

GOOD²Care connection



2020 ISSUE



Caring Through COVID-19

A look at how our fundholders, nonprofits and community came together to care.

Connecting People who Care with Causes that Matter



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Connecting & Caring through COVID-19

When 2020 started, we were anticipating another year of growth and community development. Then, two short months later, our world as we knew it shut down. But, amidst all the fear and uncertainty, we saw some of the brightest rays of hope. We saw our community, our friends, our colleagues, our families and our neighbors rally together to begin caring for each other. Some of the darkest days revealed the very best of our community and it went far beyond just donating money. We saw kids, teens, people of all ages care for their friends through volunteering and food and supply drives. We saw our nonprofit leaders caring and loving their community even when they were bone tired and weren't sure how they could keep going. We saw community leaders working behind the scenes at all hours of the day and night. And we saw our community come together to care in an unprecedented way. The COVID-19 pandemic may have threatened to take away much but it also showed just how many people truly care about causes that matter. This special Good2Care Connection gives a glimpse into many ways people who care have connected with causes that matter – and will continue to do so throughout the long journey ahead.



OUR LEADERSHIP

2020 OFFICERS

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WELCOME TO OUR INCOMING 2021 BOARD MEMBERS

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JUDGE RONDA COLVIN LEARY
BIN LIU
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TEDDY RUSSELL
PHIL WOLFE



Britt's Message to Fundholders

This has been an extremely tough year in many ways (looking at you COVID-19) but it has also been incredibly inspiring. Since March I have watched all the ways our fundholders have engaged in their communities throughout COVID-19—and have been inspired time after time. Sure, they've given financially but I've also watched them build relationships with organizations they may not have known before the pandemic. I've been on phone calls and Zoom calls with fundholders—like on our Fundholder Fridays—and watched them want to know what was happening in their community as Dr. Arona spoke or Scott Mawdesley shared about Gwinnett Cares.

I've also seen them volunteer countless hours at different nonprofits, donate food, gather laptops for students and so much more. And I've watched them teach their own families about the importance of philanthropy. They have not just talked the talk, they have walked the walk this year in ways I will never forget.

Take the Jernigans, whose story you'll read in the following pages. They have volunteered at the Lilburn Cooperative

Ministry for years, but when COVID-19 hit and they learned that the co-op lost 70 percent of its volunteer help, they stepped up.

And our families who are passing on their passion for giving to the next generation, like the Brays and Loews. Amy Bray, who is also on our professional advisors network leadership team, enjoys sewing and began making masks, along with her daughters.

"Through Gwinnett Cares, I knew about Northside Gwinnett's push to make masks and then Viewpoint Health providing wider distribution - I knew where I could help in our community. Both of my girls have helped with sewing masks, pattern cutting, elastic cutting, etc." Amy said.

Then there are the Loews. Their intentional philanthropy has affected all three of their kids, including their college-age daughter Olivia who has volunteered at Corners Outreach and their 16-year-old daughter Elyse who started a canned food drive during COVID-19.



"I watch my parents donate ALL.THE. TIME. It's kinda just the norm in my family so I know when I grow up I want to donate," Elyse said. "And I also know to start NOW doing the canned drives because I don't think many young people give themselves enough credit that they can make a difference. But really you just need any kind of platform, no matter how big or small, to get involved."

And that's just a glimpse of some of the ways I've been inspired this year. To all our fundholders, THANK YOU for caring about causes that matter.

Britt Ramroop is our Director of Fundholder Experience. She helps guide our fundholders on their journey of generosity and works to help them effectively give to causes they are passionate about while making the largest possible impact.





Stepping up During a Crisis

They might be retired but right now they're working five days a week. For Bob and Lois Jernigan it's a labor of love, though. For years they have volunteered at the Lilburn Cooperative Ministry, so when COVID-19 turned the world upside down and the co-op needed more help, they stepped up.

“The Jernigans have always had a big heart for giving. Literally every time I'm talking to them they're either volunteering, or about to go volunteer, or heading home from volunteering!

For them, and other clients, having a donor advised fund at the Community Foundation allows them to control distributions and tax deductions, not only while they're living but also when they pass away [if the client is a legacy member]. Clients also find tremendous value in giving through the Community Foundation because, as a legacy member, they can give yearly in perpetuity— instead of their only option being a one-time legacy gift to a nonprofit.

One of the biggest benefits I also see [from giving through the Community Foundation] is that clients can get their kids and grandkids involved now and in the future in making those giving decisions.

Being part of the professional advisors network has allowed me to offer clients more value. I know about the nonprofits in our area and can help connect clients. I've also met other really interesting, good advisors and been able to share ideas and learn from each other. And I've learned from the Community Foundation and the speakers they bring in.”

— **Scott Phelan, PAN member**
Senior Vice President/Financial Advisor
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management

“I started volunteering with the co-op in 2002 after I retired as an elementary teacher for Gwinnett County Public Schools,” Lois said. “Bob retired a little while after that, after a career as a hospital medical technologist, and he began volunteering too. We'd help out a couple days a week, but when COVID-19 started and they became short staffed we started helping more.”

Along with volunteering, the Jernigans also love helping fund various nonprofits, which they do through the Community Foundation. Their financial advisor Scott Phelan, who is a senior vice president, senior portfolio management director at Morgan Stanley, knows how much they love to give. So he suggested they create the Jernigan Family Foundation through the Community Foundation. They took his advice and, with the help of the Community Foundation's staff, quickly and easily created their own foundation.

“We love that we're part of a bigger community, in that many people are giving and it's going in many different directions and meeting many needs,” Lois said. “We also like the fact that having a family foundation provides tax benefits and we can give money tax free. Plus we know they're investing our money properly and helping it multiply.”

Sharon Foster, executive director of the Lilburn Co-op, has experienced the Jernigan's generosity first hand.

“I can honestly say that they are two of the most genuine people that I have ever met, and their Christian faith is evident in everything they do,” Sharon said. “Their wonderful and kind spirit, as well as their unyielding support of Lilburn Co-op, is truly a blessing; especially during this awful pandemic which has caused us to lose about 70 percent of our volunteer help.”

Early in their marriage, starting with feeding hungry students involved in the University of North Georgia's Baptist Student Union, the Jernigans decided that if they saw a need and felt like they should contribute, they would make every effort to help. And, as their lives reflect, that's exactly what they've done.

Interested in learning how you can become a fundholder at the Community Foundation or in joining PAN? Contact Randy Redner at redner@cfneg.org or 770-813-3384.

How We Funded Urgent Needs Quickly During a Pandemic

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we quickly realized our nonprofits would need funds, and need them fast. We decided to turn our normal grants process upside down. Our grants committee, led by Julie Keeton Arnold, reduced our grant application to a simple one page and reinvented the entire process so that grants could be turned in 24 hours or less. They used an invitation-only process and granted money each week out of the Coronavirus Relief Fund. The goal, as a Community Foundation and a “first responder of philanthropy”, was to be “first and fast” so that money from the fund could flow to areas with the most urgent needs. To date we have granted out **\$849,963.16** from our Coronavirus Relief Fund to **43 nonprofits**.

Thank you to everyone who has donated!

“Hope Clinic is working the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic to continue healthcare for those who are uninsured and at the highest risk. Many of our 4500+ patients have lost jobs and income and they are scared due to being high risk. We are beyond grateful to the Community Foundation of Northeast Georgia for their generosity and support in this effort to help those most vulnerable in our community at this time and helping us get the supplies to stay safe. We can’t thank you enough!”

—Jessica Geller
Hope Clinic



“Thank you for your swift and strong response to the COVID-19 crisis – your generosity has given us the means to purchase the food necessary to make sure no one goes hungry in Duluth. We are blessed!”

—Margy McLynn
Duluth Co-op

“North Fulton Community Charities has had a dramatic increase in requests for food and financial assistance since the reality of COVID-19 hit our community. Thanks to this grant, we are able to help keep families in their homes with food on the table during this global pandemic.”

—Holly York
North Fulton Community Charities



GRANTEES

12STONE
Boys and Girls Club of Lawrenceville
Catholic Charities Atlanta
Corners Outreach, Inc.
Eagle Ranch
Duluth Cooperative Ministries
East Metro Health District
Fill Ministries, Inc.
Georgia Gwinnett College
Georgia Center for Opportunity
Good Samaritan Health Center of Gwinnett
Gwinnett Children’s Shelter: Home of Hope
Gwinnett Coalition for Health/Human Services
Helping Mamas, Inc.
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Hope Clinic, Inc.
Impact 46, Inc.
Latin American Association
Laotian American Society, Inc.
Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry, Inc.
Mentor ME

Lilburn Cooperative Ministry
New Life Technology
Norcross Cooperative Ministry, Inc.
Norcross Meals on Wheels
North Fulton Community Charities
North Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry, Inc.
Nothing But The Truth, Inc.
Partnership Against Domestic Violence
Quality Care for Children
The Place of Forsyth County, Inc.
Rainbow Village, Inc.
The Salvation Army of Gwinnett County
Senior Services North Fulton, Inc.
Ser Familia, Inc.
The Sheltering Arms
Single Parent Alliance Resource Center
Shepherds Staff Ministries, Inc.
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia
Southeast Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry
Street Wise
UPPER90

IMPACT

Total Granted Out
\$849,963.16

Total Raised
\$1,066,330.74

Want to give more? Scan here or visit cfneg.org.



Caring

Through COVID-19

Friday, March 13, 2020 is a date we will long remember. Leading up to that Friday, we knew things were getting serious and had started thinking about how we as a Community Foundation would respond to what appeared to be a pandemic. Then, when President Trump officially declared the novel coronavirus a national emergency on March 13 and word began spreading that Governor Kemp would declare a public health emergency for the state of Georgia and enact a shelter-in-place order the following day, we acted. That Friday we created the Coronavirus Relief Fund and also began working to decide how to best help our community.

Our board, our team and numerous community leaders and fundholders immediately jumped into action and started making things happen. Here's a glimpse into how we all cared through COVID-19, not only in Gwinnett but throughout surrounding counties.

Community Response Team

This team was created the day the national emergency was declared. Led by our board member Scott Mawdesley, it quickly grew to over 80+ participants including all our food banks, Gwinnett County, the Atlanta Community Food Bank, our Health Director Dr. Audrey Arona and many others. They spent hours meeting via Zoom to ensure needs were met. The initial focus was on food, volunteers and funding and then expanded to healthcare, workforce development, homelessness, multi-ethnic engagement and more as needs grew.

Gwinnett Cares

Out of the Community Response Team came Gwinnett Cares, spearheaded by Paige Havens and Heather Loveridge. Gwinnettcare.org became the central location for our community to get help and provide help during COVID-19 and beyond and the hub for all of the community response teams.

Coronavirus Relief Fund

The original goal was to raise \$300,000 to help our food banks/nonprofits have enough funds for four weeks. We quickly met that goal and also realized the pandemic would be around for months, not weeks, and upped the goal to \$500,000, then to \$1 million. To date we've raised over \$1 million and granted out more than \$850,000 to local nonprofits.

Meeting Community Needs

In one week, our entire food network flipped their model to drive through so that individuals and families wouldn't have to leave their cars to get food. Our healthcare nonprofits also flipped their models to provide care in the safest ways possible.

When our students moved to digital learning, we realized many of them did not have access to needed technology. Through individuals and businesses donating, and partnering with nonprofits like New Life Technology Group, we helped ensure as many students as possible had computers for school. And when our nonprofits like the Path Project realized there were technology challenges, they moved from helping students to also training parents, caregivers and family members on how to navigate digital learning.



"The Community Foundation's response was unusually quick. It's clear that ours was responding in ways that other people didn't think typical of a community foundation. Very quickly Randy and the board pivoted to raising money because we anticipated needs would be exposed very quickly. Our grants committee was tremendous in what they did to re-tool and refocus the way we approached problems. They quickly identified needs that needed to be addressed, funneled the money to those organizations, and plugged a lot of gaps that would have been devastating had they not been quickly addressed."

—Ken Massaroni
Board Member



“You [the Community Foundation] were there from day one. When all of this emergency started you were one of the first ones to call us and offer us your support. You created groups that provided us with support and coordination of care, money – everything that we have needed throughout this. So, thank you, thank you, thank you. Those calls that we started having in March, in which we were able to coordinate care with all the other nonprofits, gave us so many resources, like laptops and so much more.”

—Belisa Urbina
Ser Familia, Acworth



“We discovered very quickly our families had three major barriers to digital learning. 1. Lack of access to devices. The majority of our kids were doing schoolwork from a smartphone. 2. Lack of access to quality wifi. 3. Lack of digital literacy. Even if they had devices and the internet, they didn’t know how to access the school system’s platform - or even get on the computer.

“We quickly shifted, reached out to some partners, raised some money and purchased 517 Chromebooks. We reached out to schools and partners and got needed wifi hotspots. Then we met with each family individually and showed them how to use the devices, how to help their kids and more. This empowered the parents of our students in ways we have never seen before.”

—Jim Hollandsworth
Path Project, Lawrenceville

“It [Gwinnett Cares] turned into far more than any of us thought it would. There have been so many connections made. We now have close to 150 organizations from all across our community, from all sectors, all places of influence - really from people who just want to collaborate and have a heart and care about our community.”

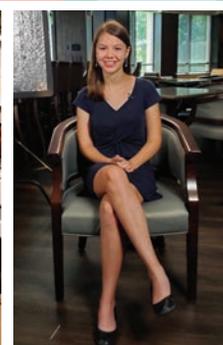
—Scott Mawdesley
Board Member





2020 GOOD2Care Celebration

When COVID-19 tossed our Good2Give Celebration plans out the window, we regrouped and decided to do something we've never done before. Good2Give became Good2Care and the theme became celebrating all the ways our community has cared during COVID-19. But what would that look like? We decided to film a show and invite people to host watch parties at their home or nonprofit. After months of planning and filming, on August 15th house parties and individuals all over Gwinnett and beyond watched our virtual show (which also included some surprise grant giveaways to Helping Mamas, The Place of Forsyth and Ser Familia). Haven't seen it yet? Scan the QR code to watch it or visit cfneg.org.



In His Words

A message from our board chair Dick LoPresti

“Connecting people who care with causes that matter.” My wife Deb and I have been fundholders at the Community Foundation since 2007 so I have seen this phrase used hundreds of times. But I don’t think I understood what it really meant until this year. Our community was, and still is, facing challenges never before seen with this COVID pandemic. Yet, this year, more than any other year, I have seen numerous examples of how people in our community have lived out that tagline. Here are just a few of those who have shown they care, as well as some of the causes that matter.

People who care

Dan Miller, at the time a teacher at Brookwood High School, initiated a fundraising drive at his school that raised over \$5,000 for the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

David Still, newly elected mayor of Lawrenceville, pushed to launch Impact46, a new nonprofit that is helping vulnerable families.

Maria and John Upchurch have a passion for early childhood education and focus much of their energies helping in that area, including helping launch Building Babies’ Brains.

Marci Fair works with Keller Williams, but her passion is feeding and serving children, so she formed Kares 4 Kids in 2009 to provide books and other items for children throughout Georgia. During COVID-19 they have focused on feeding kids and donating needed items.

Causes that matter

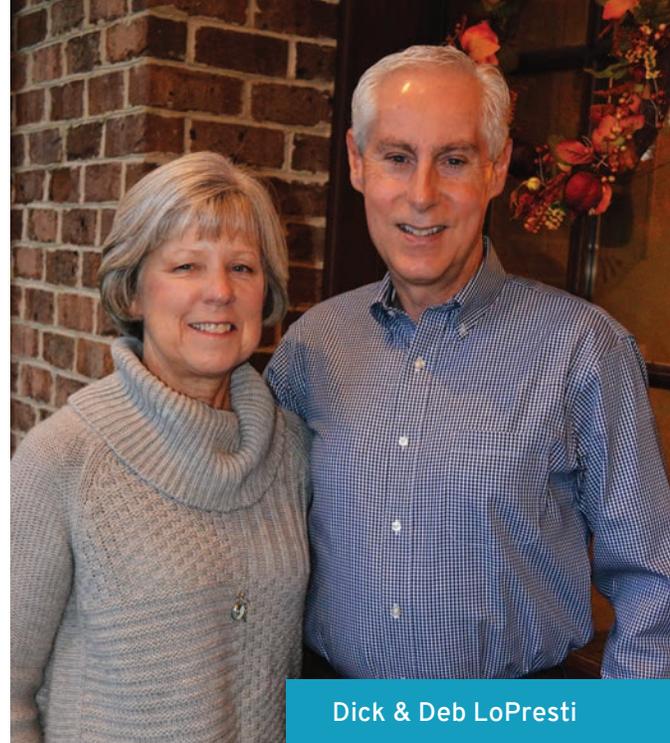
Corners Outreach, a very successful tutoring program, immediately jumped into action to provide food, computers and alternative teaching arrangements to families in need.

Helping Mamas supports young mothers by providing essential baby items. They were able to raise funds for a van so they can take supplies to moms.

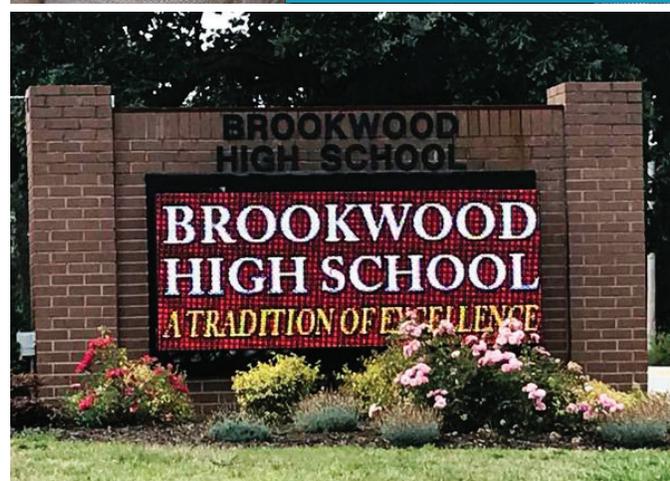
The food coops in our community saw a huge increase in the food needs of hungry families during the pandemic and were able to meet those needs with help from the Community Foundation.

New Life Technology Group has been recycling donated computers by refurbishing them and then donating them to students and nonprofits serving students.

“Connecting people who care with causes that matter.” Not just a phrase; it is who we are and what we do. I have never been more proud of our board and staff than I have these past months. With tremendous support from numerous people, we are making a difference in this community.



Dick & Deb LoPresti



Pivoting our Nonprofit Academy during a pandemic

1 Nonprofit Academy: Starting Point
13 webinars
1600+ attendees (year to date)

This year we rebranded our education program and kicked off our first-ever Nonprofit Academy: Starting Point. We offered 15 different sessions in five tracks: fundraising, leadership development, storytelling, business operations and relationship development. Our presenters included Kevin Monroe, Columns Fundraising, Facebook Atlanta, Dr. John Green, Rock, Paper, Scissors, Magnolia Media Group and more. We were also honored to have Milton Little, the CEO of United Way for Greater Atlanta, as our luncheon keynote speaker.

Following our Nonprofit Academy: Starting Point, our plan was to continue our monthly education events throughout 2020. When COVID-19 hit, we stuck with our plan but went virtual and quickly learned the ins and outs of Zoom!

“When the pandemic hit we quickly realized we wouldn’t be able to hold our traditional large group education classes. We pivoted, not only logistically, but also made major changes to our programming to meet the new needs of our audience. People responded and we hosted 50-100 attendees at each webinar. While we look forward to being back in front of a live audience in the future, I believe that this pandemic has taught us to be resilient, to pivot as needed, and that we’ll continue an aspect of our online courses in the future.” Christy Norris, education director

Want to see our upcoming webinars or view past ones? Just scan here or visit [cfneg.org/nonprofit-academy!](https://cfneg.org/nonprofit-academy)

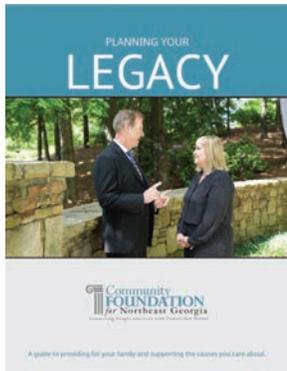


MAKE YOUR OWN LASTING IMPACT!

For 35 years we've been connecting people who care with causes that matter. And, because of our generous fundholders, we've been able to grant out almost \$95 million since our founding in 1985!

Want to join our fundholders in making a lasting impact?

We have a free gift for you plus two easy ways to leave a legacy!



Get our free wills guide.

Did you know that 58% of Americans don't have a will? That's a shockingly large amount when you consider how important a will is. If you've been thinking about creating a will, or updating yours, there is no better time than now to do it. In fact, we can help you! We have a free wills guide on our website that will help you prepare your estate planning information before you talk to an attorney. Our guide helps you quickly and cost-effectively draft your estate planning documents—and include a legacy gift.

Scan the QR code to get your free guide or visit cfneg.org.



Give one of the easiest gifts you'll ever give!

Speaking of legacy gifts, did you know it's one of the easiest gifts to make? Simply designate a gift to the Community Foundation in your will or trust. There are many planned giving options you can choose, such as donating appreciated assets, making us the beneficiary of your IRA, 401K or a life insurance policy and of course cash contributions, so we encourage you to consult your financial advisors. Plus, you'll become a member of our Legacy Society!

Use your journey of generosity to create a lasting impact.

How? By creating a family foundation! You can quickly and easily create one through us by opening a donor advised fund. This eliminates the administrative burdens, additional cost and time associated with a private foundation.

Ready to open your fund? Just scan the QR code or contact Randy Redner at redner@cfneg.org or 770-813-3384!





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STAFF Randy Redner, President & CEO | Margaret Bugbee, Chief Financial Officer | Britt Ramroop, Director of Fundholder Experience
Karyl Kaye Miller, Executive Assistant | Christy Norris, Nonprofit Academy | Tarina Carter, Accounting | Heather Loveridge, Chief Storyteller

It's our 35th Anniversary!

In the past 35 years we've granted out almost \$95 million into the community.
That's something to celebrate!

BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITIES SINCE 1985

\$6,592,374
ARTS



\$18,803,924
EDUCATION



\$27,008,821
HUMAN SERVICES



COMMUNITY
\$30,953,760

HEALTHCARE
\$11,538,926

THAT'S **\$94,897,805** IN TOTAL GRANT DOLLARS!

