COMMUNITY focus

A Newsletter of the Dallas Community Foundation

Winter 2020

Giving Back in 2019

Foundation Grants Make Dallas a Better, More Connected, Vibrant Place

Foundation funds continue to assist those in need and improve quality of life to make Dallas a better, more vibrant place, in every corner of the community. Your support is making a difference in many ways. 2019 Foundation Grants have contributed towards:

Community Wellbeing, supporting efforts ranging from community mediation services to grief support to community meals to arts and culture programs.

Critical Needs, providing a safety net for families facing urgent needs, food insecurity and basic hygiene and personal care needs.

Support for Struggling Families, offering a variety of assistance and respite opportunities for at-risk families and those needing a hand up.

Youth Development and Education, enabling participation in sports activities through scholarships, facilitating internships, and enriching educational opportunities at home, at school, and in the community. Post-secondary education scholarships were awarded to 27 graduating seniors.

Senior Livability, increasing opportunities for seniors to be active and engaged.

Health and Safety, funding critical vision screening, support services for young victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and neglect, and access to free, life-saving medical care for uninsured and underinsured residents.

Earlier this year, a woman was diagnosed with diabetes and depression at the Polk Community Free Clinic. She admitted to having thoughts about taking her life. She was immediately connected with a mental health provider as well as a provider and health educator to manage her diabetes medications. Her situation has been stabilized and she is doing well. With Foundation support, this vital health care safety net provided life-saving assistance for a member of our community.

Supporting Education in Dallas

In partnership with the Dallas Education Foundation, Dallas Community Foundation funds supported projects to enhance learning opportunities for local students. This November, 23 grants totaling $8089 were awarded, impacting hundreds of students in all Dallas schools.

Grants will primarily be used for technology and reading materials, including noise-cancelling and sensory materials for special needs students and support for STEM and CTE programs. The materials and equipment purchased through these grants will continue to benefit students in future years.

Thank you, DCF donors for your support of education! Working together, we can make a difference.

A Word from the President

Dear Friends of the Dallas Community:

During this holiday season I think of family, friends and how grateful I am for the blessings I enjoy. Being grateful for our blessings helps us all realize how we are all connected and our responsibility to give back to the community in which we live.

Giving back comes in many forms such as service through volunteer work and financial support of programs that improve the quality of life within the Dallas community. The Dallas Community Foundation is an important vehicle to achieve that goal through grants and scholarships.

Please join with me and all the members of the Foundation board and celebrate this holiday season with a generous donation to the Dallas Community Foundation. In this way you can join with other like-minded people who want Dallas to be a better place to live.

Sincerely,

Bob Brannigan
President
Dallas Community Foundation

Board Member News

Farewell Susan and Michelle

After more than 10 years of service, Susan Morrill retired from the board. Michelle Johnstone also stepped down. Both were dedicated, supportive board members and passionate about Dallas. Thank you for your service Susan and Michelle!

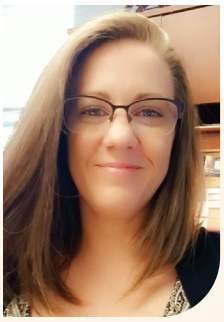
Welcome Debbie and Emily

The Foundation welcomes new board members Debbie MacLean and Emily Gagner. Both bring valuable skills and experience to the board.

Debbie MacLean moved to Dallas with her family in 2006, attracted to the small community and school system. Debbie has worked for Dallas School District for 13 years, currently serving as Director of Fiscal Services.

Debbie has strong ties to the community; her youngest son attended Dallas schools and was involved in various sporting activities. As a parent, she volunteered in PTC and other extra-curricular parent groups. She also has two older sons and five wonderful grandchildren. In her role as a school district leader, Debbie serves on several committees; Finance, Citizens Oversight, Dallas Chamber Policy, and the District Collaboration Team.

She looks forward to serving on the board. "This will continue and deepen my service to families and community members by engaging directly to provide funding opportunities that benefit local needs and community projects."



Emily Gagner has made Dallas her home for 17 years. Dallas has always felt like a safe and supportive community in which to raise her three sons and is very happy with her decision to move here.

With a degree in elementary education, she is passionate about public service. She currently serves as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Dallas. Over the last 17 years, her work with the city has offered her the opportunity to make the community a better place.

Emily is pleased to serve on the Dallas Community Foundation board to do even more to support and care for everyone in the community. "I strongly believe in what the Foundation stands for and I am honored to contribute toward making a positive difference in Dallas now and in the future."

DCF board members serve at the James 2 CK community dinner.

A Labor of Love for Children in Need

DCF-funded project benefits seniors and provides toys for children at Christmas

"Let's make toys for children in need!"

Over the course of a dinner conversation, an idea was born. It sparked a huge project with broad impact and benefit - seniors putting their talents into a labor of love, making Christmas toys for children in need.

Dallas Retirement Village residents Jim Baltimore and LeRoy Rempel put their idea into action, designing and engineering a wooden toy truck. With a plan in place, a skilled group of woodworkers began building trucks at the Dallas Retirement Village hobby center. Out of a piece of two by four, a band saw cuts out the body and fenders. Various sanders refine the shape. Holes are cut for the wheels. A stout cargo box is constructed of plywood. Custom jigs are used for assembling axels and painting. Hours of meticulous labor go into each truck.

As the project continued to grow, the group soon determined additional help was needed and recruited a group of painters to give the trucks a professional finish. With more input, a new car was introduced, a sporty model reminiscent of the Volkswagen Beetle. The final product looked great, but decidedly, a classic beetle needed more than just plain paint. Talented artists joined in to paint fun designs on the cars – daisy flowers,

smiley faces, lady bugs and the like. To date, the group of industrious and talented Dallas Retirement Village residents, over 30 men and women, have worked together to make nearly 150 cars and trucks.

This project highlighted a critical shortage of workspace at the hobby center. Additional space was needed to house tools and materials. A separate, well-ventilated room was needed for painting and drying.

A DCF grant will help this project continue to grow in the future, expanding the hobby center workspace and providing a safe, ventilated area for painting. Everyone involved has echoed their appreciation of the financial support for this project. As one participant summed it up, "It's not just the opportunity to come together, but doing something to help children and having fun doing it."

Some of the toys are being sold to raise funds for project materials, but the bulk of trucks and cars will be given to local children in need for Christmas through the Dallas Adopt a Family Program. These sturdy, handcrafted vehicles are truly a labor of love and will be special gift for a child who might otherwise have none. Dallas Community Foundation is proud to be a partner in this effort.

Experiential Learning Opportunities Create Local Solutions

In August, DCF sponsored the "Breaker Challenge", an innovative program that teaches Dallas students to be problem solvers for real-life situations. This summer, a group of students were challenged to identify, design and test new ways to increase joy and connectedness for residents of the Dallas Retirement Village community. Advancing through levels of care, residents become increasingly isolated from their lifestyle and circle of friends.

Hilary Boyce, DRV Director of Life Enrichment, noted that it was a great dynamic to have students and seniors engaged in the process. "It was an amazing experience. I was really touched. They had a ton of ideas. Everything they came up with was tangible and doable." She was thrilled that residents were so involved in the process. "Residents appreciate being asked their opinion."

In addition to the learning experience, students came away with a different perspective about life in the retirement community. Contrary to initial expectations, they discovered a place of vibrancy and activity.

DCF Announces 2020 Grant Distribution

Dallas Community Foundation is pleased to announce the grant distribution for 2020. Foundation funds support a variety of programs and projects, assisting those in need and improving quality of life.

For the 2020, the Foundation will focus particularly on the following funding priorities:

- Health and Wellbeing of Vulnerable Populations
- Opportunities for Youth and Seniors
- Community Livability

Beginning January 1st, 2020, applications will be accepted online through the DCF website at **www.dallascommunityfoundation.com/grants**. For more information, contact **Mia Mohr** by phone, text **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 eligible to apply. Applicants are welcome and encouraged to contact the Foundation prior to submitting an application. The application deadline is January 31, 2020.

Dallas Community Foundation
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Please make checks payable to: **Dallas Community Foundation**

Return this form to: **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 wil 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.

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life in the Dallas community by building a culture of giving.

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