



HOLLOWAY FAMILY FOUNDATION

WINTER NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the HFF 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.



2024 HFF Board Retreat in Idyllic Mystic, CT

It was a successful weekend in September as our Board and staff gathered in Connecticut. We are grateful for the skilled facilitation of Daniel Kaufman, Co-Founder & Principal at

[Third Plateau](#), who joined us for the 2-day retreat.

The conversation began around common values to center our work and vision for the Foundation. Daniel had each member in the room engage by reading a section of HFF's Letter of Donor Intent. Having established this clear grounding in our "why," we were able to move through the rest of our time together focusing on the vision of "what" lies ahead for the Foundation and "how" to best align our grantmaking strategies, community partnerships, and future innovation within the sector to reach those goals.

We also made time to explore and support the local community. The [Mystic Seaport Museum](#) graciously hosted us in their board room one day, which was then followed by a tour at [Sixpenny Oyster Farm](#) to learn about sustainable oyster farming and the local ecosystem with co-founder, William Ceddia.

It was a fun and productive weekend, and we look forward to continuing these inspiring conversations at our Annual Board Meeting next spring.

One final, HUGE thank you to Susan West and Joanna Wolkowski for their generous hospitality

and enthusiasm towards sharing the magical town of Mystic with us. We can't wait to return!



Partner Updates

Long time HFF grantee, [Kids Who Care \(KWC\)](#), has closed its doors after celebrating its 35th season in Fort Worth, TX.

Deborah Jung, Founder & Executive Director (and HFF's 2024 Visionary Leadership Award recipient) announced the sunset of KWC in July. We are honored to have partnered with such an innovative organization for children in the arts in North Texas and all over the world.

It is serendipitous that we were able to spend a memorable afternoon at Kids Who Care for a site visit with our Board of Directors last spring and witness the astounding talent of KWC kids. Although Fort Worth will greatly feel the loss of this programming, Deborah's next act (pun intended) includes publishing her book, *Entrepreneur KidPower Leadership*, in order to, in her words, "share what we do everywhere I can." You may read more about the July announcement [HERE](#).

2024 HFF RELAY GRANT WRAP UP

SHAWN LASSITER, Founder & Executive Director of [BRAVE/R Together](#) received the first award to kickstart our **2024 HFF Relay Grant**.

Shawn nominated **AMBER SIMS, Co-Founder & CEO of [Young Leaders, Strong City \(YLSC\)](#)** in Dallas, TX, to receive the second award.

Amber nominated **TIARA COOPER, Managing Director of [In Defense of Black Lives Dallas](#)** to receive the third and final relay grant of the year. Congratulations, All!

Below: Valerie & Jenny at lunch with Amber Sims, HFF 2024 Relay Grant recipient.



Leaders in Disability Inclusion

My Possibilities has released its [North Central Texas Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities \(IDD\) Community Needs and Strengths Assessment](#) as a critical tool in the pursuit of its vision for *“a world of inclusion, dignity, and opportunity for everyone.”*

This research compiled pre-existing and collective data to better assess the needs of the IDD community in Plano and surrounding areas when looking at continued learning, employment, residential, transportation, and therapy needs, as well as the needs of caregivers.

This effort is a key step towards aligning disability inclusion priorities across sectors, including philanthropy, to create an ecosystem of resources and accessibility for individuals with intellectual & developmental disabilities (IDD) across North Central Texas. We applaud My Possibilities for continuing to lead with excellence as advocates for the IDD community.

Funders’ Roundtable on Education (FRE): September 10th, 2024 & December 10th, 2024

Jenny continues to co-chair the Funders’ Roundtable on Education quarterly meetings with Sarah Geer, Principal at [Rainwater Charitable Foundation](#) in Fort Worth, TX.

In September, they welcomed Elizabeth Brands, Ed.D., President & CEO of The Morris Foundation and Board Chair of [Rev Partnership](#) in Tarrant County to share some of the most recent data on K-12 outcomes across several independent school districts.

Rev Partnership intentionally uses a county-wide lens to show data aggregated for key datapoints, while also harnessing the opportunity to look at variations by district. There are promising indicators that span different district demographics and there are strategies that are working locally (such as strategic staffing, Pre-K enrollment efforts, Teacher Incentive Allotment, and a regional teacher induction framework). Rev was able to share those learnings with our FRE members.

For the last quarterly meeting of the year in December, we heard from the Interim Superintendent of Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD), [Dr. Karen Molinar](#), on her strategic plan to revitalize FWISD from a “culture of inefficiencies” to an organization focused on literacy, accountability, innovation & transformation.

Her bold vision includes strengthening business and community partnerships to increase support for students and teachers. This call to action includes a “2025 New Year’s Resolution Challenge” for any community organization, business, church, or HOA/neighborhood association to “adopt” a school staff for 5 months. They can provide their time and/or financial support towards this effort. We applaud her vision and transparency, and look forward to seeing what lies ahead for FWISD.

Congratulations, Val!

On October 11th, **Attitudes & Attire Annual Luncheon** took place at the Dallas Trade Mart where they announced the recipient of their **Kim Dawson Attitude Award**:

Valerie Holloway Skinner!

This award was founded to honor one person annually whose standout personality and accomplishments exemplify the full potential of all women.

We couldn't agree more!



Above: Valerie with Lyn Berman, Executive Director of Attitudes & Attire, and Donna James Harvey at the annual luncheon in October.

SAVE THE DATE
HFF 2025 Annual Board Meeting
April 11-13th
Nashville, TN



*Merry
Christmas
&
Happy
New
Year!*