“I have witnessed firsthand the need for diversity, equity, and inclusion at all levels and in all communities.”

— DR. REO PRUIETT, CFT’s CHIEF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION OFFICER

ADVANCING COMMUNITY EQUITY

DR. REO PRUIETT NAMED CFT’s FIRST CHIEF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION OFFICER

Read more about Reo and CFT’s newest executives, and how they’re helping expand community impact on Page 4.
WELCOME, BOARD CHAIR

RICHIE BUTLER

Join us in welcoming Richie Butler as the new chair of our Board of Trustees. Richie is the senior pastor of the historic St. Luke Community United Methodist Church in Dallas, and is the founder of Project Unity and its equity-focused “Together We” programs. In 2016, Richie launched the Year of Unity, a communitywide initiative to help bridge racial divides. Richie was also the founding senior pastor of Union Cathedral.

Richie has over 20 years of experience in private equity real estate investment management, with extensive real estate development, finance, and institutional fund management experience. Previously, Richie was the senior managing director of the Prescott Realty Group; senior vice president of CityView, a managing partner of Solomon Partners; and a bank officer with Bank of America. Richie is a past recipient of the Dallas Business Journal’s Leaders in Diversity Award and Minority Business Leader Award; the Collin County Business Alliance Leadership Award; the SMU Distinguished Alumnus Emerging Leader Award; and the Dallas Bar Association’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Award.

Read Richie’s full bio at CFTexas.org/Butler

THANK YOU, PAST BOARD CHAIR ALFREDA NORMAN

We extend heartfelt gratitude to Alfreda Norman, who served as chair of our Board of Trustees for the past three years.

Alfreda is a senior vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Her vast experience in banking and community leadership provides subject-matter expertise on the issue of building economic stability for low-income working families, which has been a grantmaking priority of CFT’s for more than a decade. We were thrilled to see Alfreda recognized with the Dallas Regional Chamber’s 2022 ATHENA® Award.

Thank you, Alfreda, for your commitment in helping CFT grow community giving, advance community equity, and expand community impact throughout North Texas and beyond.

Read Alfreda’s full bio at CFTexas.org/Norman

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

A PLACE WHERE TALENT THRIVES

This edition of our IMPACT magazine is centered around equity. We continue to incorporate equity and inclusion into every fabric of our work, as we seek to build a community that truly thrives for all. We are laser-focused on growing community giving, advancing community equity, and expanding community impact.

Many of you may know that I’ll be retiring this spring after six meaningful years at the helm of this incredible community organization. “Why?” is the question I continue to receive, and the answer is simple: I’ve been working for close to five decades now. I love this work and could keep going, but it’s time, and CFT is ready.

CFT has become A Place Where Talent Thrives, which has been a priority of mine. We’ve spent the last few years building scale while developing and adding talented leaders. I’ve witnessed so much personal and professional growth across this organization. At CFT, each of our employees lead from where they are in their areas of expertise.

We are truly well-positioned for growth and impact, and I couldn’t be more confident in our Board of Trustees and the team of staff experts that will continue to move our mission forward. On pages 4–6, you can read about our newest executives and the awards and accolades of our dedicated colleagues. You can also see a snapshot of some of our collective accomplishments during my tenure on pages 14–15.

I want to thank Richie Butler, our new Board Chair, who is leading the board committee overseeing a national search for CFT’s next president and CEO. I also want to thankformer Board Chair Frank Risch, who will be joining us as Special Adviser to the Chair, working with our executive leaders on behalf of the Board during this time of transition.

To each of you who have trusted CFT with your resources, and to all those I’ve had the opportunity to collaborate with, I thank you. Collaboration is the secret sauce to our success, and CFT is always a phone call or email away. I hope you’ll continue to count on CFT, investing in impact that is meaningful, measurable, and enduring. I ask that you continue to grow your collaborative partnerships while encouraging others to join with this organization that I love so much.

With gratitude for your generosity,

Dave Scullin

PRESIDENT AND CEO

COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF TEXAS
CFT ADDS NEW EXECUTIVE LEADERS
Communities Foundation of Texas positioned for further growth and impact

Q&A with Dr. Reo Pruiett, CFT’s new chief DEI officer

Q: What do you hope to achieve?
A: As I hope that CFT will be known as a leader in the DEI space that is driving change for all communities. I hope that our employees and decisions will continue to be guided by our One-CFT DEI Strategic Framework that’s been developed collaboratively by our staff and board. I hope that our stakeholders and partners will embrace DEI strategies, aligning their giving and decision-making in ways that advance equity. We have much work ahead, and we welcome your partnership.

Q: What does it mean that CFT has named “advancing equity” as an organizational priority?
A: Being explicit about this goal means that CFT will model and demonstrate this priority through our actions and decision making. CFT is committed to aligning our equity goals internally and externally, and to being a catalyst for change. By modeling ‘advancing equity,’ we hold ourselves accountable and enable others to forge ahead in this journey together. My role in this work is to build capacity, engage others, and build and expand relationships and partnerships.

Q: Q: What are you proud of that has been accomplished?
A: We’ve listened and learned so much. We have built our internal capacity and engaged expert consultants to grow and focus our strategy. We have a dedicated internal DEI committee, and our staff has collectively participated in 5,000 hours of DEI and anti-racism trainings. We’ve begun to share our history in honoring Pearl C. Anderson and Dr. Marcellus Cooper. We’ve defined and are working toward measurable outcomes, including increasing funding for nonprofits led by leaders of color and nonprofits serving communities of color, as well as increasing support and partnership with donors of color.

Q: What compelled you to take on CFT’s DEI role after 15 years with CFT’s Educate Texas?
A: I have worked in the DEI space my entire life—as an educator, school leader, district administrator, through my church, and as a community engagement volunteer. I have witnessed firsthand the immense need for healthy communities that address the needs of all people, striving for equity in all decisions that impact people. I am a problem solver, strategic thinker, and implementer of change management. This position embodies the opportunity to effect positive change and support outcomes to strengthen the trajectory of communities that may not have always had a seat or a voice at the table. This work brings education, economics, health, and safety to the forefront of how we can change the future legacies of our communities moving forward.

Q: What is CFT’s focus area of advancing community equity both internally and externally with the DEI committee and is the first person to serve as CFT’s chief DEI officer, overseeing CFT’s focus area of advancing community equity both internally and externally with the support of CFT’s Board of Trustees and staff.

A: I hope that CFT will be known as a leader in the DEI space that is driving change for all communities. I hope that our employees and decisions will continue to be guided by our One-CFT DEI Strategic Framework that’s been developed collaboratively by our staff and board. I hope that our stakeholders and partners will embrace DEI strategies, aligning their giving and decision-making in ways that advance equity. We have much work ahead, and we welcome your partnership.

Q: What do you hope to achieve?
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JIM BERRY
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
As senior vice president and CFO, Jim Berry is a key leader in the areas of finance, accounting, investments, compliance, risk management, technology, and property and facilities. Jim is a CPA and seasoned financial executive, formerly serving as the CFO for global real estate developer Harwood International, Snelling, and Vasari LLC. Jim has held leadership roles of increasing responsibility at Belo Corporation, Burger King, and McDonald’s, and he spent a decade in the professional services industry with PwC and Grant Thornton LLP.
Read Jim’s full bio at CFTexas.org/Berry

TRUMAN GREENE JR.
Chief Human Resources Officer
Truman has over 25 years of global human resources experience, particularly in the manufacturing industry. Throughout his career, he learned about the needs of the community and now uses his skills and experience to support CFT’s work in North Texas and across the state. Prior to joining CFT, Truman held roles of increasing HR responsibility with companies including Lennox International, Inverness, and Motorsport Aftermarket Group. His most recent role was senior vice president and chief human resources officer for Forterra, Inc.
Read Truman’s full bio at CFTexas.org/Greene

DR. REO PRUIETT, Ed.D.
Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Officer
Dr. Reo Pruiett has been with CFT’s Educate Texas since 2008, holding roles of increasing responsibility leading our College and Career Readiness School Models (CCRSM) work statewide and Southern Sector district-wide portfolio. She previously chaired CFT’s DEI committee and is the first person to serve as CFT’s chief DEI officer, overseeing CFT’S focus area of advancing community equity both internally and externally with the support of CFT’S Board of Trustees and staff.
Read Reo’s full bio at CFTexas.org/Pruiett

JENNIFER TAYLOR
Chief Marketing Officer
As CMO, Jennifer leads the marketing and communications department, develops and promotes the CFT brand in our community, and drives strategic messaging to support the organization’s growth initiatives. Jennifer has more than 20 years of marketing and communications experience in the health care industry with Steward Health Care, Texas Health Resources, and Medical City Healthcare.
Read Jennifer’s full bio at CFTexas.org/Taylor
NEWS, AWARDS, & ACCOLADES

COMMUNITY CALL-OUTS

Arcilia Acosta, CFT board trustee, was named chairwoman of the Dallas Citizens Council.

Kymberlaine Banks, senior business engagement officer; graduated from Leadership Garland ’41 and is serving a second term as chair of the City of Garland Community Multicultural Commission.

Wende Burton, chief philanthropy officer, was selected as the national co-chair of the Asset Funders Network.

Jeri Chambers, senior donor engagement officer; Collin County, was elected secretary of the Plano ISD school board for the 2022-23 school year.

Celeste Arista Glover, senior community philanthropy officer, was selected to serve on the Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) board, and as an alumni council member of the Student Conservation Association.

Heather Lothes, donor relations officer, was appointed as corresponding secretary of the Children’s Medical Center Plano Women’s Auxiliary Board, and recently served on the board of directors for the Junior League of Collin County.

Ashley McVier, senior community philanthropy officer, was appointed to the steering committee of Asset Funders Network and was chosen as a cohort member of The OpEd Project.

Greg Oertel, senior community philanthropy officer, was elected Dallas steering committee co-chair of Equality Texas.

Nicole Paquette, director of marketing and communications, was named steering committee marketing chair for Big D Reads and co-chair of the Friends of the Dallas Public Library’s “LOVE LOCAL!” 2022 fall fundraising gala.

Alkeisha Rodriguez, technical business analyst, was selected to be part of the 2022 Technology Association of Grantmakers Emerging Leaders Initiative (ELI).

Morgan Spann, donor relations officer, was selected to participate in Dallas Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation’s 2022 Black Women in Nonprofit Leadership Cohort.

Dimple Sureka, community philanthropy officer, was selected to serve on the United to Learn Advisory Board.

Jennifer Taylor, chief marketing officer, was selected for the 2023 class of Leadership Texas.

EDUCATION SECTOR RECOGNITION

Priscilla Aquino-Garza, senior director of programs, CFT’s Educate Texas, was selected for a Graduate School Continuing Fellowship from the University of Texas at Austin.

BOARD AWARD RECOGNITION

Matrice Ellis-Kirk, CFT board trustee, was the recipient of the 93rd Lint Award.

Alfreda Norman, CFT board trustee and past board chair, was the recipient of the Dallas Regional Chamber’s 2022 ATHENA® Award.

STAFF AWARD RECOGNITION

Wende Burton, chief philanthropy officer, received the 2022 Ahlan Family Award from the Texas Muslim Women’s Foundation.

Sally Kurtz, Palacios area fund coordinator, was named Palacios Woman of the Year by the Palacios Chamber of Commerce.

Kelly Maltese, executive assistant to the president and CEO and the SVP, chief giving and community impact officer, received the 2022 Dallas-Fort Worth Admin Awards Administrative Excellence in Public Service Award.

Nicole Paquette, director of marketing and communications, received the 2023 Distinguished Professional Achievement Award from the University of North Texas Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism.

JJ Ponce, director, CFT for Business, was selected as a 2022 40 Under 40 honoree by the Dallas Business Journal.

Dave Scullin, president and CEO, was featured for the fifth consecutive year as part of D CEO’s Dallas 500 of 2022: The Most Powerful Business Leaders in Dallas-Fort Worth.

CFT AWARD RECOGNITION

Communities Foundation of Texas received the 2022 Unity Advocate Award from Project Unity.

Communities Foundation of Texas was given the Ready 365 Gold Partner Award from the American Red Cross.

Communities Foundation of Texas received the “Campaign of the Decade” award as part of the North Texas Food Bank’s Golden Fork Awards.

CFT awards $435,000 to 35 local nonprofits providing social services

CFT recently offered a funding opportunity for nonprofits focused on providing emergency financial assistance in our local communities, including support for rent and mortgages, utilities, childcare, transportation, health care, and more.

Learn more about the 35 grant recipients at: CFTexas.org/CFT-Awards-$435K

CFT awards $250,000 to 20 local nonprofits advancing racial equity

CFT recently partnered with The Dallas Foundation to support nonprofits addressing systemic racial inequity in our communities. Supported programs include mentoring and tutoring for youth, social-emotional and mental health services, access to healthy food, maternal health care, legal services for citizenship, and connection to living wage jobs.

Learn more about the 20 grant recipients at: CFTexas.org/CFT-Awards-$250K

RECENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

SOCIAL SERVICES

All Community Outreach
Arlington Charities
Bryan’s House
Cancer Care Services
Catholic Charities of Dallas
Cornerstone Assistance Network
DFW Angels
Family Pathfinders of Tarrant County
For Oak Cliff
Fort Worth Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology Coalition
Frisco Family Services
Girl Children’s Services
Grapevine Relief And Community Exchange
Hallie’s Heroes
Hope For You
Hope Restored Missions
Hopeful Solutions
Human Rights Initiative of North Texas
ImmSchools
Interfaith Family Services
Irving Cares
LifeLine for Families
Manna House
Mansfield Mission Center
Marcus D King Ministries
Metrocrust Services
National Ovarian Cancer Coalition
Network of Community Ministries
Nexus Recovery Center
Parker County Center of Hope
Redeemed Women
Sharing Life Community Outreach
Texas Muslim Women’s Foundation
The Storehouse of Collin County
Woman in Need

RACIAL EQUITY

Any Step Community Services
Big Thought
Community Does It
Dallas Bethlehem Center
Delighted to Doulab Birth Services
Empowering the Masses
Firme DFW
Frazier Revitalization, Inc.
Harmony CDC
Heart of Courage
Homeward Bound, Inc.
Leadership Forward Mentoring Program
Light of Hope Immigration Law Center
POETIC
Rae’s Hope
Southern Dallas Link, Inc.
Texas Muslim Women’s Foundation
Viola’s House
Youth Believing in Change
Youth Guidance

Questions about grants?
Contact: GALEN SMITH
Director, Community Philanthropy
gaults@cfntexas.org | 214-750-4102

To learn more about these recent grantees, their award amounts, and their grant details, visit CFTexas.org/GRANTS
Kaleidoscope Park, previously referred to as Community Performance Park, now has a formal name and is poised to become one of the most innovative, inclusive, and programmed public greenspaces in North Texas.

All programming, operations, and maintenance of Kaleidoscope Park will be overseen and supported by the Kaleidoscope Park Foundation, a nonprofit partner of Communities Foundation of Texas. The park is owned by the City of Frisco.

The 5.7-acre Kaleidoscope Park is located in the heart of HALL Park, near the intersection of the Dallas North Tollway and Warren Parkway in Frisco, Texas, and in neighboring distance of The Star, Stonebriar Centre, Legacy West, The Shops at Legacy, The Boardwalk, and Granite Park.

Expected to open in mid-2024, construction is underway, starting the journey to create a new experiential gathering space that will amplify and strengthen surrounding communities. The park will be home to weekly films and concerts, fitness and well-being activities, performances, and dance activities. The park’s dynamic design will feature universally accessible amenities including a performance pavilion, children’s play area, dog park, gardens, water features, Wi-Fi equipped technology terraces, shaded promenades, and public art — including a permanent installation by world-renowned fabric artist Janet Echelman. Support from private citizens and local businesses will allow the park to maximize opportunities for barrier-free access to programs and activities for community members and visitors.

“I am so pleased to be participating in the building of this dynamic and innovative arts and culture destination for all of North Texas. This park brings accessibility and an energy for all citizens to enjoy. What better way to celebrate the North Texas community than at Kaleidoscope Park?”

— Hon. Florence Shapiro, former State Senator; Chair, Board of Directors, Kaleidoscope Park Foundation

FROM THE PARK DIRECTOR:

“Built into the name — Kaleidoscope Park — is the park’s core mission,” shared Dr. Scott Stewart, the park’s executive director. “Just as the kaleidoscope we played with as kids brings together separate and distinct pieces to create a beautiful design, Kaleidoscope Park will thoughtfully engage the diverse and rapidly growing communities across North Texas, bringing communities together in a free, open, and accessible public space to enjoy, create, and inspire. Kaleidoscope Park will be a community park in the truest sense of the word. The park’s programming will be designed with the input of North Texas communities, and the park’s operation will be supported by donors drawn from these same communities. Supporting Kaleidoscope Park is truly an investment in the positive development, vibrancy, and sustainability of our North Texas communities.”

KALEIDOSCOPEPARK.ORG

Questions? Contact: SCOTT STEWART
Executive Director, Kaleidoscope Park Foundation
sstewart@cftexas.org | 214-346-5531

Learn more at
KALEIDOSCOPEPARK.ORG

FUND SPOTLIGHT

Announcing the Park Foundation’s Board of Directors

Kaleidoscope Park Foundation’s current Board of Directors is composed of seven dedicated and passionate community leaders committed to a bright future for Frisco and North Texas.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

FLORENCE SHAPIRO – Chair; former State Senator
DAVE SCULLIN – Vice Chair; President and CEO of Communities Foundation of Texas
ELIZABETH BULL – Treasurer; retired, former SVP/CFO at Communities Foundation of Texas
KYMBERLEY SCALIA – Secretary; Vice President of Marketing, HALL Group
KIM BUTLER – Executive Vice President, HALL Group
SCOTT BOXER – Board of Directors, EnTouch Controls; CFT Fund holder
WES PIERSON – Frisco City Manager
Communities Foundation of Texas made a concerted effort to recognize National Volunteer Month in 2022, activating 2,300 volunteers to #DoTheGood in our community through more than 11,000 volunteer hours.

CFT will again work to engage the North Texas community in a celebration of volunteer service during National Volunteer Month in April. This second annual communitywide effort to #DoTheGood invites businesses, community leaders, nonprofits, individuals, and families to share their time and talent with organizations in need across North Texas.

CFT for Business will host events designed for member companies and employees, including a nonprofit fair and networking reception kickoff on March 2, 2023. Weekly volunteer projects and learning opportunities will be offered throughout the month of April.

Volunteer opportunities will align with CFT’s four intersectional grantmaking priorities: Health, Wealth, Living, and Learning. At CFT, we see these focus areas as pillars in building a thriving community. Each week will feature a different pillar, with multiple service opportunities to choose from.

In 2022, more than 400 volunteers from 40 different CFT for Business member companies completed over 2,100 hours of service with 26 nonprofit partners.

Additionally, a variety of publicly available volunteer projects will be featured throughout the month in partnership with locally based volunteer management platform, YOMO, and The Dallas Morning News’ cause marketing initiative, FWD-DFW.

Volunteers can visit CFTexas.org/Volunteer and search for projects by issue area, by date, or by “anytime” projects featuring organizations in need of ongoing volunteer support. Last year, there were more than 150 projects to choose from.

During this month-long initiative, local businesses can choose to sponsor an entire week’s worth of volunteer events or a single event. Sponsorship opportunities range from $2,500 to $25,000. Companies can also join CFT for Business as a Business Impact Network member to participate in custom opportunities to engage employees. We hope that you, your family, and your company will consider joining us this year in whatever capacity you can.

“Until now, our focus has been on large-scale partnerships, but #DoTheGood in April will allow us to engage community members at a much more individual level. We believe that every act of service makes a difference.”

— JJ Ponce, Director, CFT for Business

For more ways to get involved with CFT for Business, contact:

JJ Ponce
Director of CFT for Business
jponce@cftexas.org | 214-750-4111

For more ways to get involved with CFT, view our Engagement Guide at CFTexas.ORG/2023ENGAGEMENTGUIDE

GET INVOLVED WITH CFT

Have you checked out our annual Engagement Guide? This resource is a comprehensive guide to help businesses and individuals plan their year-round partnerships with CFT. It outlines opportunities to partner through sponsorship or support of a communitywide event, volunteer opportunity, or other program in 2023. The Engagement Guide also provides a chance to identify sponsorship opportunities that align with your or your company’s values and the audiences that matter most to you.

The information will be useful as you plan for the year ahead. We look forward to discussing how we can help further your charitable goals while making a difference in our community.
Our President and CEO, Dave Scullin, will retire in March, after a distinguished six-year tenure at the helm of CFT, the largest community foundation in Texas and one of the largest in the nation.

“It has been a true honor to lead CFT these past six years. I am proud of what we have achieved toward building a better community and strengthening Texas education. Our extensive progress has been a collective effort through our amazing staff and our dynamic Board of Trustees, in collaboration with our many partners. CFT is uniquely well positioned to build on this momentum and continue this path, driving greater impact across our community and our state, and on behalf of Texas students.”

- DAVE SCULLIN, PRESIDENT AND CEO

Read more about CFT’s impact during Dave’s tenure on Pages 14-15, and join us in our congratulations and gratitude for his impactful leadership.
Retiring President and CEO Dave Scullin helped drive CFT’s mission, vision, and values forward and into a new era, defined by three strategic priorities: growing community giving, expanding community impact, and advancing community equity.

We thank Dave for his commitment to excellence, leadership, hard work, and dedication. We know that his impact will be felt across our organization and community for decades to come.

1. GROWING COMMUNITY GIVING

**GIFTS**
Annual gifts received saw a 118% increase to more than $205 million in 2022.

**GRANTS**
2022 grantmaking to nonprofits has grown by 57% to reach a record high of more than $165 million.

**GIVING DAYS**
CFT’s North Texas Giving Day has become the nation’s largest single day of communitywide giving, this year pumping $62.6 million into more than 3,000 local nonprofits, from 94,000 donors in North Texas, plus all 50 states and over 40 countries. This represents a 69% increase over the past six years, and brings the total dollars raised for our community through North Texas Giving Day to more than $500 million.

2. EXPANDING COMMUNITY IMPACT

**PROGRAM AND OPERATIONS**
- 76% increase in staffing capacity
- Technology and infrastructure enhancements
- Enhanced talent recruitment and retention strategies

In response to increased demand for CFT’s services, program and operations expenditures have tripled to $51 million annually, including significant growth of CFT’s Educate Texas. CFT also made major strides in advancing our technological capabilities and talent strategy.

**COVID-19 RESPONSE**
- $375MM+ mobilized for nonprofits

From March 2020 to March 2022, during the COVID-19 pandemic, CFT mobilized more than $375 million for nonprofits in collaboration and leadership with donors and partner funding organizations. This was primarily accomplished through North Texas Cares (a collaborative of 30+ funding partners), three Giving Days, gifts from CFT’s donor-advised fund holders, and through the deployment of nine separate COVID-19 relief funds at CFT.

**CFT’s EDUCATE TEXAS**
- Serving 2.5MM students
- 400 campuses
- 250 school districts

CFT significantly expanded and accelerated the impact of its consultancy and advocacy initiative, Educate Texas, as a trusted change agent to strengthen K-12 and higher education in Texas. Educate Texas is focused on increasing academic achievement and educational equity by leading programs, policy, and partnerships to reach over 2.5 million students statewide across 400 campuses and 250-plus school districts, colleges, and universities with its innovative work concentrated on the goal of increasing the number of students earning a degree or credentials toward a living wage.

3. ADVANCING COMMUNITY EQUITY

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) INITIATIVES**
- Engaged local/national experts in DEI strategy
- Appointed first-ever chief DEI officer
- Big D Reads: The Accommodation

Dave expanded CFT’s strategic initiatives to incorporate the urgent need to advance equity across our community. He launched a formal DEI initiative and engaged expert consultants, which resulted in 5,000 staff training hours in 2019-21, and created a chief DEI officer position to ensure equity would be embedded in CFT’s work internally and externally in the community. During Dave’s leadership, CFT also co-led a citywide read of the Dallas racial history book The Accommodation, through Big D Reads and our Cause-Minded Conversation event series.
FUND HOLDER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

Where Passion Meets Purpose

CFT’s annual Fund Holder Appreciation Celebration is truly our favorite night of the year! This year’s theme was “Where Passion Meets Purpose.” Fund holders joined together for an evening of dining and getting to know one another as we thanked them for all they do for our community. They also heard stories of impact from CFT staff experts.

CFT fund holders: Plan to join us for our event in November 2023!

PHOTO CREDIT: Kim Leeson

BLACK BENEVOLENCE: A conversation about generosity and giving

CFT hosted a lunch conversation for Black leaders and influencers across the community. Attendees had meaningful discussion about values-based giving, and shared their passions for causes they care about. Special thanks to host committee members: Ann and Taoreed Badmus, Kymberlaine Banks, Neisha and Richie Butler, Greg Campbell, Carol and Truman Greene, Kendall Hill, Matrice and Ron Kirk, Patte Lee, Noelle LeVaux, Chris McSwain, Alfreda and Joe Norman, Dr. Reo Pruett, and Beverly Wright.

PHOTO CREDIT: Bret Redman

DR. MARCELLUS COOPER HISTORICAL MARKER

Honoring the legacy of the first Black dentist in Texas

CFT partnered with Remembering Black Dallas and the late Dr. George Keaton Jr. to install a historical marker at the Caruth Homeplace. The historical marker honors Dr. Marcellus Clayton Cooper, the first Black dentist in Texas who was born enslaved on the Caruth Farm. We were grateful to have some of his descendants present for the dedication ceremony.

Learn more about this effort to advance community equity at: CFTexas.org/CooperHistoricalMarker

PHOTO CREDIT: Kim Leeson

NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

$62.6MM raised in 2022, benefiting 3,210 local nonprofits

CFT’s NTX Giving Day is designed to empower every person to give back to their community by supporting the causes they care about and the nonprofits doing the work to keep our community thriving. Last year’s theme was “Find Your Passion. Give with Purpose.” In its 14th year, NTX Giving Day’s cumulative fundraising total hit more than $500 million—critical dollars for our local nonprofits. Save the date for the 15th anniversary of NTX Giving Day on 9.21.23.

PHOTO CREDIT: Kim Leeson and Can Turkyilmaz
CFT’s 2022 annual professional seminar in partnership with Southern Methodist University featured Martin Hall discussing charitable tools. This year’s seminar will feature Bryan Clontz, founder and president of Charitable Solutions, LLC. He’ll discuss creative charitable planning with non-cash assets.

Save the date and plan to join us on May 9 for our 2023 seminar.

Learn more about becoming a sponsor or register to join us at CFTexas.org/Seminar.

In January, CFT brought together local chambers of commerce for a luncheon discussing the ways CFT can be a partner to chambers and their business members. Attendees heard about some of our current community collaborations from Andrea Glispie of Charles Schwab Bank, Barbara Milo of HALL Park, Ali Mize of Neiman Marcus, and Andy Smith from Texas Instruments and the TI Foundation. Read the event recap on our blog at CFTexas.org/ChambersConnect.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE LUNCHEON
Partnering with CFT to amplify impact

EMERGING LEADERS IN PHILANTHROPY
2022 cohort prioritized education and economic security

CFT’s 2022’s Emerging Leaders in Philanthropy cohort spent the year working to identify two priority issue areas: education, with an emphasis on early education, social-emotional learning, teacher preparation/representation and multigenerational programming; and economic security and opportunity, with an emphasis on workforce development, financial literacy, re-entry support, and equitable access to capital and job opportunities. Their nine-month journey in grantmaking resulted in a $25,000 grant to Wesley-Rankin Community Center. Learn more at CFTexas.org/ELP.

In celebration of Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, we heard stories of giving from some of our inspirational fund holders at the South Asian Community Luncheon. From our speakers’ experiences with donor-advised funds, to how some utilized CFT’s GiveWisely® resources, philanthropic consulting, and Emerging Leaders in Philanthropy program to enhance their giving, we learned how these leaders support their favorite causes.

Save the date for our 2023 Asian Women Leaders in Philanthropy event on May 18! Contact bsharma@CFTexas.org for more details.

SOUTH ASIAN LUNCHEON
In celebration of Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, we heard stories of giving from some of our inspirational fund holders at the South Asian Community Luncheon. From our speakers’ experiences with donor-advised funds, to how some utilized CFT’s GiveWisely® resources, philanthropic consulting, and Emerging Leaders in Philanthropy program to enhance their giving, we learned how these leaders support their favorite causes.

Save the date for our 2023 Asian Women Leaders in Philanthropy event on May 18! Contact bsharma@CFTexas.org for more details.
Communities Foundation of Texas celebrated John Bergner as CFT’s 2022 Vester Hughes Award honoree. When Vester Hughes passed in 2017, CFT created the Vester Hughes Award in honor of his legacy, his longstanding commitment to charitable causes, and his support of CFT’s philanthropic initiatives.

In selecting a recipient of the Vester Hughes Award, CFT seeks out an outstanding professional advisor who has contributed exceptionally to their field, has championed charitable giving, and supports CFT’s mission of growing community giving. Recipients are devoted to assisting clients with charitable giving, and serve as thoughtful and impactful mentors to other advisors in the field of philanthropy.

John Bergner is a shareholder in the Dallas office of Winstead PC and serves as co-chairman of the wealth preservation practice group. His practice encompasses tax estate and business succession planning and administration of estates. With over 40 years of experience as an attorney, John is nationally recognized for his work.

CFT has partnered with John since 1987, when he first joined CFT’s Advisory Council. He’s provided CFT with feedback to inform its work and services, and has helped secure speakers and high-quality content for professional seminars. John also engages in personal philanthropy through his own charitable fund at CFT.

John has an expansive impact with clients and nonprofits, and CFT is honored to recognize him for his leadership and community involvement with our 2022 Vester Hughes Award. Please join us in congratulating John!

CFT’S 2022 VESTER HUGHES AWARD

Congratulations, John Bergner

John Bergner, CFT’s 2022 Vester Hughes Award recipient, with Dave Scullin, CFT’s President and CEO.

“John Bergner embodies the best qualities of Vester Hughes, and we are excited to recognize him as our 2022 Vester Hughes Award Recipient. CFT has witnessed firsthand the incredible impact John makes in support of the causes that matter most to him, and the mentorship he provides to so many in his field.”

– DAVE SCULLIN, PRESIDENT AND CEO

Vester Hughes

Vester was a nationally respected tax attorney who testified before Congress about tax matters and helped rewrite the federal tax code. Vester first began working with CFT in 1958, and served as CFT’s general counsel or senior tax counsel for more than 50 years.

During his tenure, CFT grew into one of the most prominent and trusted community foundations in the country, and the largest in Texas. As legal counsel for W.W. Caruth, Jr., Hughes helped create the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Fund at CFT.

Vester embodied the principle of honoring donor intent, as he guided the foundation through the investing and grantmaking of the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Fund, which continues to grant millions of dollars to the community each year.

Vester Hughes

We can help your clients achieve their philanthropic North Star with ease, efficiency, and effectiveness.

Communities Foundation of Texas’ North Star Services is a private foundation alternative that combines CFT’s concierge service offerings with a charitable fund, providing the service and support of a private foundation at a lower cost and with greater tax benefits. CFT’s North Star Services are available to individuals, families, private foundations, corporate foundations, and businesses looking to maximize their charitable giving and minimize the hassle, time, and cost of managing a private foundation.

IF YOU, YOUR BUSINESS, OR YOUR CLIENTS HAVE:

1. An interest in the structure of a private foundation or simplifying the administration and/or generational transfer of a current foundation
2. A desire for customized, personalized grant opportunities and/or complex grant support
3. The ability to gift appreciated securities or complex assets to facilitate their charitable giving

CFT AND OUR NORTH STAR SERVICES CAN BE A TRUSTED PARTNER TO YOU AND YOUR CLIENTS.

Want to learn more? Contact:
CAROLYN A. NEWHAM, JD
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
cnewham@cftexas.org | 214-750-4226

To learn more about our North Star Services, visit CFTEXAS.ORG/NSS

To learn more about the Vester Hughes Award and watch our tribute video, visit CFTEXAS.ORG/VESTERHUGHES

John Bergner with past Vester Hughes Award Recipients Jack Kinnebrew (2017) and Kathy Muldoon (2019).
TRANSFORMING EDUCATION ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

CFT’s Educate Texas releases regional scorecard

RGV FOCUS is measurably improving education in all four counties of the Rio Grande Valley. CFT’s Educate Texas founded RGV FOCUS in 2012 with the vision of ensuring all students in the Rio Grande Valley receive the education they need and deserve to achieve meaningful careers and lives.

With the theme of What Matters Most, Lo Que Mas Importa, RGV FOCUS’ ninth annual report and scorecard emphasizes the importance of families and community, son nuestras familias y comunidad.

You’ll see that Rio Grande Valley students now match or exceed Texas averages in nine out of 12 key indicators, including these highlights:

56% of RGV high school students are completing Advanced Placement or Dual Credit courses, exceeding the state average of 46%.

55% of RGV high school students are completing FAFSA for financial aid, exceeding the state average of 47%.

49% of RGV high school graduates are immediately enrolling and beginning instruction in higher education, exceeding the state average of 45%.

RGV GRANDE VALLEY STUDENTS MATCH OR EXCEED TEXAS AVERAGES IN NINE OUT OF 12 KEY INDICATORS

As we look forward, we know there is still critical work to do. What matters most is the education and support of all students, so they find their place on a path that is right for them.

“We have a multipronged approach to increasing college readiness and immediate enrollment, including identifying seniors who are not likely to pursue education after high school and helping them overcome challenges and plan paths to higher education that are best for them. We have also partnered with school districts and colleges across the region to help students who have dropped out of school to complete a GED and begin earning stackable workforce credentials.”

TERI CAPISTRAN
Point Isabel ISD Superintendent and RGV FOCUS Leadership Team Chair

READ THE FULL STORY ONLINE:

Visit RGVFOCUS.org to view the latest scorecard data, success stories, and learn more about our work.

Questions? Contact our expert: J. CHRIS COXON
Managing Director, Educate Texas
ccoxon@cftexas.org | 214-750-4140

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COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF TEXAS
FUND HOLDER SPOTLIGHT
Meet Andy Smith and Paul von Wupperfeld

Andy Smith and Paul von Wupperfeld believe that creating a community where all people are treated with respect and dignity starts with fostering authentic relationships with diverse people.

Together and individually, they volunteer with and donate to organizations such as Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, Dallas Theater Center, and Resource Center. As a couple, they have led successful fundraising galas for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Theater Center, and Dallas Summer Musicals (now Broadway Dallas).

“Community involvement is so important to us. We want to play a role in making the world a safer, happier, and healthier place for everyone to thrive.”
— Andy Smith

“I’m honored that we are able to give back to the causes close to our hearts. It’s incredibly gratifying to make a positive impact with such important organizations.”
— Paul von Wupperfeld

For more stories of CFT fund holders making an impact, visit CFTEXAS.ORG/STORIES