



# HOLLOWAY FAMILY FOUNDATION

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## SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

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April 2020

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!

### Our Response to COVID-19

This newsletter would have begun very differently just a few short weeks ago, but of course now the most pressing and immediate topic is the new coronavirus pandemic. It has not only affected each of our lives, but also has drastically impacted our non-profit partners and the communities they serve. We have also witnessed the collective impact of our local and national funding community during this heightened time of uncertainty.

Beginning mid-March, Valerie and Jenny participated in every conference call that was made available to them regarding the effects of COVID-19 on the nonprofit community, their

urgent needs, and potential ways to support them. Early on, foundations in other areas of the country were reporting changes in grantmaking to include unrestricting grant dollars, lessening reporting standards, purchasing Zoom accounts for organizations to be able to continue to work remotely, accessing collective impact models to bring in more funding partners, implementing electronic funds transfers versus checks, creating a simplified application process for emergency funding, reaching out to partners to ask about their specific needs, and discussing ways to go beyond dollars in order to amplify their voice and increase resources. Long-term support suggestions include considering an additional year of funding for all grants awarded in 2020 (a "+ 1 year"), thoughtful reassessment around the 5% spending requirement during a year of crisis, and implementation of a Recovery/Emergency Fund for future deployment of budgeted funds.

We were able to discuss all of these ideas with many of you via a video conference on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020. During this meeting, the board voted to provide immediate crisis funding via a simplified application and invite previous HFF grantees (from 2018 and/or 2019) to apply for up

to \$5,000 per request. This Rapid Response Application launched at 11:30am on Friday, 3/27/20.

We received an immediate response from our partners, one of gratitude and action. Valerie and Jenny “cut off” submissions for review by 3pm on Thursday, 4/2/20, in order to perform evaluations and communicate approvals by end of day Friday, with checks mailed out on Monday, April 6th. We were able to reconvene with the HFF Board of Directors on that Monday and discuss the Rapid Response Application process and outcomes.

Decisions were based on relevance, urgency, type of service provided, and population served. The main questions from the evaluation form utilized can be viewed [here](#).

#### RRA FAST FACTS:

A total of 17 approved requests totaling **\$75,000**

**13 organizations awarded \$5,000**

4 organizations received \$2,500

**\$55,000 dollars** (12 out of the 17 awarded grants) went to organizations that **applied on Day 1** (3/27/20)

**40 applications** were submitted for review

In addition, the full list of grantees can be found [here](#).



[Above: *CitySquare*, a HFF Rapid Response grantee, continues to serve the Dallas community during the COVID-19 outbreak.]

For the Rapid Response applicants that were denied funding, we shared the opportunity that a company called [RevJen](#) is offering for free the remainder of 2020, which provides a structured peer groups for executives to address challenges and opportunities with other nonprofit leaders.

In an effort to continue to provide non-financial support to all of our partners, we have also shared other local resources including the collective funding effort launched in response to the COVID-19 crisis called [North Texas Cares](#), as well as a [COVID-19 Local Workforce Connector Platform](#) created by local partners to provide a tool for business leaders in Fort Worth to aid in navigating their current employment challenges, whether that involves decreasing or increasing their workforce as a result of the pandemic.



## On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020,

we hosted our inaugural Fort Worth Funders' Policy Convening at the Amon Carter Center at Lena Pope. Thirty attendees, representing about a dozen local foundations, participated in the event. The speakers addressed their area of expertise in transportation, housing, childcare, or workforce development, and highlighted policies either promoting or inhibiting potential goals of each sector. Below is the list of speakers, and you may view their bios [here](#).

- Mattie Parker—*Chief of Staff for Mayor Betsy Price and Fort Worth City Council* (introduction)
- Mary-Margaret Lemons – *President, Fort Worth Housing Solutions* (housing)
- Rebecca Young Montgomery – *Senior Vice President, Advocacy, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce* (transportation)
- Carol Klocek – *CEO, Center for Transforming Lives* (child care)
- Ron Simmons – *Director, Right on Work, at the Texas Public Policy Foundation* (workforce development)

Attendees engaged in a stimulating Q&A and completed our brief [survey](#). Due to the overwhelming positive feedback, we plan to continue the convenings and likely focus on one

legislative topic (i.e. childcare) per meeting, in order to better facilitate time for Q&A/discussion following the presentations. Obviously, given the social distancing restrictions due to COVID-19, it is difficult to say when we will be able to organize the next in-person convening. We could discuss the potential of hosting a virtual event, if the board and the audience express interest in that type of forum. As mentioned on our recent video conference with the Board on April 6<sup>th</sup>, Valerie suggested using this platform to discuss the CARES Act given its prevalence right now, and welcoming speakers to address the various aspects of the stimulus package.

The live recording of the March event is linked here: [HFF FW Funders' Policy Convening Video](#). (*Apologies for the quality; audio is decent, but it is difficult to see the slides.*)

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### *Postponed Event*

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## **Apprenticeships: Building Bridges to Self-Sufficiency**

**Learn how philanthropy can work with corporate, government, nonprofit, and post-secondary entities to promote economic growth and financial stability for working families**

**Representatives from the U.S. Department of Labor, DCCCD, BNSF, and Wesley-Rankin will be presenting. Funders who support low-income families, veterans, disconnected youth, formerly incarcerated individuals, or homeless individuals will benefit from this program.**

The Holloway Family Foundation and the Rees-Jones Foundation were planning to co-host the above session for the Dallas Contributor's Network (DCN) luncheon on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Due to COVID-19 public health restrictions, it has been postponed until further notice. Through this process, we have learned so much about the unique opportunity that apprenticeships offer and are excited to share these resources with others. It may likely become an even more essential career pathway given the workforce and educational challenges that continue to develop as a result of the pandemic. Stay tuned!

## 2020 CONFERENCES

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Exponent Philanthropy Annual Conference **October 6-8**  
*Anaheim, CA*

The Philanthropy Roundtable 2020 Annual Meeting **October 14-16**  
*Naples, FL*

CASEL 2020 SEL Exchange\*\*  
*\*\*This conference will now be held virtually on October 15\**

Philanthropy Southwest Annual Meeting **October 20-23**  
*Lost Pines, TX*

*Interested in Attending? Email [Jenny@hollowayfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:Jenny@hollowayfamilyfoundation.org) for details.*

At the end of January, Valerie and Jenny attended the Texas Public Policy Foundation's **Policy Orientation** in Austin. It was an introduction to TPPF through their annual conference that aligned with HFF's ongoing interest in accruing knowledge around legislation that affects our vulnerable populations and public systems, and therefore impacts our grantmaking.

One of the most valuable takeaways from the conference was the introduction to Daron Babcock, founder of [Bonton Farms](#) in Dallas. TPPF highlighted his story during one of the main sessions, and then Valerie was fortunate to be seated next to Daron during dinner that evening to learn more about his journey. Daron has been able to transform one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in Dallas (historically called "Bomb Town," but later changed to "Bonton" to try to improve the reputation) into an area that now provides jobs and apprenticeships for the community through several social enterprises including a farm, market and café.

Valerie was able to follow up with a site visit a few weeks later (see picture below) and learn more about the organization. The individuals involved in the programs at Bonton Farms include those without any previous work experience, history of imprisonment, homelessness, addiction, and violence/abuse. We look forward to the opportunity to support Bonton Farms in the future!







[Above: Baby goats with a local member at Bonton Farms.]

## HFF Book Club

In an effort to stay in touch with the latest narrative regarding philanthropy, the workforce, socioeconomic issues and other relevant topics pertaining to our work, we created this— completely informal— space to share what we have found enlightening and welcome any and all to engage. Recommendations for this season:

Educated by Tara Westover

The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

We would also love to hear from other trustees and highlight any recommendations here! Feel free to send any titles/authors you would like to share to [Jenny@hollowayfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:Jenny@hollowayfamilyfoundation.org) to be included in the subsequent newsletter.

## ACTION ITEMS for the Board

LOOK HERE FOR ITEMS THAT REQUIRE YOUR FEEDBACK AND/OR INPUT REGARDING UPCOMING FOUNDATION DECISIONS... AND THANK YOU, IN ADVANCE!

- ❖ **2020 Annual Board Meeting** is still currently scheduled for May 29-31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, in Nashville, Tennessee. The plan is to **make a final decision about this event by May 1<sup>st</sup>**. Please be on the lookout for another email/Zoom invitation to reconvene the trustees regarding this decision.
- ❖ As of July 2020, **Jenny and her family will be relocating to Asheville, North Carolina**. Jenny's husband, Scott, accepted a job offer to teach/coach at a local private high school. After discussing this change thoroughly with Valerie, Jenny is grateful to continue her role at the foundation, though in a more remote capacity. Visitors welcome!

