



HOLLOWAY FAMILY FOUNDATION

SPRING 2021 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!



A Year in the Making...

After restructuring our annual in-person board meeting into a virtual one in May 2020, we were finally able to use those hotel reservations

in Nashville, TN, earlier this month. After an unprecedented year, 100% of the foundation trustees convened for the weekend to share ideas, expertise, and advise for the 2021 grant cycle. By the end of the weekend, the board approved **\$664,500** in funding to **66 organizations**.

Within this group, 18 were multi-year requests— the first cohort of its kind based on their history with the foundation and strong mission alignment. Overall, roughly 20% of grantees are focused on creative expression for low-income children, another 20% focused on mentorship, and 55% dedicated to workforce development (5% was discretionary funding).

Applicants will receive Valerie's handwritten letter acknowledging the board's decision of their request by June 30th. Thank you ALL for making the annual meeting such a success!

Sharing the Journey: Equity & Advocacy

The foundation was excited to bring a glimpse of its learning journey to the rest of the board over the weekend as well, hosting several speakers to discuss gender and racial equity, as well as policy and advocacy.

[Sara Bishop](#) led us in a morning discussion around philanthropy’s role in narratives and social change. Key takeaway: “Until *the practice* meets *the promise* of prosperity for all in America,” then there is work to be done.

The afternoon discussion focused on best practices for the foundation’s role in advocacy and a Texas legislative update from [Jen Esterline](#) of the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, [Becky Calahan](#) of Philanthropy Advocates, and [Kate Kuhlman](#) of [Hillco Partners](#). You may access Becky’s presentation [here](#) .

We are so grateful for these amazing leaders to share their guidance and expertise with our trustees! We look forward to continuing these important conversations in the months and years to come.

The LEO Partnership

The [Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities \(LEO\)](#) at the University of Notre Dame “helps service providers apply scientific evaluation methods to better understand and share effective poverty interventions” with the belief that “rigorous research is a powerful means to an end... an end to poverty.”

Heather Reynolds is the managing director of LEO, but prior to that, she worked at Catholic Charities of Fort Worth where she met and has maintained a relationship with Valerie. In her role at LEO, Heather reached out to Valerie for recommendations of nonprofits as they began looking into new geographical regions for their future research cohorts. The cohorts consist of organizations providing effective and scalable services that will benefit from LEO’s increased capacity and resources to produce powerful

data and analysis to amplify the impactful work they are already doing.

LEO quickly reached out to several of Valerie’s suggestions, and to date, [Helping Restore Ability](#) received a \$25,000 grant to partner with LEO, Dallas-based [POETIC](#) is nearing the final stages, and [Corner to Corner](#) in Nashville was just accepted into the cohort that began earlier this month!

We are so excited to see what these studies reveal in the months/years to come, and to continue this partnership with LEO to engage our grantees in the important work of evidence-based practice and to lift up the life-changing work they are doing every day.



Grantee Spotlight: *I Can Still Shine*

Last month, Brenda Jackson, Director of [I Can Still Shine](#), received notice that they were chosen by the City of Richland Hills as the recipient of the 2020 Momentum Award. *The Momentum Award recognizes the one business within the city that excels in overall business growth, corporate contribution to the community, and recognized by their employees as a great place to work.* Congratulations, Brenda and ICSS team!

HFF Reading List

[Be Bold: How to Prepare Your Heart and Mind for Racial Reconciliation](#)

by LaToya Burrell

LaToya participated in the *Exponent Philanthropy Next Gen Fellowship Program* alongside Jenny earlier this year. And last summer, she wrote a book! It is a heart-felt, friendly and Christian approach to understanding race in America and gaining compassion for different perspectives along your journey.

[Together](#) by Vivek Murthy [Homegoing](#) by Yaa Gyasi [Caste](#) by Isabel Wilkerson

Up next:

[Become America](#) by Eric Lui

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.

THANK YOU!

