

ON A MISSION WITH A PURPOSE

Planning for the Future

Each year when the Dallas Community Foundation board reviews grant applications, it's a real eye opener on the needs in the Dallas community. Unfortunately, the DCF is unable to fund every application and sadly, some requests are declined. "We could make a more significant difference," comments DCF president Bob Ottaway, "if we had greater financial capacity."

Committed to making a greater impact in the Dallas community, the board has launched an effort to think strategically about the future. They revisited the DCF's mission statement, identified values that would guide their decision-making and developed a vision statement.

OUR MISSION: *to enhance the quality of life in the Dallas community by building a culture of giving.*

The updated mission reflects the purposes of the foundation, linking the foundation's support for local causes with the spirit of giving in the Dallas community. "Together we can make a significant impact in our community, assisting those in need, making our community a better place for all," says Ottaway.

The board has identified four goals it plans to work toward over the next five years:

- Increase financial capacity to fulfill the DCF mission
- Make a measurable and meaningful impact in the Dallas community
- Be known as the preeminent avenue for community support
- Be a strong and effective organization poised to address the needs of the Dallas community

Work continues on this strategic plan. When completed in early 2013, it will lay out a clear vision and pathway to achieve the Foundation's financial and organizational goals.

DCF | Making a Difference in the Lives of Those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

The Arc of Polk County

For individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, it can be difficult to be a part of the community in which they live. The Arc of Polk County works to create opportunities for these individuals, so they can be included and actively participate in their community.



With a grant from the Dallas Community Foundation, the Arc of Polk County was able to provide safe and enhanced socialization experiences for intellectually and developmentally disabled community members by installing new lighting in the Academy Building gymnasium. Every two weeks, the Arc hosts social events which draw up to 100 or more participants. Staff has noted that participants are less intimidated and interact more with others. It's a small investment for a priceless result.

Joey N., one of the participants, really appreciated the new lighting. He remarked, "I really like the lights that we use for dancing. I like it when we get all the people together. The lights are a whole lot better than the big bright ones we had to use before. I like the different colors of lights; it's like a real dance hall!"

To make this project possible, Foundation funds were matched with funds from Arc of Polk County and a donation of labor from Polk County.

2013 Grant Applications Now Available

The Dallas Community Foundation will be accepting applications for the 2013 grant distribution. The Foundation is seeking to fund projects that benefit the people of the Dallas area, with preference given to projects that serve urgent needs and have a broad and meaningful impact on the community. This year, a portion of the funds available will come from the Proal fund; these funds will have an additional emphasis on projects that benefit senior citizens. Applications are currently available through the DCF website or by contacting the DCF office. 501(c)(3) organizations or other qualified tax-exempt entities that serve the Dallas area are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is January 31, 2013.

WHY I GIVE

Ken Braun

Ken Braun has called the Dallas community home for over 20 years. He is currently the executive director for the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program and also serves as Chaplain for the Dallas Fire Department. He supports many causes in the Dallas community and regularly volunteers his time. "Dallas is a great community," he comments. "When a need arises, most people are willing to do something about it."



Giving has always been a part of his life, a family tradition learned from an early age. He recalls his first gift was a tithe to his church from his earnings delivering

newspapers when he was 12. His faith inspires him to give. "It's wonderful to be part of something larger than yourself, to make a difference. You may not realize the amazing impact you have made in someone else's life." He acknowledges that there have been times that giving was difficult due to his own personal financial situation, but giving was still the right choice. He notes, "When we are generous, we always have enough. There are a lot of things we think we can't do without, but really, we can."

Ken has been a supporter of the Dallas Community Foundation, because he appreciates the good work the Foundation does in the Dallas community. "I give to the DCF because it helps small organizations that need the funds." He explains that grant writing has become more competitive and challenging. It is difficult for small organizations to get the funds they need. The DCF makes a difference in the community by specifically supporting local organizations meeting a wide range of needs.

Through his involvement with local non-profit organizations, Ken has experienced the needs of the community. He has also experienced what makes Dallas truly a community – the dedication of volunteers and the giving spirit of its residents. Giving to help those who are less fortunate and need a hand up is simply the right thing to do. "I have so much – food at the table, a roof over my head, clothes on my back. I have more than enough."

His advice for anyone who is thinking about giving money or their time to a local cause? "Do it!" he says emphatically. "It might take some effort, but at the end of the day, you can see the benefit of what you're doing. That's a gift in itself." And the bottom line, it makes a person feel good.

GRANT WRITING TRAINING

As a service to local non-profit organizations, the Dallas Community Foundation offered a free grant writing training in November. "Many smaller organizations do not have the staff or the resources to write successful grant applications," commented Mia Mohr, Foundation Administrator. "We wanted to bring that level of assistance to these organizations to better help them secure the funds they need to continue the valuable work they do."

In a time when fewer grants are available, grant writing has become increasingly competitive. Additionally, some funders have specific requirements which can be challenging for inexperienced grant writers.

At the training, non-profits were encouraged to assess their capacity and potential as an organization, and to fully scope their project. "The success of their project will depend as much on the preparation and planning, and their capacity to carry it out as it does on the grant itself," said Mohr.

The grant writing training class will be offered again January 16, 2013 from noon-1:00pm at the Dallas Alliance Church 775 East Ellendale Avenue. If you would like to attend, please rsvp to the DCF office at 503-798-7847.

DCF | Making a Difference for Seniors

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT



For over 50 years, the Dallas community has benefitted from Dallas Christmas Cheer, an annual effort that makes sure children and families in need do not go hungry over the holidays. Over the years it has grown and evolved into a successful organization that serves over 200 families every year. These families receive a food box, books for children and gifts for senior citizens. The organization relies on the generous support of sponsors, donations and volunteers to supply and distribute the

Dallas Christmas Cheer

boxes each year on Christmas eve.

The Dallas Community Foundation is pleased to support Dallas Christmas Cheer through a 2012 grant to provide food and gift boxes for seniors in need. In the past, seniors served by Christmas Cheer have expressed appreciation and gratitude for these simple gifts – for some, it is the only gift they receive at Christmas. The stark reality of those needs was evident when Sue Lamb of Christmas Cheer received a call in November from an 82 year-old woman. She explained that she wasn't sure if she would have enough food to last until the Christmas Cheer food box

arrived – nearly a month away. She said, "I am hungry and don't have much food in my cupboards." Unfortunately, it is the grim situation for some seniors that are on fixed incomes, having to choose between paying bills and purchasing food. Lamb jumped into action and was able to get the woman some food that very weekend to help her get by until the Christmas food box would arrive. Thanks to the efforts of Christmas Cheer and Dallas Community Foundation funds, the hungry, lonely and proud seniors in our community will not be forgotten this Christmas.

Polk County Resource Center

The Dallas Community Foundation recently received the following letter from the Polk County Resource Center. This letter is like others we periodically receive – impactful stories that remind us of the difference we are making in our community. In this season of giving and reflecting on those things that are important and the values we impart, we wanted to share how even a simple gift can grow and make a big impact.



Dear Dallas Community Foundation,

We wanted to again thank you for the grant. With the \$1800.00 you awarded us, we were able to turn that into a total of \$6436.20! Because of other partners, like the Salvation Army, United Way, the Dallas Ministerial Association, and the Dallas Service Integration Team, we were able to partner \$4636.20 in funds with your grant. This grant was a “life saver” for us this year as we were able to help households with urgent needs we normally would have had to turn away.

In particular, we would like to highlight a couple of urgent needs that were addressed through the Dallas Community Foundation grant to help shed some light on the diversity of households we served. A couple of months ago, a young man came in to our office needing help with getting his Oregon identification card. He was told he had a job, but would need the identification card before he could start. He had absolutely no income and after connecting with other partners, we could not find one that could help. In the past we would not have had the funds to assist with this request but this grant allowed us to help. We assisted with the \$39.50 needed for his ID. Just a couple weeks ago he called and said, “Thank you, I have been working for two months now. It was such a blessing and thanks for helping when no one else could.”

In September, we helped a family of five. The dad was struggling with an injury he incurred while in military service. He was connected with Vocational Rehabilitation and Polk County Counseling. He was getting disability and was in the process of getting more but it wouldn’t happen for a few months. The mom has been working as much as she could but because of the dad’s injury, she often had to stay home with the children. They were also going through a difficult situation with a child who was abused. We were able to help them trim down their budget and locate other programs to help with some of their necessary expenses. After assessing their financial situation, we felt that if this family could get caught up with their electricity bills, they would be able to make the ongoing future payments. We assisted with \$132.62 of Dallas Community Foundation grant funds and \$699.98 from the Dallas Ministerial Association, Dallas Service Integration, United Way, and Salvation Army funds. Yesterday, the mom came in and while they are both still struggling, they are able to pay their bills and the dad is getting more help from Easter Seals for his PTSD.

Thank you again for the grant. We appreciate the difference you are making in the Dallas community.

Melissa Baurer
Coordinator
Polk County Resource Center

David Parrett



I first became involved with the Dallas Community Foundation a few years ago when I was approached to serve on the Foundation investment committee. A couple years later, I joined the Foundation board. I have always been impressed with the wide range of support the Foundation has provided to various groups and individuals, helping students with education, groups who

serve those in need and our seniors in the community. I think it's important for people to know that the Foundation's sole purpose is to support the people in our community. You can be assured that your gifts will find people and groups in need.

I serve on the board because I believe in what the Foundation stands for and I am honored to contribute towards helping others. As a Christian we are called to serve for others. Since serving on the board, I have learned a lot about the Dallas community. I knew about the Foundation and its service in the community, but until I got personally involved, I had no idea how many lives they touch through the gifts and grants they provide. It has been an amazing experience to be part of the Dallas Community Foundation.

YES! I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN MY COMMUNITY.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

- ☐ I wish to remain an anonymous donor.
- ☐ Please keep me updated with an electronic update. I understand that I can unsubscribe at any time. DCF will never share or sell your email address!

☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Dallas Community Foundation.

Return this form to the Dallas Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1001, Dallas, OR 97338

Prefer to donate electronically? Go to our website, www.dallascommunityfoundation.com

A receipt of your contribution will be sent to you. All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Your information will be kept confidential, secure, and never shared.

Dallas Community Foundation

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Go to WWW.DALLASCOMMUNITYFOUNDATION.COM and click on SUBSCRIBE TO THE E-UPDATE.

It's easy! Periodically, you'll receive email highlighting what's going on with grant recipients and other DCF news.



Dallas Community Foundation

A Non-Profit Corporation to Benefit the People of the Dallas Area

December, 2012

Dear Friend,

A gift to the Dallas Community Foundation is truly a gift that keeps on giving. Thanks to the contributions of people just like you, the Foundation has given back more than \$400,000 in grants and scholarships over the last decade, directly benefitting the Dallas community.

It all began in 1995, when a handful of people gave \$25 each, contributing to the idea that the fund would become a source of local assistance for the Dallas area, supporting a wide range of needs. Over time, with more gifts and responsible investment, the Foundation grew. With the earnings, the Foundation makes grants to local non-profit organizations doing good work in the community, making a meaningful difference in the lives of those they touch. Today, with more than \$1.5 million under Foundation management, those original gifts have not only grown in value, they are continuing to give.

We are inspired by words of encouragement that echo from those that receive our support – from one local organization that described a small grant as “a lifesaver” to a gentleman who, after receiving assistance, commented “It completely turned my life around. I can’t thank you enough. It was such a blessing.”

Unfortunately, we are also very aware of situations where needs go unmet because the resources are simply not enough. We know that there is much more that we can do to support the Dallas area, but we need your help! We are committed to growing the Foundation and have set an ambitious goal to achieve \$2.5 million in assets by 2018.

In this season of giving, we are asking you to make a tax-deductible investment in your community. We can help you put your charitable dollars to work right here in Dallas!

You can give in several ways. You can make an undesignated contribution that the Foundation can use to address the most urgent needs as they arise. Or with a larger contribution, you can create your own designated fund, perhaps in your name or the name of a loved one, to support the local charity or cause of your choice. To learn more about these and other giving options such as estate gifts, please give us a call.

To make your contribution today, you can send your check along with the form on the back page of this newsletter, or go online to www.dallascommunityfoundation.com/donate.asp to pay by credit card.

Thanks for joining us in supporting the Dallas community. Your gift *will* truly keep on giving, now and into the future.

Best Wishes for a blessed holiday season,

The Dallas Community Foundation Board of Directors

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