

O'Neill Foundation

William J. & Dorothy K.



December 2021

Front Cover Image: ONF's 2Gen/DIG grantee partner: [Literacy Partners](#) (New York, NY) who was recently featured in the New York Times. [Read "Safety Nets That Sustain Community"](#) and check out the beautiful profile of Antonia Bernal (with her daughter, Alexa), an inspiring woman, dedicated mom, and student who enrolled in Literacy Partners' English for Parents program last year.

Leadership

Trustees

Bob Donahey, Chair
Laura Bower
Linda France Clifford
Mary France Walker
David Donahey, Treasurer
Tim O'Neill, Secretary
Brian Sweeney
William J. O'Neill, Jr., Emeritus
Leslie Perkul, President & CEO

Committee 1

Cindy O'Neill, Chair
David Donahey
Kevin McShane
Kelly Sweeney McShane
John O'Neill
Maureen O'Neill
Tim O'Neill
Brian Sweeney
Molly Sweeney

Committee 3

Laura Bower, Chair
Linda Clifford
Bob Donahey
Will Donahey
Connie Bowen
George Korzensky
Katy Marcus
Kim Polo
Meg Sweeney
Molly Sweeney

Investment Committee

David Donahey, Chair
Bob Donahey
Tim O'Neill
Will Donahey, Observer

NextGen/Youth Grantmaking Committees

There are no structured committees. Involvement is open to those that are interested.

2Gen/DIG Committee

David Donahey, Chair
Connie Bowen
Laura Bower
Linda Clifford
Bob Donahey
Will Donahey
George J. Korzensky
Kelly McShane
Katy Marcus
Bill O'Neill
Cindy O'Neill
Kathy O'Neill
John O'Neill
Maureen O'Neill
Tim O'Neill
Sara Sullivan
Brian Sweeney

NextGen Advisory Committee

Brian Sweeney, Chair
Sara Sullivan
Maureen O'Neill

Staff

Marlene Corrado, Program Officer, Communications & NextGen Engagement
Marci Lu, Senior Program Officer
Kara McCullough, Grants Manager
Leslie Perkul, President & CEO
Lisytt Stallworth, Office Operations Coordinator

Mission

To partner with nonprofits to improve the quality of life for families and communities, in places where O'Neill family members live.

Vision

Strong communities where families thrive.

Values

Respect & Transparency
Inclusion & Diversity
Effectiveness
Skill Building & Shared Learning
Enthusiasm

Letter from the Chair



Earlier this week, ONF's Trustees discussed the strategic planning work that has taken place over the past year.

We're grateful for the input that many of you shared. And we know there will be more work for us all in the coming year. **After all, this [strategic planning] work is a journey that will help prepare us for the future.** No one said it would be easy!

This Christmas season, I think it would be great for us all to roll up our sleeves – and focus on connecting as a family.

The holidays can be a great time to slow down and engage in conversation. Use this time to be curious. Look to your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and siblings; ask questions; listen; and learn from one another.

As being a History Major in College, it shouldn't surprise you that I'm always thinking about the past, present, and future... and wondering where to start when it comes to leadership here at the Foundation.

Here are a few ideas that I came up with:

- Read "The Red Hand Forever" – Let me know if you'd like to receive a hard copy. I have a box of these at my house!
- [Watch Bill O'Neill's video](#) – This video first aired at our family gathering in Denver (back in 2019). It's a great way to learn about our family's history.
- [Listen to the recorded conversation](#) about my first memories, lessons learned, and proudest moments that I had with the Foundation's staff and the NextGen (back in 2019).

When it comes to building connection and passing on the O'Neill family's legacy, let's make it fun!

Please contact me any time – I'd love to hear from you!

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

Bob Donahey, Chair

Email: derryheir1@aol.com

Cell phone: 440-463-7224



Letter from the CEO

At the end of last year, we wrote that we would begin a strategic planning process in 2022, starting with a look at the values that guide the work of ONF.

As most of you know, we engaged 21/64 to work with the O'Neill family to arrive at some consensus about the values that mattered the most to you as they relate to the Foundation.

This required input from a large group of O'Neill family members – THANK YOU!

WHAT'S BEEN DONE TO DATE:

- **30** family members responded to a survey (May – June 2021)*
- **20** family members participated in an individual interview (June – August 2021)*
- **26** family members participated in a focus group (October – November 2021)*
- **5** staff participated in a focus group
- **120** grantees received surveys; 86 grantees responded

**Note: Some O'Neill family members participated in more than one activity.*

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

After collecting input from the O'Neill family, the top values identified by YOU include:

1. Impact
2. Relationships
3. Community
4. Effectiveness

WHAT'S NEXT?

We will move to the next step of creating our strategy! Stay tuned for more information on how you can be involved. In the meantime, if you have any additional input, ideas, or feedback about the strategic planning process, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Leslie Perkul, President & CEO

DOROTHY K. O'NEILL

December 30th

Dear Sister Maureen,
I can't tell you how delighted I am to have the pretty centerpiece to add to the Holiday decorations. It looks perfect on the buffet in my dining room. Thank you so much for that nice thought. I was just down of you.

Congratulations for all ^{the good} things and exceptional progress you are making at your school. I read The Bulletin from cover to cover.

Letters from Dorothy O'Neill

ONF staff recently acquired several handwritten letters – such as the one referenced above – from one of its Cleveland-based grantees, the [Urban Community School](#) (UCS).

➤ *Contact Marlene to view the letters from 1985, 1986, 1993, 1992, and 1997.*

UCS was first funded by ONF in 1988 and continues to be a long-standing grantee partner. This year, the Responsive Grantmaking Committee approved a \$70,000 multi-year grant for UCS: \$35,000 to be paid in 2021 and \$35,000 to be paid in 2023.

UCS has educated generations of economically disadvantaged preschool – 8th grade children and embeds itself into the surrounding neighborhood by forging partnerships with stakeholders and service providers. To support the whole family, UCS is transforming its campus into a wraparound community network through the addition of a new MetroHealth Community Health Center and a new Early Childhood Care and Learning Center.

For more information...

- [Tour the New Health Center that Provides Medical Care to +600 Students and Their Families](#)
- [Hear From Some of UCS' Students & Families](#)

FUN FACT: Sister Maureen Doyle, UCS' former Director who retired in 2019, [pictured below with the children] used to call Dorothy "Aunt Dot".





RG Grantee Featured on the Today Show

At-risk Latina youth gather across New York City to make friends and manage their mental health at Comunilife's Life is Precious Program. Pictured above, the students opened up to Carson Daly about how Comunilife's after-school suicide prevention program has changed their lives.



[Watch the segment / Meet the teens and learn about the program >](#)

Trustees Approve \$2,191,125 for RG Grants

The Responsive Grantmaking Committees expedited their second grantmaking cycle in 2021. Of the 52 organizations that received grants totaling \$1,601,125 in 2021, 23 organizations received additional support, totaling \$720,000, as multi-year gifts to be awarded in 2023.



[View the approved grants from Cycle 2, 2021 >](#)

What We Learned from the RG Grant Reports

Staff were amazed by the resilience, creativity, and compassion of ONF's grantees partners. Although grantees were not asked to speak to any specific topics, 10 key themes emerged from the grant reports.

- 1 Experienced an Increased Demand for Services
- 2 Met Basic Needs
- 3 Introduced New & Expanded Programs
- 4 Provided Digital Support
- 5 Provided Cash Assistance & Care Packages
- 6 Worked Alongside Families
- 7 Invested in Staff Capacity
- 8 Pursued Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Agendas
- 9 Navigated Fundraising Challenges
- 10 Established & Strengthened Partnerships



[Read the Cycle 1 – 2020 grant report summary \(Committee 1\) >](#)

[Read the Cycle 1 – 2020 grant report summary \(Committee 3\) >](#)



Trustees Approve \$1M in Community Collaborations

The Responsive Grantmaking Committees approved the family's grant recommendations for community collaboration grantmaking across ONF's 8 communities.

One of the selected community collaboration funds, [Hunger Free Vermont](#) (pictured above), is developing a strategic network of partnerships – including: businesses, school districts, nonprofits, healthcare entities, government agencies, and communities of faith – at the local, county, state, and national levels to end hunger and malnutrition in Vermont. At the national level, Hunger Free Vermont works with the Food Research and Action Council and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities to propose administrative and legislative changes to the federal nutrition program to better support rural and isolated communities.



[View the approved community collaboration grants >](#)

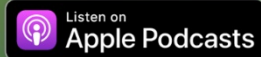


We are so excited to have an opportunity to partner with the O'Neill Foundation to more quickly bring an end to hunger in Rutland and Bennington Counties – and all throughout Vermont.



We are moved that you have chosen to award us additional funding to support our focus on collaborative work, and we fully intend to expand this emphasis in 2022 and the years to come.

– Anore Horton, Executive Director, Hunger Free Vermont



Funding What Works: How Donors Can Invest in Whole Family Programs

Too many of America’s working, low-income families are one crisis or one paycheck away from falling into poverty. The Whole Family Approach, a family-led strategy, equips families with the tools and social support needed to strengthen their relationships, establish stability and plan for their future.

The Pascale Sykes Foundation presents, *Working Together for Working Families*, a podcast series of timely discussions with leaders in the field of family services. In their latest podcast episode, you'll hear Leslie Perkul, ONF’s President & CEO and Marjorie Sims, Managing Director of Ascend at the Aspen Institute speak to why a whole-family, 2Gen approach to family empowerment works and why resources allocated toward such efforts are as relevant as ever.



2Gen/DIG Update

[November 2021] The 2Gen/Deep Impact Grantmaking (DIG) Committee was joined by [Educational Alliance](#) who presented their plans integrate high-quality, early childhood education with wraparound services so that families can build the skills and social capital needed to succeed.



[Watch Educational Alliance’s presentation >](#)

The following grants were recommended by the 2Gen/DIG Committee and approved by the Trustees:

Approved DIG Grants		
Organization	Grant Amount	Project Title
Educational Alliance	\$300,000 over 2 years	Family Development Programs
Center for Urban Families	\$450,000 over 3 years	2Gen Ecosystem in Baltimore
CHN Housing Partners	\$100,000 over 18 months	Cleveland Scholar House
University Hospitals	\$100,000 over 12 months	Sustainable approach to dyadic mental health care for mothers and infants at the Rainbow Center

Approved DIG Program Related Expenses		
Organization	Grant Amount	Purpose
Ascend at The Aspen Institute	\$100,000	To support ONF’s continued philanthropic partnership



One NextGen Grantee's Tiny Home Villages

In 2020, the Trustees approved NextGen grant recommendations for housing focused grantees located in Chicago, New York, and Colorado. One NextGen grantee, the [Colorado Village Collaborative](#) (CVC), builds and operates tiny home villages.

During the Pandemic, CVC pivoted to bring Safe Outdoor Spaces (SOS) to Denver. These temporary, secure sites house up to 50 or more residents. CVC served people at two SOS sites and helped people transition into more stable housing. As CVC launches its third SOS at the Denver Health Medical Center campus, it's also preparing to build a fourth site in Northeast Denver that is projected to open in mid-December.

CVC achieved these outcomes while supporting a staff of 25 with livable wages and benefits that include 100%, employer-paid health care. Three of their staff members were able to purchase homes this year, two of whom have homelessness-to-homeownership stories.

For more information, watch...

- [Mile High Living Interview with CVC Executive Director, Cole Chandler](#)
- [NBC News Coverage: Denver Looks to Expand City-sanctioned Campsites](#)

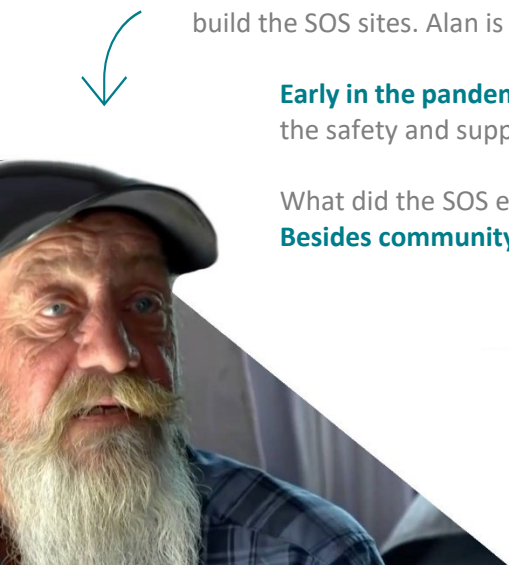
➤ *Contact Marlene to receive updates from the NextGen grantees and/or full grant reports.*

This is Alan. Alan has been in the construction business for years; CVC is lucky to have Alan helping to build the SOS sites. Alan is also a resident.

Early in the pandemic, Alan was evicted from the apartment he'd lived in for 15 years. Thanks to the safety and support of the SOS program, Alan will move into his own place soon.

What did the SOS experience provide for Alan?

Besides community, he appreciates knowing where he'll sleep every night.



2022 IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL 4, 12:30pm ET | Trustee Meeting

JUNE 13, 12:30pm ET | Trustee Meeting

SEPTEMBER 12, 12:30pm ET | Trustee Meeting

DECEMBER 12, 12:30pm ET | Trustee Meeting

IN THE FIELD

WEBINAR – Complexities of the Collective: Balancing Individual and Family Interests

FEBRUARY 16 | 12pm – 1 :15 PM ET

Presented by the National Center for Family Philanthropy

For many, family philanthropy presents an opportunity to create a shared experience, unifying the family by working together toward a lasting legacy of impact. Family philanthropy can also give participants an opportunity to explore and cultivate their personal philanthropic passions. Yet there is an inherent tension between these two goals, and many families struggle with how to address it—especially as families become larger and more complex over time.

In this session, we explore how families navigate this dilemma, hearing from the experiences of peer family funders and researchers examining this issue in a study of family foundations.

➤ To register, please contact Marlene.