



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM

# GIVING TOGETHER

## NEXT-GEN CIVIC INNOVATORS

At the Community Foundation we believe in the power of collective impact. Working with donors, nonprofit partners and civic leaders, we pool our resources to use philanthropy as a tool to improve Birmingham. Our community's legacy of generosity and leadership is one worth carrying on, and we want to provide a platform for the next generation of civic innovators to bring their ideas and expertise to the table.

The newly launched Catalyst Fellowship pairs some of our community's most dynamic young leaders with the Community Foundation's Catalyst Funds to reach this goal. Catalyst Funds are a pool of assets at the Foundation designated to support transformational, catalytic projects throughout our region.

"Over the last eighteen months we have researched the best way to engage emerging leaders in our community," says Lora Terry, Vice President of Philanthropic Services at the Community Foundation. "We have talked to other foundations, potential program participants and Catalyst donors. We learned that these rising leaders want to learn how the Community Foundation works; how we identify critical community needs and how they

can help build the partnerships and processes to meet those needs."

The goal of the program is twofold. It will train the next generation of leaders to utilize the power of philanthropy to better our community while also working to identify and develop projects for potential investment from Catalyst Funds.

A cohort of ten emerging leaders has been selected to participate in the inaugural class of the Catalyst Fellowship. They have committed to a two-year program that includes education focused on philanthropic strategy and building community knowledge, research around community issues and the opportunity to learn from community leaders. Monthly meetings began in April with a reception for Catalyst Fund holders and Catalyst Fellows. Sessions are scheduled throughout the summer and fall and will include a deep-dive into key issues affecting the community, networking with philanthropic leaders and participation in the Foundation's grant making process.

"This next generation group of civic innovators has expressed a strong desire to be hands-on philanthropists," says Terry. "They are excited about the opportunity to use their time, skills and experience to shape a large scale community investment and measure its impact."

### 2018-2019 Catalyst Fellows

Grant Brigham, *ARC Realty*  
Kaija Flood, *TheraNest*  
Kendra Key, *Maynard Cooper & Gale*  
Bernard Mays, Jr., *UAB*  
Chaz C. Mitchell, *City of Birmingham*  
Tanya Shunnara, *Sirate & Permutt*  
John Smola, *Alabama Power Company*  
Jeff Sokol, *Acacia Partners*  
Mashonda Taylor, *Woodlawn Foundation*  
Whitney Wright, *Cook & Bynum*



2018-2019 Catalyst Fellows

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## SAVE THE DATE

### Learn: National Memorial for Peace and Justice and Legacy Museum

*Early September (date to be determined)*

Join the Foundation on a trip to Montgomery to visit the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and Legacy Museum, followed by lunch and an informational discussion about the curatorial and design processes for the Memorial and Museum as well as the process for reclaiming county markers led by Equal Justice Initiative staff. Details and registration information will be sent via email soon.

### Connect: Lunch and Learn

*Monday, September 24 11:30am to 1pm*

Know of someone who should learn about the Foundation? Share their name with us for a group introduction to the Foundation over lunch.

### Volunteer: Site Review Team

*October 15 - November 2*

Site Review Teams are a volunteer opportunity for Donor Advisors to aid in the Foundation's competitive grant cycle and gain exposure to a variety of organizations and programs. Team members review grant applications, attend several one-hour site visits and provide feedback to the Foundation staff and Grant Review and Evaluation Committee. Your input will help ensure the Foundation's grant dollars are awarded to organizations with sound, innovative and impactful proposals. Contact us if you are interested in volunteering on a Site Review Team.

If you are interested in participating in any of these events contact:

Nicole Carpenter  
ncarpenter@cfbham.org  
205.327.3827

## DRIVING PREVENTION THROUGH INTERVENTION

In 2015 there were more than 60,000 calls for Birmingham Fire and Rescue emergency services. Of those calls, 20% were from the same 1,948 people – less than 1% of the City's residents account for 20% of emergency calls. To address this problem Birmingham Fire and Rescue launched C.A.R.E.S. (Community Assistance Referrals and Education Services) in 2016 to help decrease dependency on emergency services by improving access to care for our city's most vulnerable population.

Led by Lieutenant Ben Thompson and Chaplain Brian Blakes, the program works to decrease the dependency on emergency services through proactive patient advocacy, patient education, community collaboration and progressive policy change. Thompson and Blakes conduct scheduled home visits with citizens who have come to depend on 911 services to manage their chronic health conditions. They have found that people will always open the door for firefighters so they are able to reach the most at risk population.

The results have been promising with a drop in 911 calls from 'frequent callers' over the first 18 months of the program. This spring, Birmingham Fire and Rescue requested a grant from the Community Foundation to purchase an additional vehicle. A second car will give them the ability to expand the program to at least ten home visits per day, doubling their capacity. The new vehicle will be in place by the end of August. *To learn more about C.A.R.E.S. watch Lieutenant Thompson's TED talk on the TEDxBirmingham Facebook page.*



Birmingham Fire Chief, Charles Gordon, and the Intervention Team

## building (it) together

On June 5th, the Community Foundation along with the Bold Goals Coalition hosted the public launch for *Building (it) Together: A Framework for Aligning Education and Jobs in Greater Birmingham*. The report was developed by Burning Glass Technologies and funded by the Community Foundation Catalyst Funds.

Greater Birmingham is the second region in the nation to commission such a report. "With this powerful information in hand, we have a unique opportunity to take data-driven steps to move our region forward," says Christopher Nanni, President and CEO of the Community Foundation.

Key findings in the report show that while Birmingham is resilient we are lagging behind other regions in both employment and GDP growth. The data also shows that a majority (over 78%) of our workforce is operating in low- or middle-skill jobs. Future jobs will increasingly require relevant BA and sub-BA degrees and technology literacy, so alignment between education and workforce needs is crucial to ensuring future economic success for the region.

The report also highlights the need for a regional strategy to address these challenges. We need to invest in training for local talent as well as recruit new talent; improve high school graduation rates and college and career readiness; and focus on key traded industries like advanced manufacturing, information technology and life sciences.

"Building (it) Together gives us a framework for collaborative decision making," says Nanni. "With this information businesses, educators and nonprofits can work together to transform our region."

In partnership with the Bold Goals Coalition, the Foundation has begun a three-month process of sharing the findings throughout the seven-county metro and gathering feedback to inform a regional strategy. Sanjay Singh, Foundation board member and BBA Workforce Chair is providing leadership in the development and implementation of a regional strategy. If you are interested in learning more or hosting a presentation, contact Gus Heard-Hughes at 205.327.3817.

"BY REACHING OUT TO THESE FREQUENT 911 CALLERS, WE'RE ABLE TO PREVENT OTHER MEDICAL EMERGENCIES."

Lieutenant Ben Thompson

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GIVING TOGETHER OR TO PARTICIPATE IN A SITE VISIT CONTACT NICOLE CARPENTER AT 205.327.3805

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