



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM

GIVING TOGETHER

2018/ VOL. ONE

A FOUNDATION FOR THE COMMUNITY

As I write this, plans for the Community Foundation's future are taking shape and will be guided by conversations with community members across the greater Birmingham region. Over the last two years, Community Foundation staff and board members have engaged in a strategic visioning process. The next step in this process is to develop a strategic plan that supports the Community Foundation's vision and is informed by community input gathered from interviews, focus groups and community conversations scheduled for February through June. Your feedback is critical to this process and we will be in touch regarding opportunities to participate in a focus group or community conversation.

As we take stock of 2017, we are grateful for the opportunity to work with passionate philanthropists like you. Because of you, our collective impact continues to grow as we immerse ourselves in critical issues facing our community. The following are highlights Community Foundation initiatives and programs:

- Results Framework Grantmaking:** In 2017 we awarded a total of \$2,407,100 to 69 nonprofits supporting four areas of our Results Framework:
- Children are Successful along the Education Pipeline: 9 grants, \$246,500
 - People Can Lead Healthy Lives: 24 grants, \$817,000
 - Individuals and Families are Economically Secure: 19 grants, \$807,100
 - Communities are Sustainable Livable and Vibrant: 17 grants, \$536,500

Giving Together: This unique program gives donors the opportunity to learn more about nonprofits in our area and to support Results Framework grantmaking through gifts from their Advised Funds. 2017 was the ninth year of Giving Together with 58 donors contributing more than \$850,000 in funding aligned with Foundation grants and initiatives. In addition, our donors were incredibly responsive to the devastating disasters in 2017, giving more than \$250,000 through their donor advised funds to support relief and recovery.

Regional Cooperation: The regional cooperation study, *Together We Prosper, Charting a Course for Cooperation in Greater Birmingham*, was officially launched in June, 2017. The report, funded by our Catalyst donors and compiled by the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA), looks at how we became one of the most fragmented regions in the Southeast and what can be done to overcome the consequences of our fragmentation.

Since the report's release, the Community Foundation has met with local and regional governmental officials, business and community leaders and presented the report to more than 40 groups across Jefferson county. Working with a public relations firm we launched the Together We Prosper website which hosts the report and other information (TogetherWeProsper.org).

In 2018, we will continue to work to disseminate the report and begin planning and implementation of the next phase of action. We have identified more than 40

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

TOTAL ASSETS
\$221 million

NEW GIFTS
\$25.9 million

NEW FUNDS
22

TOTAL FUNDS
494

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED
\$90.8 million

MORE THAN
\$465 million in grants awarded
since 1959

YEAR FOUNDED
1959

COUNTIES SERVED
Blount, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby
and Walker Counties

Unaudited as of 12/31/17

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area leaders who have agreed to serve on our Champions Council and provide strategic support for this effort and we will continue to engage elected officials to explore ways to better utilize existing structures as a framework for cooperation.

Mental Health Initiative: As chair of the Mental Health Priority Group of the Health Action Partnership, the Community Foundation has led the effort to finalize a collaborative plan to build more comprehensive, effective student mental health systems across multiple school districts. Three school districts (Blount County, Tarrant City and Homewood City) have committed to a plan to improve training, assessment and mental health services. In December, we provided a grant to support this effort. Additional funding has been secured from key partners including United Way and Blue Cross Caring Foundation.

Innovation District/Burning Glass: Innovate Birmingham was officially launched in May, 2017 with Bob Crutchfield joining the initiative as Executive Director. One strategy that aligns with Innovate Birmingham's plans is the development of a report by Burning Glass Technologies, a national leader in labor market and employment data analysis. The Community Foundation helped fund the report which will provide a comprehensive, forward-looking and data-driven picture of skill and occupation demand in the Birmingham region. The report will be released in early 2018.

Payday Lending: Despite monumental effort on behalf of the Community Foundation and a talented group of advocates led by Dr. Neal Berte, the 2017 legislative session ended without passage of meaningful payday lending reform. Opposition to any reform is powerful and well funded. We will continue to advocate for meaningful payday lending reform and are cautiously optimistic for reform in the 2018 legislative session.

Birmingham Violence Reduction Initiative (BVRI): In 2017, several factors converged that affected the implementation of this initiative. Political change led to the loss of the incumbent U.S. Attorney, District Attorney, Mayor, and our longstanding Birmingham Police Chief. All were lead partners in BVRI. Also, a small number of activists who opposed BVRI gained traction in the press and on social media. We are excited that the new administration, led by Mayor Woodfin, is committed to addressing this issue and will release a plan to address violence in mid-March. We are working with the Mayor's team to provide information and assistance as needed and look forward to a comprehensive plan that will build off the foundation laid by BVRI.

Other News: This winter, we met with Mayor Woodfin's Leadership Team to discuss our outreach and exploration efforts in **Western Birmingham** and our interest in aligning with their plans and priorities. The **Women's Breast Health Fund** launched an interactive website and video highlighting the history and work of the fund (wbhlegacy.org). The **LGBTQ Fund** completed its second grant cycle awarding \$20,000 to six nonprofits and received a matching grant from Funders for LGBTQ Issues.

Our Philanthropic Services team formed the **Professional Partners in Philanthropy Leadership Forum** to engage emerging leaders within the financial services industry and launched a **summer education series** for donors. The Programs team partnered with Alabama Association of Nonprofits and Network for Good to provide fundraising and development coaching for 20 area nonprofits. Lora Terry and Gus Heard-Hughes assumed new leadership roles and we welcomed two new directors in our philanthropic services and programming departments.

2018 is already shaping up to be an exciting year and we look forward to hearing from you as we begin our community engagement outreach. To all of you, our donors and partners who have contributed to the Community Foundation through gifts of money, time and knowledge, we say: Thank you. Without your support, none of the progress we have made toward our mission of transforming our region would be possible. It truly is a privilege to be associated with such a wonderful organization.


Christopher Nanni
President & CEO

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A HIGHER STANDARD



The National Standards Seal indicates official confirmation from the Council on Foundations that we have met the most rigorous standards in philanthropy. It affirms our commitment to financial security, transparency and accountability. It says our grant-making includes an open, competitive process designed to address the changing needs of our community.