



HOLLOWAY FAMILY FOUNDATION

FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our foundation newsletter! We hope to engage you, as members of the Board, in the foundation's latest efforts, news, and accomplishments including seasonal goals and outreach, updates on our partners, and an overall pulse on research and philanthropy. Enjoy!

[Surviving the Short-Term](#) [Supporting the Long-Term](#)

As we enter this fall season, the routines and expectations that typically define this time of year are continuing to function differently. While many of our nonprofit partners are continuing to work remotely and schools are constantly adapting to virtual learning and/or safe, in-person instruction, the commonality surrounding it all is an innovative approach and unwavering desire to serve. We have heard from direct service providers who have adopted virtual platforms and created access for participants to continue receiving online instruction, skills training, mentorship, creative arts, and afterschool programs. Many of these organizations have discovered elements to this new delivery format that will likely continue beyond the immediate need created by COVID-19.



[Continuing During COVID-19 Through Innovation & Determination](#)

In September, Valerie and Jenny had the wonderful opportunity to hear from Byron Sanders, CEO of Big Thought in Dallas, during a virtual update to stakeholders cleverly titled, "Breakfast with Byron." He gave an impressive overview of everything the organization learned during the shut-down, how they adapted their programming over the summer, and how they responded to the immediate needs of the community. The latter included acquiring an emergency childcare license to support essential workers by creating a childcare site in one of the closed schools near the local hospital.

Summer programming for Big Thought typically begins with planning in January; however, in light of COVID-19 they had to act quickly and reimagine what summer programs might look like in 2020. It culminated in various offerings determined by feedback from the community—virtual (synchronous and asynchronous), in-person (socially-distanced), and hybrid models including new subscription “creativity kits” that offered hands-on projects and encouraged engagement with caregivers. As is a priority in all their programming, social-emotional learning was embedded into each offering, as they believe it is more important now than ever.



HFF followed up with a separate meeting with Byron to further discuss their latest vision, which involves integrating their Creative Solutions model (created for youth who are justice-involved, **which produces a recidivism rate of 10% compared to an average of 38%** for other intervention programs) with an innovative public school option. This opportunity would infuse workforce development, employer engagement, mentorship, and SEL into an education pathway as a model for systems change. *This idea of integrating proven, valuable after school programs into the daily curriculum of mainstream education was the impetus for HFF’s interest in the education sector approximately two years ago.* We have definitely learned a lot—from naysayers doubting the path of integration to current public policies surrounding the issues—and we are delighted to see one of our own partners rising to the challenge. We plan to stay apprised of the details as they move forward with this exciting and important venture.

[VIRTUAL] CONFERENCES & CONVENINGS

Speaking of HFF’s interest and support of Texas public policy and its role in education, the **Annual Fall Policy Convening for *Philanthropy Advocates***, formerly Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium (TEGAC), took place virtually at the end of this month on October 28th & 30th (you can read more about its new name [here](#)). As the Texas 87th Legislative Session will begin in January 2021, we appreciated updates about the different interim requests and policy expectations during this historic time, specifically around college and career pathways and support for mental health and social-emotional learning (SEL) in schools.

It was also encouraging to listen to two former Secretaries of Education come together on a discussion around reinventing education in the era of Covid-19. The sessions also placed an emphasis on legislation that addresses the needs of health and education as interrelated societal and economic issues, rather than the siloed policy efforts of the past— an imperative also made abundantly clear from the pandemic.

The virtual conference was extremely informative and well organized, and we encourage you to view some or all of the content as it is made available on [their website](#) . We are excited to be members of a collaboration focused on advocating for the future of our students and economy with an equity lens, especially during these unprecedented times.

Valerie and Jenny also attended the **Philanthropy Roundtable's Virtual Annual Meeting** on October 14th-16th. One of the Philanthropy Roundtable's greatest achievements, especially during 2020, has been to provide a platform for speakers to engage in important discussions around potentially controversial topics while demonstrating respect for differing viewpoints and courage to share their opinion. They continued this trend throughout their annual meeting. The opening session was a debate between scholars on '1619 vs 1776,' which has been a hot topic of conversation in our country as the racial justice movement has increased interest and coverage of these two projects. The recorded debate is available by clicking here: [1619 v. 1776: When Was Our Country Founded?](#) and using the password: **Philanthropyrocks!** .

Other key takeaways from the meeting included protections for donor privacy, school choice, leading with courage, the effect of COVID-19 on work and entrepreneurship, mental health, and building the ladder to true upward mobility. If you are interested in accessing more videos from the meeting, please reach out to Jenny@HollowayFamilyFoundation.org.

SAVE THE DATE
April 16th-18th, 2021 for
HFF's Annual Board Meeting
in **Nashville, Tennessee** at
the Bobby Hotel
www.bobbyhotel.com

HFF & Mental Health

We are proud to have partnered with the Rainwater Charitable Foundation to support Communities in Schools of Greater Tarrant County (CIS) in expanding their services to offer their first-ever summer program in June/July 2020. And we are excited to share some of the positive outcomes and feedback that were collected by the program staff.

This 4-week extension of CIS's virtual case management and mental health services allowed for *over 800 students across 16 schools in 3 districts* to stay connected to resources and support during an otherwise tumultuous transition into summer.

According to the [Student Readiness Assessment](#) given at the beginning and end of the program, **89% showed an increase in readiness/preparedness for the next school year**. This assessment included a wide array of essential items from whether a student had access to food to reliable internet. The executive team from CIS also reported that the overall response from staff was positive, with strong interest for participation in future summer programming, should it continue to be offered.

We are honored to have been part of this collaboration, as well as extremely proud of our nonprofit partner, CIS, for their excitement and responsiveness around the idea and their ability to organize students, staff, and assessment tools in such an efficient manner in order to serve these children.

The HFF 2020 Visionary Leadership Award

Mara Richards Bim, Cry Havoc Theater Co

Valerie met with Cry Havoc's CEO, Mara, for an al fresco lunch to discuss updates on how the organization has functioned during COVID-19 to more generally how the creative arts community is responding in Dallas. Mara was surprised and delighted to receive the HFF Leadership Award. She already has an idea for how she might utilize some of the funds—a trip to Chicago to visit a similar organization with a social justice lens that has successfully scaled their program. We will look forward to hearing all about it!



Mara Richards Bim, Cry Havoc Theater (Dallas Morning News/ Staff Photographer)

HFF Reading list

[Giving Done Right](#) by Phil Buchanan

[Together](#) by Vivek Murthy

[American Dirt](#) by Jeanine Cummins

[Homegoing](#) by Yaa Gyasi

Continued resources for learning:

<http://bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES>

We would love to hear from other board members and highlight any recommendations here! Feel free to send any titles/authors you would like to share to Jenny@hollowayfamilyfoundation.org to be included.