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A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It’s been an exciting season of growth at Communities Foundation of Texas. As we deepen our focus on helping giving thrive across North Texas and beyond, we are honored to partner with you – the many local donors, nonprofits, community leaders and educators committed to creating positive change.

A number of our shared efforts are detailed in this expanded spring edition of IMPACT, which I’d like to dedicate to Ruth Collins Sharp Altshuler, beloved trustee, whose legacy will live forever in our hearts and across our city.

“A constant theme throughout the following pages is the extent of collaboration across our region.”

As our region grows, so do community and business needs. We recently announced a $500,000 investment fund in Collin County to provide ongoing support to nonprofits working to address the area’s challenges and opportunities. We also expanded our CFT for Business initiative to help companies grow their employee engagement and corporate philanthropy efforts.

This edition features a spotlight on legacy planning and what we have found to be the secret to happiness: giving. We hope these examples of local generosity will resonate with you and your own passions. I thank you wholeheartedly for your support and look forward to continuing to partner with you to make North Texas the best community it can be.

PRESIDENT AND CEO, COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF TEXAS

Dave Scullin
CFT Welcomes New Trustees

Four New Faces on the CFT Board Bring Energy and Experience

Michael Dardick
José (Pepe) Guevara
Tom Montgomery
Connie O’Neill

MICHAEL DARDICK serves as founding partner and chief executive officer of Granite Properties. Since 1991, Granite Properties has acquired or developed more than 25 million square feet in commercial real estate. Michael serves on the Children’s Health System of Texas board as chair of the Plano governing board of the Children’s Medical Center Legacy Campus.

JOSÉ (PEPE) GUEVARA recently founded Millstone Assets focusing on cross-generational wealth preservation strategies. Prior to founding Millstone Assets, Pepe had a 20-year career and served as a partner at Boston Consulting Group. His work focused on value creation through strategic acquisitions across a range of industries, serving both corporations as well as private equity funds.

TOM MONTGOMERY brings a wealth of business and financial experience to the board. He is a founding partner of Montgomery Coscia Greilich, LLP and owner of Montgomery Capital Advisors, LLC. His disciplines include advanced tax planning, transactional services, and strategic and operational planning for large and medium-sized businesses.

CONNIE O’NEILL is an active community volunteer who has served on numerous philanthropic boards. She has extensive board experience for Children’s Medical Center Foundation, the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Southern Methodist University, Crystal Charity Ball and Highland Park Education Foundation.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Jim Bass, Chair
Bobby B. Lyle, Vice Chair
Richie Butler
Michael Dardick
Pepe Guevara
Kenneth Hersh
Chris Kleinert
Sarah Losinger
Tom Montgomery
Alfreda Norman
Connie O’Neill
Carlos González Peña
The Hon. Florence Shapiro
Nicole G. Small
G. Stacy Smith

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CFT’S NEW TRUSTEES, VISIT WWW.CFTEXAS.ORG/TRUSTEES

HURRICANE HARVEY RECOVERY

In 2017, North Texas stepped up to help our Gulf Coast neighbors. CFT helped raise over $5.2 million through initiatives including:

OVER $1.4 MILLION WFAA’s Texas Cares Harvey Campaign
OVER $405,000 CFT Relief and Recovery Fund
OVER $420,000 Mass Care Task Force
OVER $1 MILLION Harvey HELP Education Fund
$1.6 MILLION Harvey KIDS Education Fund

Read the full story on the following pages

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE EFFORTS, VISIT WWW.CFTEXAS.ORG/HARVEY

Photo Credit: Brendan Keefe of WFAA

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CFT’S NEW TRUSTEES, VISIT WWW.CFTEXAS.ORG/TRUSTEES

IMPACT: Your Philanthropy Magazine | 2018 | Vol. 1
HURRICANE HARVEY RECOVERY

KEEPING TEXAS SCHOOLS ABOVE WATER

After the storm, generosity gives Texas schools a lifeline

THIS PAST AUGUST, over 6 million Texans were impacted by Hurricane Harvey’s devastation. Repairing the damage done to the Gulf Coast region will require years of support. In addition to damaging infrastructure for power, transit and communications, Hurricane Harvey is estimated to have impacted over 1.4 million public school students, including 42,000 K–12 students who have been displaced across district lines.

In response, Educate Texas and Communities Foundation of Texas, along with their funding partners, quickly launched two new funds to support Gulf Coast schools and students affected by Hurricane Harvey.

One of these funds is the Harvey KIDS Education Fund at CFT, which, in addition to providing immediate relief funding to school districts and campuses to support the needs of displaced students, also provides longer-term funds to enable rebuilding and redesigning schools and the student learning experience.

To date, the Harvey KIDS Fund at CFT has raised over $1.6 million. These funds are being used to provide immediate relief as well as to support longer-term rebuilding efforts.

To learn more about the Harvey KIDS Fund or Communities Foundation of Texas’ and Educate Texas’ Hurricane Harvey relief efforts, please visit www.edtx.org/harvey.

In PEARLAND ISD, 414 students were forced to move into shelters outside of their regular school zones. Harvey KIDS funds are being used to provide these students with transportation to and from school, which has resulted in a daily attendance rate of more than 98 percent. Despite the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey, students are learning, and the schools are maintaining normalcy as best they can.

In PASADENA ISD, more than half of the students and staff were impacted by the hurricane and found themselves living in hotels, or with friends and relatives. Currently, over 3,300 students and their families remain displaced in temporary living situations. Harvey KIDS funds will help the district hire homeless case managers to communicate with these families to assess their social, emotional and academic needs and direct them to appropriate resources. The grant will also enable the district to hire tutors to provide additional academic support.

In EAST CHAMBERS ISD was hit with 60 inches of water during Hurricane Harvey and many families who faced substantial losses due to the flood are still struggling with home repairs. Harvey KIDS funds are helping East Chambers ISD support an after-school program to help students with their homework and studies by providing access to teachers, computers, textbooks and other resources, as well as transportation back home.

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In PORT ARANSAS ISD, Harvey KIDS funds are being used to offer licensed professional counseling services to 425 students, many of whom experienced much loss due to Hurricane Harvey. They are also using funds for medium-term student assessment and interventions.

In ARANSAS COUNTY ISD, the impact of Hurricane Harvey included collapsed buildings and caved-in roofs, resulting in three weeks of instruction time lost. As a result, the district and its students struggled with a lack of adequate classroom space and equipment. Harvey KIDS funds are being used by the district to replace lost technology and provide necessary items for special-needs students.

In TAFT ISD faced extensive damage and classes for the district’s more than 1,000 students were delayed an entire month. To support students and teachers who must now catch up in their coursework, Harvey KIDS funds are being used to hire education consultants who will assist with curriculum and plan development to adjust for lost instructional time.

In Vidor ISD, the potential relocation of up to 50 teachers and maintenance and transportation personnel has been a big concern since the hurricane. In order to help keep vital human capital in the district that serves nearly 4,000 students, Harvey KIDS funds are being used to offer two daily meals to staff as well as to replace lost technology.
ANNOUNCING NEW FUNDING for COLLIN COUNTY

As Collin County grows, so do community needs

WHILE WE CANNOT PREDICT the future, we can prepare for it. Communities Foundation of Texas announced in late October a $500,000 commitment of seed funding to create a dedicated, long-term resource to support needs across Collin County. We are excited to share with you that the Fund for Collin County continues to build momentum and support from the community with additional contributions.

We gratefully acknowledge the leadership and support of the generous contributors who have joined us in this important investment in Collin County.

INITIAL FUNDERS INCLUDE:

- Michael J. Adasmcyk
- Hong and Jim Bass
- Deborah and Scott Boxer
- Capital One
- Diane and Dick Evans
- Sarah Beeks Higdon
- Maus Family Charitable Fund
- Carolyn and Denon Newham
- Tracy and Brian Rinehart
- Susan and Dave Scullin
- Florence and Howard Shapiro
- Cathy and Scott Sweet
- Michael Medalla and Raj Anaya
- Sam Risch and Duncan Webb
- Monica Egert Smith, Cathy and Scott Sweet
- Vickie Yakunin, Sejal Desai, Dick and Diane Evans, Sarah Higdon

The Fund for Collin County was established to provide support for nonprofit organizations addressing the most pressing needs and promising opportunities for Collin County residents. To be considered, an organization must be a qualified 501(c)(3) public charity in good standing with the IRS with at least 75 percent of program participants being Collin County residents.

In addition to the growing list of contributors to the Fund for Collin County, we thank our business partners in the community who have helped us launch this exciting new initiative: U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management, Plano Chamber of Commerce and Capital One.

We hope you’ll plan to join us for our June 19th Cause-Minded Conversation focused on STEM Education and Workforce Development in partnership with Toyota USA Foundation at the Toyota North America headquarters in Plano.

Please join us to invest in Collin County. For more information, visit www.CFTexas.org/CollinCountyFund or contact Sarah Higdon at shigdon@cftexas.org or 214-750-4247.

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- Tracy and Brian Rinehart
- Susan and Dave Scullin
- Florence and Howard Shapiro
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- Monica Egert Smith, Cathy and Scott Sweet
- Vickie Yakunin, Sejal Desai, Dick and Diane Evans, Sarah Higdon

The three nonprofits were Family Promise of Collin County, The Samaritan Inn and City House. Each was invited to make a 10-minute pitch in person to NETSCOUT employees, who then voted for which nonprofit should receive the $10,000 grant.

"This was about being more intentional about our giving. We found a local partner in Communities Foundation of Texas. CFT created a detailed list of funding needs from Collin County nonprofits that our $10,000 investment could impact. They also helped us identify which nonprofits were a good fit for volunteer service, as community involvement is one of our values." 

RICHARD KENEDI, CEO, NETSCOUT

NETSCOUT formed a 14-person steering committee to review the top nonprofits that CFT had identified as potential grantees. CFT provided guidance to help the committee review the applications extensively to evaluate the best fit in terms of funding needs and volunteer opportunities, ultimately narrowing the list down to 10 organizations. The committee then did a deeper dive to select the top three nonprofits they felt were the best fit for NETSCOUT. The three nonprofits were Family Promise of Collin County, The Samaritan Inn and City House. Each was invited to make a 10-minute pitch in person to NETSCOUT employees, who then voted for which nonprofit should receive the $10,000 grant.

"We had great employee participation in the program. More importantly, there was lots of opportunity for discussion about the different nonprofits and the work they do in the community," said Kenedi. NETSCOUT’s employees ultimately selected City House as their community grant recipient this year, and the organization plans to make time to volunteer with all three organizations, as well as get involved with CFT4B’s engagement network. We’re thrilled to partner with generous companies like NETSCOUT and look forward to seeing the impact of their investment in Collin County.

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RACIAL EQUITY GRANTS
CFT awards $150,000 in grants to support racial equity work in Dallas

On January 17, the National Day of Racial Healing, Communities Foundation of Texas announced that a total of $150,000 was distributed across 35 nonprofits to help them facilitate storytelling or implement practical solutions to race-related challenges in Dallas.

“Allowing people the space to tell their stories and providing opportunities for others to be touched by them is the first step toward healing.”

SARAH COTTON NELSON,
CFT’S CHIEF PHILANTHROPY OFFICER

“Cara Mia is now better able to promote racial healing: its cutting-edge theatrical performances are now coupled with community conversations, youth engagement processes and healing circles,” says Ernest McMillan, curator for community action for Cara Mia Theatre.

“This support for racial equity nonprofits shows Communities Foundation of Texas’ commitment to the hard work and the heart work of truth, racial healing and transformation,” says Joli Robinson, manager of the community affairs and outreach unit of the Dallas Police Department and co-chair of Dallas Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation.

CFT board members approved this unique racial equity funding opportunity to complement the new Dallas Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (D-TRHT) effort. Dallas is one of 14 places in the country receiving $1 million in grant support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to implement D-TRHT, which will be customized for Dallas with input and leadership from the community. CFT is proud to be one of the many organizations contributing to TRHT in Dallas.

To learn more about our racial equity work, visit www.CFTexas.org or contact Sarah Cotton Nelson, chief philanthropy officer, at grants@cftexas.org or 214-750-4134.

Performances at WaterTower Theatre. Photo credit: Jason Anderson

AWARDS and ACCOLADES
CFT leaders in the news

Sarah Cotton Nelson, chief philanthropy officer, and Wende Burton, community philanthropy director, were recently named “Movers + Shakers: North Texas Social Innovators You Should Know” by Dallas Innovates.

Sejal Desai, business engagement director, was chosen as one of five women to be honored with an Inspiring Woman of the Southwest Award this fall by the Southwest Jewish Congress. Sejal was also selected for the incoming cohort of 2018 Dallas Public Voices.

Beverly Garner, facilities director, was named the 2017 Facilities Manager of the Year by the DFW Chapter International Facility Management Association.

Carroll Pierce Goglia, senior director of Education, was honored with an Inspiring Woman of the Year by the Irving Family YMCA.

RACIAL EQUITY GRANT RECIPIENTS

Abounding Prosperity
Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at UT Dallas
Bachman Lake Together
Border Crossers
Building/community WORKSHOP
Cara Mia Theatre Company
Chocolate MINT Foundation
Community Alcohol Drug Aftercare Program Concilio
Dallas Black Dance Theatre
Dallas Holocaust Museum/Center for Education and Tolerance
Education Opens Doors
Faith in Texas – PCDO
Girls Embracing Mothers
Inclusive Communities Project
Institute for Urban Policy Research at UT Dallas
via the University of Texas Foundation
Junior Players Guild
KERA
Make Art with Purpose
Paul Quinn College
Project Row Houses
Project Unity
Social Venture Partners Dallas
Soul Rop Theatre Company
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
St. Philip’s School & Community Center
Teach for America
Teatro Dallas
Texas Muslim Women’s Foundation
Texas Organizing Project Education Fund
Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation
Village United Methodist Church
WaterTower Theatre
YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas
Young Women’s Preparatory Network

2017–2018 DISCRETIONARY GRANT RECIPIENTS

2ndSaturday CDC
Alice Givens Jones Foundation
Army Scholarship Foundation
Austin Dallas
Baylor Health Care System Foundation
Bostic Farms
Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas
Camp Summit
Clayton YES Coalition for Quality End-of-Life Care
Color Me Empowered
Crossroads Studio
Dallas Challenge
Dallas Pets Alive!
Dallas Theater Center
Dallas Urban Debate Alliance
Dickinson Place
Dorothy Davis Foundation
Fort Worth Opera
Honor Courage Commitment
Humble Tomorrow
Irving Symphony Orchestra
Julie’s Park & Community Center
Mary Crowley Medical Research Center
Methodist Health System Foundation
Nasher Sculpture Center
New Philharmonic Orchestra of Irving
North Texas Alliance to Reduce Untended Pregnancy in Teens
Operation Kindness of Garland
Pennybacker Bridge Foundation
Pearl Bailey Foundation
Perot Center for History & Science
Prather YMCA
 Promise House
River Legacy Foundation
Southern Methodist University – National Center for Arts Research
TACA
The Senior Source
The Writer’s Garret
Youth With Faces

Each year, Communities Foundation of Texas vets hundreds of nonprofits through our annual letter of inquiry process, in order to share current funding opportunities with CFT fund holders and the community through our Giving Guide. Through the process, a limited number of projects are also funded using CFT’s discretionary funds across the following issue areas: animals, arts, elderly, environment, health, social services and youth.

To learn more about CFT’s Giving Guide and grantmaking, visit www.CFTexas.org/givingguide or contact Sarah Cotton Nelson, chief philanthropy officer, at grants@cftexas.org or 214-750-4134.

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COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS
CFT’S GRANTS
COMMUNITY NEEDS

$770,000 granted to 39 local nonprofits

2018 DISCRETIONARY GRANT RECIPIENTS

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Bachman Lake Together
Border Crossers
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Cara Mia Theatre Company
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Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas
Camp Summit
Clayton YES Coalition for Quality End-of-Life Care
Color Me Empowered
Crossroads Studio
Dallas Challenge
Dallas Pets Alive!
Dallas Theater Center
Dallas Urban Debate Alliance
Dickinson Place
Dorothy Davis Foundation
Fort Worth Opera
Honor Courage Commitment
Humble Tomorrow
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Julie’s Park & Community Center
Mary Crowley Medical Research Center
Methodist Health System Foundation
Nasher Sculpture Center
New Philharmonic Orchestra of Irving
North Texas Alliance to Reduce Untended Pregnancy in Teens
Operation Kindness of Garland
Pennybacker Bridge Foundation
Pearl Bailey Foundation
Perot Center for History & Science
Prather YMCA
Promise House
River Legacy Foundation
Southern Methodist University – National Center for Arts Research
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ANNUAL FAMILY SERVICE DAY

At North Texas Food Bank

The Pekowskis and other CFT fund holders brought their families for a day of volunteering at North Texas Food Bank.

Debbie Pun and daughter

CFT’s Chief Investment Officer Brian Doyle and daughter

Dobbie Pun and daughter

CFT’s Chief Investment Officer Brian Doyle and daughter

During CFT’s sixth annual Family Service Day, over 100 CFT donors and partners sorted and packaged more than 30,000 pounds of food at the North Texas Food Bank, the equivalent of more than 35,000 meals for families served by the food bank.

COLLIN COUNTY CAUSE-MINDED CONVERSATION

In October, CFT and U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management co-hosted a Cause-Minded Conversation: Spotlight on Collin County – “The Need in Our Backyard.” Distinguished panelists Trisha Cunningham of the North Texas Food Bank, Nicole Bursey of Frisco Family Services, Dana Riley of Volunteer McKinney and Michael Simpson of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County discussed the needs of Collin County.

Michael Simpson, Trisha Cunningham, Nicole Bursey, Dana Riley and Monica Egert Smith spoke about the needs in our backyard at the Omni in Frisco.

The conversation elicited many questions and suggestions from interested people in the audience.

Collin County Cause-Minded Conversation Host Committee

The Pekowskis and other CFT fund holders brought their families for a day of volunteering at North Texas Food Bank.

Felicia Williams, Joanna Veklu

CFT for BUSINESS LAUNCH EVENT

In November, CFT celebrated the launch of CFT for Business, a new initiative with an expanded suite of services designed specifically to serve the business community. Over 350 people joined us to celebrate the launch, network and hear how CFT for Business has already helped local businesses maximize their corporate giving initiatives.

Felicia Williams, Joanna Veklu

Jim Shields and Traci Merzi spoke at the CFT for Business launch event

Ken Malcolmson, Hong and Jim Bass, chair of CFT’s board of trustees.
**FREEDOM DAY**

On Saturday, September 9 and Monday, September 11, CFT hosted the 16th annual Freedom Day, a community service event honoring the lives lost and those forever changed by the tragic events of September 11, 2001. We were excited to have over 950 volunteers give more than 5,700 hours of service in just two days at more than 15 different project sites across DFW.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL BREAKFAST**

CFT’s Advisory Council is a select group of professional, business and civic leaders. They introduce people to CFT and promote CFT throughout North Texas. During the breakfast, council members were given a general CFT update as well as updates on trends in national and local philanthropy.

**FUND HOLDER APPRECIATION DINNER**

On November 1, CFT hosted an appreciation dinner for all CFT fund holders. After dinner, speaker Ron Lieber, personal finance columnist for *The New York Times* and author of *The Opposite of Spoiled*, spoke about how what we spend, how we save and where we give say a lot about who we are.

Ron Lieber spoke about having conversations with your children about money and values.
The two of you are noted Texas entrepreneurs and your business mission has been to help people perform at a higher level. How has that driven plans for ensuring your charitable legacy?

We’ve been very blessed as a company and as a family and wanted to pass on those blessings. At our annual family meeting, we sat down with the kids and our business consultant to plan the next steps for our business and to hear our children’s expectations for the future. We decided to keep our company in the family rather than selling it, and needed to update our estate plan. Out of that planning, we elected to leave 50 percent of our assets to charity. We spoke with Eric, our estate planner, and told him we were thinking about setting up a foundation to manage our charitable giving. Eric listened and advised, and we learned that running a foundation is similar to running a business. As an alternative, Eric brought up partnering with Communities Foundation of Texas to establish a donor-advised fund, which works similarly but without the administrative burden of a private foundation. Establishing the Pekowski Charitable Fund at CFT gave us an easy and effective way to give now and through our estate.

Q: What did you find most beneficial in working with CFT on your charitable legacy and giving? How are you including your children and grandchildren in your legacy?

CFT guided us every step of the way. They recommended we participate in their GiveWisely course and attend a nonprofit site visit with their staff. We brought our children to that and it was very helpful in choosing the charities we wanted to donate to as a family.

At our most recent family meeting, our children presented what they learned in GiveWisely, and we talked about the gifts we’ve made in the past year. We also brought the values card activity we did with CFT staff to our family meeting and talked about what values matter most to each of us. We’ve been holding family meetings since 1999, and in the past few years have begun to include the grandchildren. The youngest is 6 and the oldest is 15, and they’re having fun helping to select the nonprofits we support. We talk and pray about stewardship and share with them stories about our lives and about giving. We continue to stress the importance of our family legacy, and we feel confident that they want to continue that legacy of giving.

We will miss these friends of the foundation that we lost in the last year:

Mark A. Altermann
Ruth Collins Sharp Altshuler
Rodney L. Armstrong
Dan L. Beaird
David Brennan
Donald J. Carter
Rita Clements
Henry C. Coke III
Dan W. Cook III
Edwin R. Daniels
Arlene J. Dayton
Henry Estess
Leo Fields
Robert J. Finegan
Henry Gilchrist
Don M. Houseman
Don J. Malouf
Mildred P. McKnight
Gene O’Donnell
Kathryn A. Priddy
Ray A. Sheeler
Terry L. Simmons
Vintila C. Smith
Ben H. Sparkman
Chip Wyly

IN MEMORIAM: CHARITABLE LEGACIES THAT LIVE ON

Ruth Collins Sharp Altshuler served as a CFT trustee for more than 35 years and was CFT’s first female board chair. We recently honored Ruth’s legacy at our annual Chairman’s Dinner. At the dinner, we announced that we had renamed CFT’s library and added many personal mementos in tribute to Ruth. Ruth inspired us with her contagious sense that anything could—and should—be done to make our city the best it can be.

From the many lives she’s touched to the countless hours given through her three decades of board service to CFT, Ruth’s positive impact will forever be felt in our hearts and across our city.

We chose Communities Foundation of Texas as our legacy charity because we love the people there, their stewardship and the ease in working with their team.

LINDA AND RAY PEKOWSKI with ADVISOR ERIC MARCHAND (left)
When Richard Lavine was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer at the age of 29, his chance of survival was only 2 percent. After his death, Richard’s grandmother, Jeanne Shelby, and mother, Sharon Shelby, wanted to improve the odds for others who, like Richard, were diagnosed with this often-fatal disease. To honor Richard and other family members who had been affected by cancer, the family established charitable funds at Communities Foundation of Texas with a focus on pancreatic cancer research. Additionally, Jeanne left instructions in her estate plan to further build her fund to support innovative cancer research.

Following extensive conversations and site visits with multiple research institutions, CFT recommended that Sharon fund a leading edge clinical trial at Baylor Scott & White. Richard had been a patient at Baylor Health Care System, but at the time of his diagnosis, no clinical trials were available, so Sharon knew she wanted to help those physicians and scientists provide new treatment options for patients like her son. Sharon’s daughter, Amy, joined her in working with CFT’s staff during the grantmaking process.

“Working with the Shelby family to further their charitable goals through the Jeanne Shelby Fund for Cancer Research and the Sharon A. Shelby Fund has been extremely meaningful. We’re thrilled with what this funding will be able to achieve for future generations diagnosed with pancreatic cancer,” said Geri Jacobs, director of Charitable Gift Planning at CFT.

The clinical trial Sharon funded at Baylor University Medical Center’s Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center in Dallas combines an FDA-approved anti-inflammatory medication called anakinra with a three-drug chemotherapy combination in patients with resectable or potentially resectable pancreatic cancer. The trial is known at Baylor as the “AGAP Trial.”

One of the main challenges in treating pancreatic cancer is inflammation, which causes dense connective tissue to form. This tissue then blocks the chemotherapy treatments from reaching the cancer cells. In addition, inflammation has been shown to increase the risk of cancer recurrence in pancreatic cancer patients. Based on outcomes from a different clinical trial at Baylor involving breast cancer, researchers thought that anakinra could help reduce inflammation in the pancreas.

In addition to the AGAP Trial, Sharon’s support has also included funding to collect samples from the patients in the trial to discover reliable biomarkers that are vital for early detection. Like Richard Lavine, most patients are not diagnosed with pancreatic cancer until the disease is very advanced. Having these biomarkers can vastly improve the chance of earlier detection.

“This trial has invigorated the pancreas team here at Baylor,” said Scott Celinski, M.D., a principal investigator for this study. “We have been able to encourage physicians to recommend clinical trials to their patients that previously had not been recommending this as an option. We know that the needle won’t move without participation. The enthusiasm is shown by hitting the target patient enrollment in half the expected time.”

There is good reason for the research team’s enthusiasm. Many patients in the trial whose cancers were once deemed inoperable are now being reclassified as operable. When surgeons remove the tumors, they are finding no cancer cells at the outer edge of the tissue that was removed, an incredibly positive sign.

According to Carlos Becerra, M.D., the lead oncologist for the study, one of the most interesting findings thus far is that all patients have had negative margins on pathology post-surgery. This result provides a ray of hope for a disease with the lowest five-year survival rate of all cancers.

In addition to meeting enrollment targets and statistical outcomes, there are also signs showing that anakinra is making patients feel better. Researchers value this improvement in the lives of patients since patients who feel better are more likely to stay with a treatment.

Sharon, Jeanne and Amy’s desire to bring hope to those without options is becoming more of a reality by the day. The results of the study at Baylor enable doctors and researchers to devote time and attention to a cancer that is presently predicted to become the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States by 2020.

With the help of her mother’s legacy, Sharon and her daughter Amy are dedicated to ensuring that prediction never comes true.

Sharon Shelby’s desire was to fund a clinical trial that would “provide options for pancreatic cancer patients who had no other options left.”

The Shelby Family has made meaningful investments in the diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic cancer by working with CFT staff and funding clinical trials through donor-advised funds at CFT.
Building Economic Security for Working Families

CFT seeds nonprofit network to help low-income families

For two years, Communities Foundation of Texas has been working with 10 nonprofits across North Texas who are part of CFT’s Working Families Success Network (WFSN).

The overall goals of the WFSN are increased economic mobility for clients, including financial security and increased credit scores, as well as long-term improvements in financial capability and healthy spending habits.

Using data from the program’s first year results, CFT found that clients who receive multiple services have better outcomes than those who only receive one. Year two outcomes are focused on creating habits that will contribute to long-term financial capability as well as monitoring the impact of receiving services over an extended period of time.

BY THE NUMBERS

The average WFSN client is a 30- to 40-year-old African-American woman with children, a high school education or GED, who is renting rather than owning a home or apartment.

The average annual household income for clients who engaged in all three offered services increased by an average of $570 for single-year clients and by more than $780 for multiyear clients.

Single-year clients receiving all three services saved an average of $405 per year. Multiyear clients receiving all three services saw an average increase in savings of more than $700.

Before receiving the services, only 36 percent of multiyear clients reported they had enough income to exceed expenses. At check-in, that number increased to 62 percent.

The number of multiyear clients who stated they had followed a budget went from 43 percent before starting services to 71 percent at check in.
THE SECRET to HAPPINESS?
If you ask us, it’s just one word.

By Monica Egert Smith,
Chief Relationship Officer

RECENTLY, PASTOR MATT MIOFSKY gave a guest sermon at my church. His book, Happy? What it is and how to find it, reveals that the secret to happiness is GIVING. But it’s not just a theory – there is actually a myriad of scientific studies that back up his claim.

Research has shown that giving triggers the release of serotonin, oxytocin and endorphins in the brain, which are proven to boost levels of happiness. But more than that, people who are generous have lower blood pressure, lower levels of stress and longer life expectancies.

We constantly bear witness to the positive feelings that giving generates. But are certain types of giving better suited for one individual over another? We believe the answer is yes, and we encourage individuals and families to develop their own unique approach to charitable giving by identifying their core values.

CFT offers a set of values cards as well as a brief course called GiveWisely to help individuals, families and companies identify values, pinpoint passions and create charitable plans.

Our free Giving Guide of North Texas nonprofits, reviewed and evaluated by CFT staff, is available on our website. We also encourage our fund holders to create personal giving statements. The following are a few questions to ask yourself when beginning to craft your charitable giving strategy.

What are your motivations to give?
What inspires you?
What are your core values?
In which ways do you want to give your time, talent and/or treasure?
Do you want to give publicly or privately?
Do you want to give now or beyond your lifetime through your will?
How will you communicate your legacy to your family and friends?

A report from the Johnson Center for Philanthropy highlighted that the next generation of philanthropists are driven by values and are heavily influenced by their families. Are you communicating your values to your children? Are you passing on the secret to happiness?

We recently brought Ron Lieber of The New York Times and author of The Opposite of Spoiled: Raising Kids Who Are Grounded, Generous, and Smart About Money to speak at our annual fund holder dinner. Lieber highlighted the importance of having conversations with children about values and giving, starting from the very first time they start asking questions about money. He also encouraged sharing family history as a means of connecting children with values. Lieber reminded us that our giving reflects on the next generation, and they deserve to know what we’re giving to.

What are your motivations to give?
What inspires you?
What are your core values?
In which ways do you want to give your time, talent and/or treasure?
Do you want to give publicly or privately?
Do you want to give now or beyond your lifetime through your will?
How will you communicate your legacy to your family and friends?

On North Texas Giving Day 2017:
47% of DONORS gave for the first time
$39 MILLION in total was raised for 2,723 North Texas nonprofits
76,000 DONORS from all 50 states and 36 countries gave 137,000 GIFTS

To learn more or to request a confidential giving consultation, contact Monica at megert@cftexas.org or 214-750-4135.

North Texas Giving Day is turning 10 on September 20!

NorthTexasGivingDay.org makes it easy for people to research thousands of nonprofits and give, all in one place! North Texas Giving Day rallies people together to give locally and wisely to North Texas organizations.

To sponsor #NTxGivingDay 2018, contact Susan Swan Smith, chief giving day officer, at sswansmith@cftexas.org or 214-750-4256.

GIVING GUIDANCE

COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS
UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS

MAY 16
FUND HOLDER SITE VISIT
Exclusive for fund holders: Join us from 10:30am-1:30pm. We will meet at CFT and hop on a shuttle to Canine Companions for Independence, Kinkeade Campus. Registration required.

JUNE 19
CAUSE-MINDED CONVERSATION
Join us for our June 19th Cause-Minded Conversation focused on STEM Education and Workforce Development in partnership with Toyota USA Foundation at the Toyota North America headquarters in Plano.

MAY 10
PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR
FEATURING CHRIS HOYT
Join us for our annual professional seminar in partnership with SMU. This annual continuing education event helps professional advisors develop specific strategies to integrate philanthropy into their practices.

TOPICS:
I. Retirement Assets for First and Second Marriages: Let the Fun Begin
II. Income Tax Savings With Charitable Bequests: IRD and Income-based Bequests
III. So, You Wanna Be a Philanthropist?

MAY 10
PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR
FEATURING CHRIS HOYT

JUNE 26–27
COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS MODELS 2018 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
Convening statewide leaders, teachers and administrators from Early College High School, T-STEM and Industry Cluster Innovative Academies for an annual leadership summit in Arlington.

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.CFTEXAS.ORG/EVENTS

MAJOR SPONSOR:

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Register online and see our additional sponsors at www.CFTexas.org/seminar2018.

MCLE/CPE/CFP continuing education credit hours offered. No prerequisite required.