

Foundation Funds at Work in the Dallas Community

Enriching Lives Through Music

A DCF grant has enabled Dallas Retirement Village health center staff establish a certified Music and Memory program.

This program uses music to enrich the lives of residents with dementia. Using Ipods with headphones to block out ambient sounds, residents listen to music that enables them to experience emotions and recall memories. They can better focus, become verbal, engage in physical activities, calm sundowning behaviors, and reconnect with people they no longer recognize.

According to Hilary Boyce, Health Care Center Activities Director, the most significant impact of this program is that it can help someone who has lost so much of who they are and reconnect them to themselves. "The resident may not remember going to a dance in high school where they met their first love, but if you play a song from the dance, they may feel the emotional attachment to that moment, or connect with that teenager again." Even if they don't recall the memory, they may still feel the joy associated with it.

Ray's life had been centered

around music. He now has dementia and is unable to play his guitar. His family brought in CDs and videos of his favorite musicians for him to enjoy. He would sit in his room and listen, but had very little response. Then they loaded the same music onto an iPod and put his earphones on. All of a sudden he came alive. He started singing, scooting his wheelchair down the halls, waving at people and smiling. Putting on his music and memory ipod is like turning on a light switch. Boyce adds, "The music soothes the souls that are so disrupted by dementia and brings them back to themselves."

The DCF grant has enabled 30 residents like Ray to benefit from this program. It has made a huge difference in their quality of life.



Ray feels like a working man again, listening to his favorite tunes, reconnecting with good times.

Feeding the Hungry Through Weekly Community Dinners

A grant to James 2 Community Kitchen helped provide 7,770 adult meals and 607 children meals to those who might have gone without. Because of the grant,

James 2 was able to purchase more fresh fruits and vegetables and incorporate them into better quality, healthy meals. The weekly meals are all made from scratch through the help of dedicated volunteers. The grant also enabled James 2 to buy more items in bulk, taking advantage of deeper discounts to stretch dollars further.



DCF board members on tour at the James 2 Community Kitchen meal site.

Growing Skills, Harvesting Produce, and Helping Others

This year, DCF grant funds supported a much-needed garden drainage project at the Dallas Youth Garden. Twelve interns and volunteers worked together to complete the project, which will improve soil conditions and productivity. The garden provides a working opportunity and job skills training for nine Dallas High School students; this year's harvest totaled over 5,000 pounds of fresh produce to feed the hungry in the Dallas community.

Dean Anderson, 4H Leader and

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A Word from the President

The Dallas Community Foundation began in 1995, founded by city leaders and visionaries to give back to their community. Since then, some \$500,000 has been given back to the Dallas Community in scholarships and grants.

26 different local organizations were supported with awards during 2015 and 24 organizations in 2016. These include senior programs, children's programs, schools and leadership programs. These themes of support reach into almost every corner of Dallas Community life, all aimed at supporting the people of our community through the generosity of our donors.

I believe we all have received many blessings in our lives. The Dallas Community Foundation is an effective tool for you to join us in improving and changing lives locally.

Please recognize your many blessings in life by giving back to your community through a generous donation to the Foundation.

Thanks for helping to make Dallas a city we can all be proud of. 🌈

Bob Brannigan
President

Dallas Community
Foundation Board
of Directors



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Garden Coordinator, is thankful for the support. "This will help the fruit trees grow better, allow us to start working in the garden earlier, improve the soil, teach our interns about drainage, and provides a great opportunity for our interns to work together to add another lasting improvement to the garden."



Interns and volunteers work together to complete the garden drainage project.

Preparing Kids for Success at School

In August, over 1200 people attended the 5th annual Dallas Family Night Out event. In addition to free activities, food and entertainment, the event offers support for low-income families including immunizations, well-child checkups, dental supplies, school supplies, haircuts, and clothing. Families are also able to connect with 30 community resource providers.

DCF grant funds were used to help purchase and distribute school backpacks filled with school supplies, an item that many low-income families struggle to afford. Committee Chair Sheri Beehner explains, "Instead of families going from agency to agency seeking help, they can bring their children

to Dallas Family Night Out and get the services that they need, while their children have fun and don't notice they are getting a hand up."



School backpacks filled with supplies are ready for distribution to families in need.

New Educational Experiences at the Delbert Hunter Arboretum

In cooperation with the City of Dallas, the Friends of the Delbert Hunter Arboretum and Botanic Garden developed a signage project to interpret the natural and cultural history of Dallas. With DCF grant funds, six educational kiosks have been constructed along trails in the 7 acre arboretum.

A natural treasure in the heart of the Dallas community, visitors to the arboretum can connect to the city's past and learn about the native plant communities that occupied the area before settlement.

Two kiosk panels describe the differentiation of conifer trees, one

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describes the ecology of the native prairie grass meadows. Three kiosk panels describe the flume, sawmill, and electric light company that until the early 1940's, operated within the area now encompassed by the city park.



DCF board members learn about the kiosks from Arboretum friend, Sue Rohde.

Giving Becomes the Gift that Gives Back

In a previous newsletter, you may recall reading about a Dallas Creation Vacation mentor who ultimately became a 'Big Brother' to a boy whose family participated in the program. The boy did not have a father figure in his life; he lived with his mother and four sisters. The boy and his new-found big brother began meeting regularly, working on homework, enjoying outdoor activities, taking in sporting events and learning woodworking skills. A year later, here's an update.

"Our friendship has grown through the year and we continue to get together on a weekly basis. This summer I worked with him on his

math and made a challenge to him that if he got to his grade level (a jump of 3 levels) by summer's end I would take him to see the Broadway production of The Lion King in Portland. He did it, he is now taking Algebra I, and we had a fabulous time! We continue to go hiking, bicycling, do woodworking, and attend ball games. He is now a regular volunteer at the James 2 Community Dinner on Thursdays at the Dallas United Methodist Church."

DCF gave a grant to a program that brought together a volunteer and a boy, that developed into a relationship, that made a huge difference in the boy's life, that inspired him to volunteer in the community to help others...the ripple effect of a simple gift!

Therapeutic Classroom Offers a Nurturing Environment for High-Risk Children

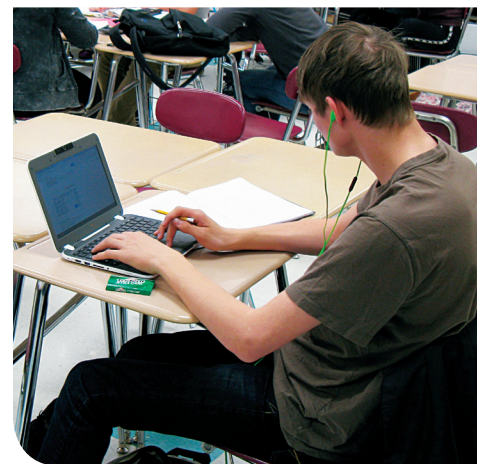
Family Building Blocks works to keep children safe and families together, providing a variety of early childhood services. In Dallas, they offer a therapeutic classroom for the highest-risk children, ages six weeks to five years. With DCF grant funds, classroom teachers provided services to six families, including 10 children. They also provided monthly home visits for these same families. The classroom is a safe, nurturing environment that focuses on healthy social and emotional development.



In the therapeutic classroom, high-risk children can express their feelings, learn social skills and begin to process the world around them.

Enhancing Education Opportunities


Students in the Dallas School District are benefitting from the small grants program funded by the DCF and the Dallas Education Foundation. This year, 17 grants are supporting the purchase of technology, books and supplies that enhance and enrich learning experiences. 🎨



Dallas students benefit from technology such as Chromebooks.

DCF Announces 2017 Grant Distribution

Dallas Community Foundation will accept applications for the 2017 grant distribution beginning January 1st. 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, the grant application will be available online through the DCF website at www.dallascommunityfoundation.com. A paper application will be available upon request. For more information, contact Mia Mohr by phone 503-798-7847 or email mia@dallascommunityfoundation.com. Non-profit 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, 2017. 



Dallas Community Foundation

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Contact Us:

PO Box 1001 | Dallas, OR 97338

(503) 798-7847

info@dallascommunityfoundation.com

www.dallascommunityfoundation.com



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