



HOLLOWAY FAMILY FOUNDATION

SPRING 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. This includes seasonal goals and outreach, updates on our partners, and an overall pulse on research and philanthropy.



"If we had not winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

- Anne Bradstreet



Did you know that **April is Autism Acceptance Month?**

HFF grantee and advocate for neurodiverse young adults, The Precision Institute (TPI) located in Nashville, TN, honors this month by spreading education about Autism and inclusive practices, including the following "tips" from their Executive Director, Janet Atwater:

Ten Ways to Honor Autistic People Via Autism Acceptance*

1. Honor Communication
2. Honor Competence
3. Honor Interests - even if "not age-appropriate"
4. Honor Sensory Needs
5. Honor Executive Functioning Difficulties
6. Honor Anxiety
7. Honor Routine
8. Honor Autistic Role Models

9. Honor Undiagnosed Autistic People You Know

10. Honor Autistic People as Unique Selves

*Follow the link below for the full article by Shannon Des Roches Rosa:

<https://thinkingautismguide.com/2023/10/t-en-ways-to-honor-autistic-people-via-autism-acceptance.html>



TPI is also launching an innovative pilot program this month specifically focused on removing barriers to employment:

Only 1 in 3 neurodiverse teens/adults has a driver's license, often due to driving apprehension or anxiety, which is a tremendous barrier to employment.

Therefore, TPI has partnered with Vanderbilt University, San Diego State University (SDSU) and the National Science Foundation to offer a driving program specifically designed for neurodiverse drivers to address driving apprehension and anxiety by combining Cognitive Behavior Interventions with a Virtual Reality Driving Simulator.

We look forward to learning more about this program!

HFF Equity Journey: Disability Inclusion

The Holloway Family Foundation, Asset Funders Network and Rees-Jones Foundation cohosted the February luncheon for the Dallas Contributors' Network (DCN) on the topic of Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy.

Guest speakers included Emily Harris as the Executive Director of the Disability Philanthropy Forum, home to the Disability Inclusion Pledge that was established in 2020 in an effort to promote inclusion and equity within the philanthropic sector. We also invited Dylan Rafaty to speak about his local perspective on the disability inclusion landscape in Dallas. Dylan founded the North Texas Disability Chamber for the City of Dallas. Both speakers were open about their own disability and passionate about 'normalizing' inclusion practices among institutions and the philanthropic sector.

These early prep calls with Emily and Dylan confirmed Valerie and Jenny's interest in signing the [Disability Inclusion Pledge](#), joining more than 80 foundations and PSOs, and the first to do so in Texas! We were grateful to bring this opportunity to our DCN convening for other funders to consider. We are excited to provide this display of commitment to our grantees that work with and serve alongside the disability community every day and look forward to this chapter in our learning journey.

More to come!

2023 HFF Relay Grant: Complete!

The first few months of this year included wrapping up one of our favorite initiatives from 2023—the HFF Relay Grant! The Board nominated our initial recipient, **Kimberly Williams CEO at Interfaith Family Services**, who decided to relay her grant to fellow CEO, **Irish Burch at Dallas Children’s Advocacy Center (DCAC)**. Kimberly described Irish as working tirelessly during her time at DCAC “to rebuild the culture of the organization, address financial issues, and ensure that children remained safe and strong during and after the pandemic.” Valerie was able to meet Irish for coffee and hand deliver her \$3,000 unrestricted award in late January.

Irish has since finalized her nomination for the final recipient of the 2023 relay grant, and we are thrilled to announce that she chose **Gabrielle “Gabe” Madison, CEO of Bonton Farms**. Since Bonton Farms has been a previous grantee of HFF, some of you were able to meet Gabe at our site visit at Bonton Farms last year during our Annual Board Meeting. After her involvement as a board member for Bonton Farms, she has now been in her current role for 18 months and is extremely grateful for this unexpected award.

Congratulations, All!

SPRING CONVENINGS

In early April, Valerie represented the Foundation at **Workforce Matters’ Further Together National Conference** in Washington, D.C. Jenny serves on the Steering Committee for [Workforce Matters](#) and assisted in the planning for the conference session focused on

nontraditional apprenticeships titled: **New opportunities to advance equity in apprenticeship and work-based learning**. Valerie was asked to introduce the panel, which included April Ambrose from Arkansas Advanced Energy Foundation, Amaya Garcia from PAYA/New America, and Kayla Elliott from Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. The session was moderated by Megan Baird from the US Department of Labor and was a dynamic discussion about the opportunities and challenges in this work. The panel was described by Loh-Sze Leung, Co-Director of Workforce Matters, as “eloquent, informative, and challenging in the best of ways.” We are so grateful for these impressive women and their unique perspectives on the changing landscape of apprenticeships.



Asset Funders Network (AFN)’s Biennial Meeting in New Orleans, LA, was held in mid-April. Valerie was able to attend and reconnect with another unexpected HFF partner—Sara Bishop with Orchid Communications!

Sara provided a synopsis of each session at the conference, which can be found [HERE](#). Joe Antolin, CEO and President of AFN, wrote to attendees in conclusion of the conference and thanked them for “showing up, embracing change, and leveraging philanthropic resources to advance equitable wealth building and economic mobility.”



The North Texas chapter of AFN (NTxAFN) took the stage at the conference to highlight their recently published report on the 2023 **Equity in Asset Building Relay Grant**. They generously acknowledged the Holloway Family Foundation for providing the inspiration behind this initiative through our trust-based and equity-focused annual relay grant. Per the report:

“In 2023, NTX AFN established the Equity in Asset Building Relay Grant program. Its purpose was to deliberately elevate grantmaker visibility of and investment in nonprofits led by people of color working on economic mobility and asset building issues within Dallas and Tarrant Counties, North Texas.”

Jenny will continue to serve on the NTxAFN Relay Grant Committee to focus on continuing to support each grantee per their feedback on prioritizing access to resources, increasing capacity, and expanding their networks. You may use the following link to access the full report: [NTXAFN Equity Report](#).



A LOOK AHEAD: 2024 FALL CONVENINGS

- October 15- 17th **Philanthropy Southwest Annual Meeting**
Santa Fe, NM
- November 14-16th **Exponent Philanthropy** Austin, TX

If you are interested in attending or would like more information about any of the events listed above, please email jenny@hollowayfamilyfoundation.org.

SAVE THE DATE:

2024 HFF BOARD RETREAT
SEPTEMBER 26- 29th*

The Whaler's Inn

*Want to stay and explore more of **Mystic, CT?**
Extend your trip through Sunday night*

More details to come!

HFF BOOK CLUB

The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocumb

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and

the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer