



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM

# GIVING TOGETHER

## LEVERAGING COMMUNITY IMPACT

Spend a few minutes with Jarralynne Agee and you'll get excited about something. Whether it's the violence reduction initiative she is working on or a sports camp for Birmingham city kids, her enthusiasm will make you want to get up and help her do something good in the community.

Jarralynne and Bob Agee moved with their two sons from San Francisco to Birmingham in 2008. He is one of the top sports physicians in the area and she holds three degrees and a wealth of experience working with the criminal justice system.

"We knew when we moved to Birmingham that we wanted to have more of a community impact," says Jarralynne. "We had a lot of philanthropic goals as well as professional goals."

They share a lot of the same passions in their giving, especially education and providing better opportunities for youth. And they work as a great team, hosting an All Access Sports Medicine camp for Birmingham students, co-hosting the 2016 UNCF Mayor's ball and getting involved in numerous local volunteer service organizations.

Last year, Jarralynne was named the Program Director for the Birmingham

Violence Reduction Initiative. The initiative, which was funded by the Community Foundation's Catalyst Donors and Alabama Power Foundation, is a strategy that focuses on reducing homicides, reducing incarcerations and building police legitimacy. For the first year on the job, her offices would be at the Community Foundation.

Shortly after Jarralynne started, Erin Stephenson, Vice President of Development invited her to one of the Community Foundation's Lunch and Learn meetings. Jarralynne admits that even though she had been working in the office a few months she had no idea what a community foundation did.

"Listening to the staff speak during that luncheon was like a light bulb went off," says Jarralynne. "We had done a lot of 'drive-by' giving – someone would call me about a need and drive by my house to pick up a check. I had no idea what impact we made. Opening a fund at the Community Foundation has helped us be a lot smarter with our giving."

Jarralynne and Bob like that they can get objective advice on their giving, "Erin has helped us make the most of our assets and the program staff helps us feel confident about the nonprofits we support."

"As a donor at the Community Foundation, I feel like I am a part of bigger things," says Jarralynne. "I can't take on these issues alone, but having my fund combined with all these other funds means we can put our energy into changing things for good."



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## EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR DONORS

As students head back to school, join us for an in-depth look at issues affecting quality education in our community. You will learn about the challenges and opportunities facing students in both urban and rural school systems, and get an update about the partnership between Birmingham-Southern College and Blount County High School.

**Deep Dive Luncheon:  
Community Health in Action  
Tuesday, August 23, 2016  
11:30am to 1:00pm  
Birmingham-Southern College**

**Guest Speakers:  
JW Carpenter, Birmingham Education  
Foundation and  
Mitchie Neel, Blount County Education  
Foundation**

**RSVP to Lora Terry by  
Thursday, August 18  
lterry@cfbham.org or 205.327.3808  
Limited spots are available**

Deep Dive Luncheons are an exclusive benefit for Community Foundation fund holders. Sector insiders discuss innovative and inspiring programs supported by the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham so that you can become a more informed and involved philanthropic investor.

Stay tuned for more Deep Dive Luncheons coming up throughout 2016.  
Please contact Lora Terry at 205.327.3808 if you have any questions.

## ONE PLACE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Last year Birmingham police responded to 10,906 calls related to domestic violence – and these are just the ones that were reported. According to the Department of Justice, only a little over half of all domestic cases are reported.

While we have a strong network of services for domestic violence and sexual assault in Birmingham, victims have had to visit multiple locations to receive services. Now, a collaboration between the Birmingham Police Department, Jefferson County District Attorney, YWCA Central Alabama and the Crisis Center makes help more accessible for victims.

One Place Metro Alabama Family Justice Center launched a pilot in 2014 to provide a place where victims of

domestic and sexual abuse could get help in a safe, single location rather than navigate separate venues at a time of fear, confusion and trauma. The program was only available one day a week and they knew they needed to expand.

The Crisis Center came to the Community Foundation with a grant proposal to support a director who could help to expand the program and eventually move into a permanent space. “When we presented this grant opportunity to our donors, we had an amazing response,” says Lora Terry, Director of Donor Relations. “They knew this was an opportunity to have an immediate impact on a tragic problem.”

Allison Dearing was named Executive Director of One Place Metro Family Justice Center early this year and began working with Brandon Falls, Jefferson County DA, to bring the services together in a central location. They moved into their temporary space in the Criminal Justice Center in May and will transition to their own building, a donation from United Way

located on the Southside, this fall. According to Dearing, from their initial opening until the end of June this year, they have assisted approximately 60 victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

“In almost every case, people are grateful for the opportunity to come into one place, where they can share their story one time, and have access to a variety of resources,” says Dearing. “Most often, people are confused by the systems, processes take longer than expected and court can be a scary place. It can be overwhelming to navigate, especially when you are in crisis.”

Dearing says that the Birmingham Police Department has advocated for a Family Justice Center for years, and laid a solid foundation that allowed the Family Justice Center to become reality. “One Place Family Justice Center would not exist without the support of the City of Birmingham,” says Dearing, “along with all of our partners and funders. Together, we can make this city better for all families.”

## GETTING THE SKINNY BEFORE DIPPING

If you are looking for a beautiful spot to fish, launch your canoe or just spend a lazy day by the river, there are plenty of choices in our area. Now you can be assured that it is okay to take a dip in some of the favorite summer watering holes in the area.

Last December, the Community Foundation awarded Coosa Riverkeeper a grant to support collaboration between Coosa Riverkeeper and Cahaba Riverkeeper to strengthen their Swim Guide Programs. The grant will help expand the existing swim guide programs, increasing the number of sites checked each week and extending the time frame to cover May through September.

The program tests for high levels of E. coli and the results are published each Friday on the groups’ web sites, as well as a special Swim Guide app developed by the Waterkeeper Alliance. Thanks to our generous donors it is a lot safer to take a dip and cool off this summer!

“JUST KNOWING WHAT TO EXPECT CAN BE TRANSFORMATIVE FOR VICTIMS”

*Allison Dearing*

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GIVING TOGETHER OR TO PARTICIPATE IN A SITE VISIT, CONTACT LORA TERRY AT 205-327-3808.

2100 FIRST AVENUE NORTH, SUITE 700  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203  
205-327-3800 / FAX 328-6576  
CFBHAM.ORG