

O'Neill Foundation

William J. & Dorothy K.



April 2022

Front Cover Image: ONF's RG grantee partner: [Children's Health Fund](#) (New York, NY) provided critical care and support to the Mellette family – with father (Brandon) and son (Lobo) pictured.

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

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
Kevin McShane
Katy Marcus
Bill O'Neill
Cindy O'Neill
Kathy O'Neill
John O'Neill
Maureen O'Neill
Tim O'Neill
Brian Sweeney
Mary France Walker

Strategic Planning Committee

Bob Donahey
Maureen O'Neill
Molly McShane
Sara O'Neill Sullivan
Brian Sweeney
Mary France Walker

Staff

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

Letter from the Chair



I'd like to take a moment to celebrate what we all accomplished at year-end (2021).

For Family Directed Giving, nearly \$400,000 was allocated with a family participation rate of 91.5%!

You all have really stepped up to plate, helping us get closer to our 100% Family Directed Giving goal. As for this year, I'm confident that we can do even better!

We're moving the Family Directed Giving deadline to October 31st – Halloween, a date that's easy for us all (even the kids!) to remember.

Let's Keep it Simple!

Just as before, staff will continue to process requests through email and phone – in whatever way is convenient.

The Family Directed Giving form is available [HERE](#) and on the family portal. You can call, text, email, or send a spreadsheet outlining the information that's included on the form. Any way will work!

For assistance, you can contact ONF's Grants Manager, Kara McCullough, by email: kmccullough@oneill-foundation.org or by phone: 216-831-4134 x 102.

What's New in 2022

The Foundation's staff has been busy setting up a new grants management system (Fluxx) which will hopefully make it easier for us all to process our requests.

In Fluxx, the hope is that you will be able to:

- View your Family Directed giving history;
- Look up a new organization that you're interested in giving to, to make sure that the organization is a qualified 501(c)3; and
- Fill out a short request form to designate a Family Directed gift.

Once Fluxx is ready to go "live", the Foundation's staff will offer trainings and resources for how to use the new system. Please stay tuned!

If you have questions, you can also reach out to me – I'd love to hear from you!

Bob Donahey, Chair

Email: derryheir1@aol.com
Cell phone: 440-463-7224



Letter from the CEO

A year ago, we began a new strategic planning process. As noted then, it had been a decade since the vision, mission, and values that guide our work were agreed upon.

An extensive data collection process yielded some proposed changes to the vision, values and mission (still in draft, on page 10). What remains the same: the importance of making an **impact** with our grant dollars and **engaging O’Neill family members** in the foundation’s work.

The strategic planning committee – Bob Donahey, Brian Sweeney, Mary France Walker, Molly McShane, Maureen O’Neill, and Sara O’Neill Sullivan – has been meeting both with the facilitators from 21/64 and as a small group to craft new ideas around impactful grantmaking and family engagement.

They will be sharing more information along the way. In the meantime, the Foundation continues its current grantmaking programs.

We are currently in the middle of the first cycle of Responsive Grantmaking. While we had hoped to be back in communities making in-person site visits this cycle, we determined that it is better to wait for Cycle 2 as many grantee partners are still navigating their way back to in-person work! We still hope to reconnect in-person in 2022.

Happy Spring!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leslie Perkul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leslie Perkul, President & CEO



One Family's Story

At the height of the pandemic in New York, Dalliana and Brandon Mellette took off to a birthing center in Brooklyn. In less than 24 hours, baby Lobo was born and was back home.

Lobo came into the world at a time of unprecedented crisis. With a raging pandemic happening in New York, hospitals were eager to minimize the time patients spent in healthcare settings.

Dr. Robin Scott from the Bronx Health Collective – a program supported by ONF's grantee partner, the Children's Health Fund – had been Brandon's pediatrician since inception and also cared for many members of his family.

“Dr. Scott was someone that I knew I wanted to take care of Lobo. She has been taking care of all the Mellettes. Me, my sisters, my aunts, my cousins, everyone.”

The pandemic caused Dalliana and Lobo to be released from the birthing center when he was only a few hours old. Two days later, at Lobo's first pediatric appointment, Dr. Scott noticed that he looked a little yellow, as if he were jaundiced.

When the labs came back, they confirmed that he had elevated levels of bilirubin, a common newborn problem. (If his bilirubin levels got high enough, they could cause permanent brain damage). Baby Lobo needed to go to the hospital immediately for treatment.



WATCH THE VIDEO

Navigating healthcare settings during the pandemic was not easy, but Dr. Scott made the calls and arrangements to ensure all was ready when Dalliana and Lobo arrived at the hospital. What could have been a very serious situation during the pandemic, was not.



ONF's DIG Grantee Featured on the Today Show

At Community of Hope (COH) Birth Center, midwife Ebony Marcelle helps address the inequities in maternity care.

“The way our maternity care system is set up, everybody is kind of treated with the same kind of cookie-cutter care. The problem is when you’re dealing with communities that are filled with food deserts, high rates of violence (and) histories of trauma, that care is not fitting for them.”



– Ebony Marcelle, Director of Midwifery at Community of Hope

[Watch the segment on the Today Show >](#)

[Read about COH's New Birthing Center in the Washington Post >](#)

2Gen/DIG Update

[January 2022] The 2Gen Learning Community convened to discuss parent engagement and leadership practices. The group was joined by Sarah Haight, Director of 2Gen Practice, who provided updates from Ascend at the Aspen Institute.



According to the latest 2Gen grantee partner survey, below are a few examples of how ONF's grantee partners are using family voice to shape their 2Gen programs:



Created Facebook groups, advisory boards, and focus groups for families to engage with each other, ask questions, and share experiences.



Hired a student-parent Program Coordinator to shape service delivery and accessibility.



Enrolled 2Gen ambassadors to recruit other families.



Involved young adults in canvassing efforts and solicited their creativity.



Supporting Families with Pre-School-Aged Children

ONF's 2Gen/DIG grantee partner, Family Partners, is an initiative of the Sisters of Charity Foundation & Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood.

When Family Partners wrapped up its inaugural year in 2020, program adaptations to support families through COVID-19 were still necessary. Families engaged through virtual "home visits", telehealth sessions, and remote activities. Family Partners' staff navigated these shifts and have since added more activities to address the changing economic landscape, and meet families' increased needs for employment, food, and educational services.

ONF funded the first three years of the Family Partners program. Now in Y3, they are focused on program and partner development and exploring ways to deepen the web of support for families.

Below are excerpts from the [2021 Family Partners Evaluation](#), a supplemental resource provided along with their grant report. (To review Family Partners' grant report, contact Marci Lu).

“This program helped me become a better me, a better parent. As a mother, and a woman, as a single mother fighting generational poverty. This program has changed my life for the better.

– Advisory Committee Member

“I met new people and gained new techniques... [The weekly Family Café] is a family outside of family. It's good to talk to people you do not know when you are going through some things.

– Family Partners Caregiver

“[Parents] are showing up, not just for the activity, but because of the relationships and things they gain from being connected with staff. They see Family Partners as an important support system for them.

– Family Partner Staff



Where are They Now?

[December 2019] The Trustees approved a \$100,000 grant for the Working Communities Challenge (WCC) in Vermont.



WCC's initiative supports diverse, local teams as they tackle complex challenges facing their communities. With a focus on creating economic opportunities for communities and residents with low incomes, this three-year grant competition is supported by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the State of Vermont, national and local philanthropy, and private sector employers.

[Spring 2022] Vermont provided \$2.32M to expand WCC, doubling the number of community teams (WCC's grant awardees) that are tackling tough, local economic issues such as aging populations, low labor force participation, and entrepreneurship. One of WCC's newest teams is in Southern Vermont and plans to establish initiatives that grow and retain a diverse workforce in Bennington and Windham counties.

ONF staff recently connected ONF's Vermont DIG partner with WCC. We were pleased to learn they shared their learnings from the DIG planning process about ways to improve state and local services to help parents and families.

In June 2022, all WCC's regional teams will meet for their first, in-person statewide gathering.



[Read more about WCC's Southern VT grantee >](#)

[Read the Press Release >](#)

Emerging Family Leaders in Philanthropy: Navigating Cross-Generational Relationships and Cultivating Personal Leadership

NextGen Learning in the Field

[March 2022] Alissa Casazza and Mary France Walker joined other NextGen for a conversation about building leadership within family spaces. The National Center for Family Philanthropy's [Emerging Family Leaders Peer Network](#) provides an opportunity for next generation family members (ages: 21 – 45) to advance their grantmaking and leadership development, both personally and professionally.



This was my first time participating in a [National Center for Family Philanthropy] NCFP program. Despite the differences in size, structure, and specific interests of each unique family foundation, there were many commonalities in both challenges and steps taken to overcome them to run a successful, as well as impactful, philanthropic organization. A few of the obstacles that we discussed were adjusting operations through Covid, participation and the involvement of younger generations, and strengthening relationships between multiple generations.



I was very pleased and proud that the O'Neill Foundation has been proactive and (in my opinion) well ahead of the curve in navigating through, as well as overcoming, many of these challenges. **I believe that the sharing of knowledge, experiences, collaboration, and encouraged participation throughout multiple generations within a family foundation are the keys to success. I think we are on the right path and am very excited to see where the road takes us!**

– Alissa Casazza



After participating on a panel of NextGen members from foundations across the country, we feel very confident about where our family is with our own foundation. **Hearing others' stories made it clear to us that we are in a great place with the work that we do as a family.**



We are putting a huge focus on family engagement and participation, specifically with the younger generations and we believe that will take us far. **We are excited to see where the strategic planning process takes us as a family and as a foundation!**

– Mary France Walker

Strategic Planning Update

Thanks to the Strategic Planning Committee's great work and input from O'Neill family members, ONF staff, and grantee partners over the last year, we are pleased to share the Foundation's draft mission, vision, and values.

Please stay tuned for more information about the strategic planning work.

(Current) Mission, Vision, & Values

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

(Draft) Mission, Vision, & Values

Mission

The William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation is a family led initiative working collectively to invest in effective nonprofits that change lives.

Vision

Strong communities where families rise each morning with joy, live each day with purpose, and rest each night with peace.

Values

Family
Community
Impact
Dignity

2022 IMPORTANT DATES

JUNE 13, 12:30pm ET | Trustee Meeting

SEPTEMBER 12, 12:30pm ET | Trustee Meeting

DECEMBER 12, 12:30pm ET | Trustee Meeting

In Case you Missed it...



[WATCH THE RECORDING](#)

[Complexities of the Collective: Balancing Individual and Family Interests](#)

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.



[WATCH THE RECORDING](#)

[Pluralism in Family Philanthropy: Navigating Tensions & Bridging Divides for Impact](#)

In an increasingly divisive society, people are facing complex, challenging dialogues around politics, ethics, and social issues, struggling to manage perspectives across the political aisle and facilitate healthy discourse with multiple viewpoints. In this webinar, learn more about the concept of pluralism—people of varied backgrounds and beliefs building community, finding belonging, and drawing on their differences to solve shared problems—and explore the challenges and broader considerations of pluralism within a family philanthropy context.