

# O'Neill Foundation

William J. & Dorothy K.



**July 2021**

**Front Cover Image:** ONF's grantee partner: [The Family Place](#) (DC)

# 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  
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## Committee 1

Cindy O'Neill, Chair  
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Maureen O'Neill  
Tim O'Neill  
Brian Sweeney  
Molly Sweeney

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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  
Molly 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

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

**Our Vision:** Strong communities where families thrive.



# Letter from the Chair

Earlier this year, a small committee consisting of myself, Brian Sweeney, and Mary France Walker began working with President & CEO, Leslie Perkul to select the right group of consultants to help our family navigate the important conversations around values, grantmaking, and strategy.

We selected 21/64, a group that we've worked with before on other projects (e.g., our ONF family gatherings and NextGen/Youth work).

We wanted everyone in our family to have a seat at the table when planning for the future, so we started by issuing a strategic planning survey to the O'Neill family. **Thanks to all who provided feedback on the survey!**

**Next up, 21/64 will conduct a sampling of individual interviews to dive deeper and capture our family's diverse perspectives across branches and generations.** The survey and interview information will be shared with all of you during a series of small group discussions where you can discuss values with other members of your family.

**We're excited to see where the strategic planning conversations and data will take us.** If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me, your family representative, or the Foundation's staff.

Bob Donahey, Chair

**Make Your  
Family  
Directed  
Gift Today!**

It's never too early...

The deadline to allocate your contribution is Nov. 30th.





# Letter from the CEO

Earlier this summer we received grant reports from the Cycle 1 – 2020 Responsive Grantees. This was significant for several reasons:

**First, 2020 was the first year that we made a switch from supporting specific organizational projects to providing all general operating support.** Our Trustees had made this shift prior to the Pandemic, in response to emerging best practices in the field of philanthropy. Once we were into the pandemic, it became the best and most common practice among foundations of all sizes.

**Second, due to the pandemic, we were no longer able to conduct in-person site visits and made a switch to clarifying phone calls to connect with applicants.** Given the many challenges that organizations faced as they had to shut down and re-tool programming for a virtual world, this flexibility was greatly appreciated. It also demonstrated the trust we had in our grantee partners.

**Third, the Trustees entrusted the final allocations at the grantmaking committee level.** This allowed the Foundation to release dollars into the community in late April/early May 2020 rather than waiting for the June Trustee meeting; as had been our long-time practice.

As funders, we are one step removed from the direct service work that we contribute to. **Reading through these incredible stories of perseverance, flexibility, commitment, and creativity shared by our grantees brought the pandemic to light in a different way.**

**Across the board, organizations saw a tremendous increase in service requests – some by as much as 500%!** They creatively sourced technology for their staff and clients to allow for maximum “zoom” participation; they brought on mental health coaches to address the growing demand for services; they raised money and redistributed it to families to help them meet basic needs; they opened new homeless shelters and moved families out of shelters to meet social distancing guidelines; they closed their preschools and then reopened at reduced capacity to support the essential workers.

**Kudos to the staff and leadership of the grantee organizations who showed up for families and led them through this challenging time.**

We have one more round of Responsive Grantmaking this year. We would welcome your participation in learning first-hand about the organizations and the great work they do in your communities.

Leslie Perkul, President & CEO





*Horton's Kids (DC) partners closely with parents to promote their children's progress, while providing families with essential resources that reduce stress and promote stability.*

## One Family's Story

When Wellington Park resident Akilah\* lost her job due to layoffs from Covid-19, her first thought was how she would cover the utility bills for the month. As her first stimulus check dwindled, the financial burden began to take its toll on Akilah and her family.

Akilah's 14-year-old daughter Courtney started her ninth-grade year online and began struggling with the new remote learning environment and was falling behind. With Akilah's energy focused on managing the household and searching for a new job, she had trouble finding the time to help Courtney with her schoolwork. With so much on her plate, Akilah found herself feeling overwhelmed, anxious, and alone.

**As part of Horton's household and family engagement structure, Akilah was able to check-in weekly with staff and speak candidly about the challenges she faced. She was able to access resources to help cover some of her utility bills and access employment resources to help with her job search.**

**Horton's Kids staff worked with Akilah to connect her to a therapist and critical mental health resources. Her daughter also worked with Horton's mental health specialist to create a positive coping and resilience plan to help process the additional trauma and feelings of isolation caused by the pandemic.**

With Horton's wraparound interventions and deep trusting relationships, Akilah was able to find positive ways to cope, and connect to resources that will help her and her family into the future.

*\* The names in this story have been changed to protect the identity of the individuals.*



Greg Guarjardo is a single father with three daughters: ages 7, 12, and 16. He was living paycheck to paycheck, until [Northwest Assistance Ministries \(TX\)](#) provided assistance.

## Another Family's Story

Greg owns his own business as a mobile mechanic, and typically worked on three or four cars a day. But when the stay-at-home orders took effect in Houston and Harris County (TX), people stopped driving their cars. Greg's business slowed, then screeched to a halt.

**Without money coming in, Greg fell behind on his rent. Letters from the apartment complex said they would be evicted or locked out of their apartment if they didn't pay.**

**Greg was preparing to sell everything he owned to pay the rent. But thankfully, someone told him about Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM).** After approving his application, NAM paid three months of the family's rent.

As the city began to reopen, Greg and his girls could see the hope they had been given. **"This time actually made us grow more together,"** said his daughter. **"The whole family – it made us grow more together and realize what family is."**

## Celebrating Our Grantee Partner

Ms. Koube Ngaaje, Executive Director of the [District Alliance for Safe Housing \(DASH-DC\)\\*](#) was accepted and joined the Leadership Greater Washington Class of 2020.

This year, Leadership Greater Washington is proud to honor Koube and DASH for their extraordinary response in safeguarding survivors of domestic violence and their children, especially with the extra challenges the pandemic imposed.

The LGW Community Partner of the Year Award presented by The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation recognizes outstanding leadership by an LGW member in the DC region's non-profit sector.

*\*DASH has been a Responsive Grantmaking grantee for several years and received multi-year RG funding in C1-2021.*



*“WOW... I can't express how much this incredibly generous multi-year commitment from the Foundation means to all of us at Martha's Table and the families in our community. Thank you, thank you, truly.”*

- Dan Schiff, Martha's Table (DC)

## Trustees Approve \$1.1M for RG Grants

The Responsive Grantmaking Committees expedited their first grantmaking cycle in 2021. Of the 35 organizations that received funding, 19 organizations received additional support as multi-year gifts (totaling \$680,000).



[View the list of approved grants from Cycle 1, 2021 >](#)

## Trustees Approve \$375K for 2Gen/DIG Grantee

[May 2021] The 2Gen/Deep Impact Grantmaking (DIG) Committee was joined by the staff of [Cuyahoga Community College – Tri-C \(OH\)](#), which is launching a whole family approach for non-traditional students in its adult learning and workforce training programs.



[Watch Tri-C's presentation >](#)

[June 2021] The 2Gen/DIG Committee's grant recommendation for Tri-C was approved by the Trustees with \$125,000 to be allocated each year, for 3 years.

The Trustees also approved two Program Related Expenses to support the 2Gen/DIG strategy: \$25,000 for the Literacy Cooperative's 2Gen intermediary work and \$65,000 for mini grants to help grantees build their capacity to put 2Gen principles into action.



# ASPEN FORUM ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

A CONVENING TO ADVANCE  
FAMILY WELL-BEING

[Watch the session  
recordings >](#)

 **ASCEND**  
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE



[June 2021] [Ascend at the Aspen Institute](#) convened more than 1,200 bold and innovative leaders – including parents, practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and philanthropists – who are building more equitable pathways for children and families to reach their full potential.



[Watch the session recordings >](#)

[Watch a short video – “Voices from the Field” – to see how ONF’s grantees and Ascend’s other Network Partners are using the 2Gen approach >](#)

## Voices from the Field

The video (link above) was aired during Ascend’s Forum on Children and Families and features 2 of ONF’s 2Gen/DIG grantee partners: [Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood](#) and [Cuyahoga Community College](#), as well as 1 of ONF’s Responsive Grantmaking grantees, [Bright Beginnings](#), among others.

### What does 2Gen mean to you?

“2Gen means to me, working with our parents and allowing them to guide our work together. It means supporting caregivers, parents, students, and extended household members in their success.”

- Richaun Bunton, Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood



### What gives you hope right now?

“Us being in this program together that we’re going to finally walk the stage and make it and be able to succeed and go on to bigger and better things. But without this program I don’t think it would have been possible.”

- Theresa Crute, Parent, Cuyahoga Community College







## Convenings for 2Gen/DIG Partners

Staff hosted two 2Gen Learning Community sessions for ONF's grantee partners to learn about and discuss the future of care coordination, developing a shared language and common data model, and technology platforms and data integration tools.



[Watch the full webinar – 2Gen Care Coordination: Measuring Impact >](#)

[Watch Education Alliance's Case Study – Integrated Data Systems >](#)

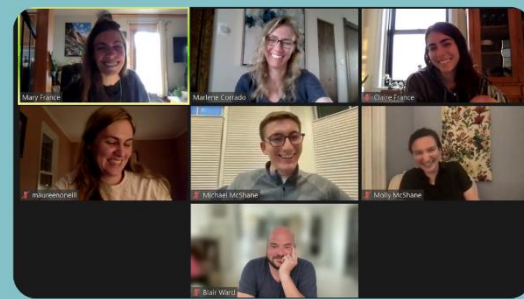
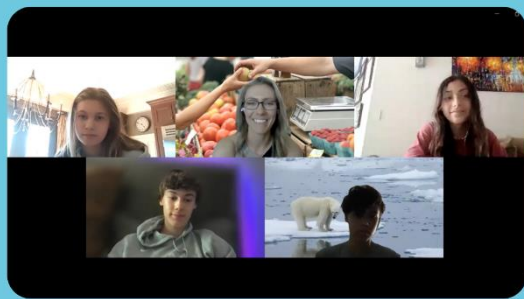
*“I liked the way the two sessions connected. The first provided valuable information from all 3 speakers. The second gave us all a chance to ask questions and discuss issues raised by the first session.”*

**- Anonymous Participant**

Thanks those who showed up for our 1st Youth call (for those under 15)!

Thanks those who showed up for our 1st NextGen call (for those 15-21)!

Thanks those who showed up for our NextGen call (for those 21-30)!



Loved hearing about the social causes that you care about!

Loved hearing about your experiences and the social causes that matter to you!

Thanks for reviewing proposals, providing recommendations, and asking such thoughtful questions!

## Trustees Approve \$400K in NextGen Grants

NextGen (21 – 30 year olds) recommended 10 organizations for funding, all of which were located in communities where the NextGen are living and engaged in the work of the Foundation.

This year, the group’s grantmaking guidelines prioritized smaller, grassroots organizations whose work aligns with ONF’s focus area (Health & Well-Being). This was also the first year that the NextGen started to apply a racial justice lens to their grantmaking.

## Summer Convenings

Special thanks to the O’Neill youth (those under 15) & NextGen (15 – 21 year olds) who gathered virtually to learn about the Foundation and discuss the social causes that matter most to them.

This year, the Board approved \$100K for the Youth/NextGen budget, and we can’t wait to engage everyone in another round of grantmaking!

**Save the Date & help us Spread the Word to the Youth & NextGen**

**Wednesday, July 28**

**For youth (under 15):**

We'll Zoom | 4pm - 5pm ET

**For NextGen (15 - 21):**

We'll Zoom | 6pm - 7pm ET



# 2021 IMPORTANT DATES

## July

**July 28, 4pm ET**

Youth Call (for those under 15)

**July 28, 6pm ET**

NextGen Call (for those 15 – 21)

## August

**August 16, 3pm ET**

Investment Committee Meeting

## September

**September 13, 12:30pm ET**

Trustee Meeting

## November


**November 15, 3pm ET**

Investment Committee Meeting

## December

**December 13, 12:30pm ET**

Trustee Meeting



IN THE FIELD      JULY 21, 10AM-12PM

2021  
2GEN SUMMIT

Join Cleveland's Literacy Cooperative for their 4th annual event spotlighting whole family services and 5 of ONF's grantee partners.

REGISTER

## Don't Forget to Follow us on Instagram!

ONF has a private Instagram account – @oneill\_foundation – intended for O'Neill family members and Foundation staff.

