$100,000 FROM OUR FUND FOR THE
TRIANGLE IN MARCH**

ARTS & CULTURE

By mid-spring, the financial impact to artists and arts organizations had reached nearly \$33 million in North Carolina alone, with every aspect of arts in the public arena coming to a screeching halt. During the Foundation's Rapid Response grantmaking, \$25,000 was mobilized for the NC Artist Relief Fund, Orange County Arts Support Fund, Arts Recovery Fund, Durham Artist Relief Fund, and Chatham Artists and Arts-Worker Relief Effort (CAARE).

Our most recent Arts & Culture grant program, awarded in September, also granted \$90,000 in general operating support to 13 local organizations, responding to a need for flexible funding.

**\$25,000 FROM OUR FUND FOR THE
TRIANGLE IN MARCH, \$5,000 IN DONOR-
DIRECTED GRANTS, AND \$90,000 IN
SEPTEMBER**

AID FOR FAMILIES

The pandemic illuminated and deepened inequities that we knew already existed in our community. Laws disqualified undocumented residents, agricultural workers, and others from receiving this spring's stimulus checks, continued unemployment benefits, and additional resources.

In April, we granted \$25,000 to Immigrant Solidarity Fund, El Centro Hispano, Solidarity Fund for Chatham County, Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF), and USCRI NC Neighbor Relief Fund via the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants to support these families. And our donors rallied, raising an additional \$109,000 for this cause.

\$25,000 FROM OUR FUND FOR THE TRIANGLE, AND AN ADDITIONAL \$109,000 RAISED BY DONORS

EDUCATION

As we all know, the pandemic has significantly affected students in our region. From concerns over learning loss, food insecurity, and scholarship restrictions to housing and mental health factors, students of all ages have had to make unexpected changes amid an uncertain future.

In June, we set up the Student Assistance Fund for current scholarship recipients, providing one-time cash assistance to eligible students to assist with needs that would otherwise hinder them from completing their academic program. Grants of \$500 could be requested, with the Foundation mobilizing \$10,000 initially for this fund. By time of publication, donors had raised an additional \$39,000 towards these student grants.

\$10,000 FROM OUR FUND FOR THE TRIANGLE, AND AN ADDITIONAL \$39,000 RAISED BY DONORS FOR STUDENTS

SUPPORTING BIPOC ORGANIZATIONS & RESIDENTS

Inequities are exacerbated in times of crisis, and data shows that Black, Indigenous, and communities of color (BIPOC) have been the most disproportionately harmed by COVID-19. We know that nonprofit organizations led by executive directors of color face additional challenges to accessing capital when compared to peer organizations with white leaders, among many other systemic roadblocks.

In May, as part of the Triangle Capacity-Building Network, we announced \$290,000 in stabilization funding to support organizations led by and supporting people of color to address the need for adaptation and innovation to ensure continued viability of the organizations during and post pandemic. Grants were made to 29 organizations; we encourage you to view the full list on our website. This partnership, made up of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, John Rex Endowment, Oak Foundation, The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, and Triangle Community Foundation, was born out of a desire to disrupt the status quo in philanthropy in 2014, and the Network has focused all of its grants on supporting people of color.

In June when this funding was announced, it was on the heels of further inexcusable racial injustice in our nation. Our donors responded to this by making 42 self-directed grants totaling \$73,640 to local organizations doing antiracism work, organizations specifically supporting Black residents, and organizations working for social justice.

\$290,000 FROM FUND FOR THE TRIANGLE AND THE NETWORK; \$73,640 RAISED BY DONORS TO SUPPORT AND PROTECT BLACK RESIDENTS



FUND FOR THE TRIANGLE

Fund for the Triangle provides direct support for the Foundation's interconnected impact areas, ensuring that we are able to partner with strong nonprofits that are the footing of our community's health. This permanent community-based fund also allows us the flexibility to be nimble so that we are able to respond quickly to pressing needs now and for generations to come. Donations made to this fund during the pandemic have been mobilized for COVID-19 recovery efforts as well as our Impact Area grantmaking, to ensure a region where everyone can thrive.

GET INVOLVED

Triangle Community Foundation is committed to ensuring that our region is home to thriving people and vibrant places. Through our Fund for the Triangle, we partner with generous donors and community investors to collectively provide funding and resources that support the most critical needs in the Triangle. Interested in joining us? Visit our website at trianglecf.org or contact our Donor Services team by email to learn more at donorservices@trianglecf.org.