

O'Neill Foundation

William J. & Dorothy K.



December 2019

Leadership

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Bob Donahey, Chair
David Donahey, Treasurer
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Brian Sweeney
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Investment Committee

David Donahey, Chair
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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
Molly Sweeney

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

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



Last week, the Trustees were joined by Anne Mosle of Ascend, at the Aspen Institute.

In [this recorded conversation](#), you'll hear Anne speak about their 2Gen work, which helps to strengthen families.

While listening to Anne speak, I was reminded of some of the Foundation's earlier work – back in the '90s – that supported fatherhood.

Back then, the O'Neill family and Foundation convened a group of experts to help them think of ways to promote stable families.

Some of you will remember the three-day symposium; our family listened to nearly two-dozen professionals speak about critical issues. In the discussions that followed, it was noted that although many programs existed for women and children, few resources were available to help men develop into strong, supportive fathers.

The Foundation would go on to support research and many organizations that were family/father-focused – ultimately, proving to be a real trail-blazer of its time.

Let's fast forward to the Foundation's work and the 2Gen/Deep Impact Grantmaking initiatives. The themes are the same.

2Gen is about improving the lives for children and their caregivers. 2Gen is “helping families”.

This newsletter outlines some of the great 2Gen work that's been happening in some of our communities through grants and connections to other resources. By working alongside great leaders like Ascend at the Aspen Institute, it gives me confidence that we're heading in the right direction.

I'll admit that I'm still learning about 2Gen too, and I encourage you to become involved with our 2Gen/DIG program and join me in this learning journey.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or the Foundation's staff.

Happy holidays!

Bob Donahey
Board Chair



ASPEN THINKXCHANGE: ADVANCING FAMILY PROSPERITY

October 15-18, 2019 • Aspen, Colorado

#FamiliesAscend

ASCEND
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

RELATIONAL PHILANTHROPY: LEARNING ALONGSIDE OUR 2GEN GRANTEE PARTNERS

Reflections prepared by: Marci Lu, Senior Program Officer

As grantmakers, many of our conferences are for “funders-only.” This has always puzzled me, because we cannot achieve our missions alone. The Ascend ThinkXChange was a refreshing change, bringing together funders, parents, nonprofit practitioners, government workers, researchers, and policy advocates for four days of dynamic learning.



One direct benefit of ONF’s philanthropic partnership with Ascend is that six of our 2Gen/DIG grantee partners were able to attend and participate. This type of collective problem-solving propels the work forward and leads to better solutions.

“*Thank you so much for allowing me to participate in the Aspen gathering. It was a phenomenal event and inspired me to do even more with our [2Gen] work.*”

– Donna Lawrence, Educational Alliance, ONF 2Gen Grantee Partner & ThinkXChange Attendee

Ascend also provided us with a designated meeting space to host our own, in-person learning community during the convening. We used the allocated time with our grantee partners to accelerate relationships and promote the continued exchange of ideas and information.

A few key themes emerged:

- **For two-generation (2Gen) approaches to work, it’s essential to partner with families as equals.** The 2Gen approach involves families in analyzing where previous efforts have fallen short and what needs to be changed to make sure things work for all families. At ThinkXChange, Cuyahoga Community College learned what strong parent involvement actually looks like. As a result, they have developed a paid family advisory board to inform the design of their program model.
- **Being a 2Gen organization does not mean you alone must provide all the adult- and child-focused services a family may need.** It often makes the most sense to partner with other community organizations. Each grantee partner brings its own set of skills and services to ensure families receive

the full array of services needed. It took coming to Aspen for our three Cleveland 2Gen program managers to meet face-to-face. We are delighted to hear that they are exploring more formal ways to partner to help families realize their full potential.

- **Effective 2Gen work will require greater emphasis on changing organizational strategy, operations, and culture.** Each of our grantee partners rated the experience “extremely valuable” and left re-energized and more resolved to further their 2Gen work.



The ThinkXChange was among the most thoughtful and productive convenings I have attended. It offered the opportunity to discuss strategies for supporting whole family approaches and meet colleagues from across disciplines. It also offered sufficient time to reflect upon and re-engage in our own work, while meeting fellow O’Neill Foundation grantees.

– Anonymous, ONF 2Gen Grantee Partner & ThinkXChange Attendee

Opportunities such as ThinkXChange allow us to engage more deeply as a partner with nonprofits, funding colleagues and civic leaders; become knowledgeable on issues; develop trusting relationships; and be more proactive rather than reactive.

For more information about the 2019 ThinkXChange, read the [recap](#) or watch [two livestream](#) sessions.

INTRODUCING THE NEWEST 2GEN GRANTEE PARTNERS

In December, the Foundation’s Trustees approved the following 2Gen/DIG grants:

Friends of the Future: Learning to Thrive | \$100,000 over 18 months

Funding will help guide North Hawai’i Education and Research Center (NHERC) through exploring and adopting a 2Gen approach. NHERC is a remote education center under Hawai’i Community College in Hilo. It provides education and career pathway programs. If successful, NHERC could serve as a hub for improving family well-being in the Hamakua-North Hawai’i region.

Mercy Center: Familia Adelante/Family Forward | \$375,000 over 3 years

Funding will strengthen Familia Adelante, a collaboration that supports families seeking to improve their relationships, economic well-being, and educational outcomes. Now in its third year, additional funds will support ongoing work and enhance impact by adding a full-time Family Worker and a part-time Father’s Group Co-Facilitator, and increasing direct service hours of all the partners.

HOW ONE 2GEN GRANTEE PARTNER IS HELPING FAMILIES

[An excerpt from the PND Blog | June 25, 2019]

Picture this: In the New York City borough of the Bronx, Marlena and Jose Reyes had worked hard to provide for their family of four, often getting up before the sun rose to feed and get their children off to school before heading out to work. But their family hit hard times when Jose was injured on the job. The medical bills quickly added up, and, lacking disability coverage, he began to worry his family wouldn't be able to make ends meet. Soon, the family fell into financial crisis, and the threat of eviction became a very real and frightening possibility.



Fortunately, Marlena learned about a service provider collaborative in the community called [Familia Adelante](#) that could help.

Stories like those of the Reyeses are common inside the walls of Familia Adelante, which connects families with a range of services, from health care to educational support to job training, all in a single location.

Read the full blog post, [Collaboration Versus Competition: Funders Should Shift Their Giving Models to Better Support Families](#) >

DIVERSITY SHOULD START IN PRE-K

New York City is faced with a serious challenge: despite the diversity of the population, schools are more segregated now than they have ever been. Much of the debate about how to solve this problem has centered on elementary and high schools.

ONF's 2Gen/DIG grantee partner, Educational Alliance, believes it is equally important to talk about how the problem of segregation in schools begins long before a student sits for an admission test to Stuyvesant.

Recently, Educational Alliance's President & CEO, Alan va Capelle, co-authored an op-ed with Halley Potter, senior fellow at The Century Foundation, on the importance of diversity in early childhood education and the ways Educational Alliance is fighting against socioeconomic segregation in preschools.

By sharing what they have learned, they hope to further the conversation about integration in New York City's school system.

[Read the complete Op-Ed](#) >



[Image above: Mary McCane with grandson Zhion, 3, at Bright Beginnings in Southeast Washington. While he is in class, she takes advantage of other services, including help becoming a teaching assistant.]

OTHER ONF GRANTEES APPLYING 2GEN APPROACHES

[An excerpt from The Washington Post | November 17, 2019]

It wasn't long before everyone realized if a child can use help, a parent probably can, too. Today, Bright Beginnings embraces a two-generation approach that directs as much attention at Mom and Dad as at the child. And at grandparents, aunts and uncles, too.

"What I really like about Bright Beginnings is it's very family-oriented," McCane said. "They involve the families as much as possible, which is awesome to me."

Read the complete article, [At the Bright Beginnings preschool, it isn't just the students who get support](#) >



working communities challenge

TRUSTEES APPROVE SUPPORT FOR A LOCAL FUNDER COLLABORATIVE

This year, given the Foundation’s strong performance in the stock market and desire to meet the federal government’s payout tax rate, the Trustees approved a grant for the Working Communities Challenge in Vermont.

The Working Communities Challenge (WCC) supports local, collaborative leadership that builds strong economies and healthy communities in Vermont’s rural towns, regions, and smaller cities. This multiyear grant competition draws on Vermont’s commitment to build economic opportunity for communities and residents with low incomes. [Learn more about the Working Communities Challenge >](#)



As a new grantmaker to Vermont, the WCC provides us with a timely seat at the table – not only to align our funding with local community priorities but also to accelerate our learning in Vermont and form relationships with private, public and national funders looking to make a difference in rural communities.

– Marci Lu, Senior Program Officer

TRUSTEES APPROVE 42 GRANTS TOTALING \$1,342,700

For Responsive Grantmaking, there was excellent family participation in Cycle 2 with some of the NextGen participating for their first time! Family members engaged across family branches to learn together.

Cycle 2, 2019 Request Summary	Committee 1	Committee 3
Grants Awarded	18	24
Award Total	\$602,000	\$740,700

The Day 1 Families Fund

GRANTEE PARTNERS RECOGNIZED FOR HIGH-IMPACT, FAMILY-FOCUSED WORK

The second annual Bezos Day 1 Families Fund annual leadership awards were announced.

This year's 32 recipients from 23 states will receive immediate donations totaling \$98.5 million to support their work to provide shelter and support for young families in communities across the country.

The 2019 recipients include: ONF's current grantee partner, HOPE Services Hawaii (Hilo, HI); and ONF's past grantee partner, St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore (Baltimore, MD).

ISN'T THAT KELLY ON JEFF BEZOS' TWITTER PAGE? YES, IT IS!

[Watch Community of Hope's profile >](#)



Jeff Bezos  @JeffBezos · Nov 21

Excited to announce this year's Bezos Day One grants. Thank you to these 32 organizations in 23 states working to end homelessness. I recently spent time with the amazing team at Community of Hope in Washington, D.C. – one of last year's grantees. bezosdayonefund.org



64.4K views 0:43 / 2:05

547 351 1.9K



2019 NATIONAL FORUM ON FAMILY PHILANTHROPY

October 16–18, 2019
Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile

[Pictured left to right: The National Center for Family Philanthropy's 2019 National Forum on Family Philanthropy Attendees at an evening reception – Marlene Corrado, ONF staff; Connor McLaughlin, Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation; and Claire France, ONF NextGen]

A NEXTGEN'S PERSPECTIVE



I didn't exactly know what to expect going into this. I felt nervous, because I'm no expert in philanthropy, despite my keen interest. I have to say, deciding to carve out the time to meet Marlene at the NCFP conference was a decision I'll be glad that I made for a long time. [The Forum's sessions] were absolutely so relevant to my life. I found myself writing pages of notes, eagerly awaiting each session.

I think that all of NextGen should make the time to attend this conference at one point or another in order to be immersed in a space where we're all invited to participate in discussing family philanthropy outside of just our own family foundation.

It was great to be in a room full of people that also have the same questions, concerns, and passion with their family foundations, like we do with the O'Neill Foundation. We are not alone. I don't typically spend time with people who have family philanthropies, so being in a room full of people that have this commonality with us was very refreshing and oh-so enlightening!

– Claire France



Top 10 Most-Read CEP Blog Posts of 2019

WHAT WE'RE READING

On the Center for Effective Philanthropy (CEP) blog, 2019 has been a year of thought-provoking insights, illustrative stories of philanthropic effectiveness, and challenging questions for leaders in the philanthropic sector to consider.

[Here are the 10 most-read CEP blog posts of 2019 >](#)

“If foundations want to see the change we envision in the communities we care about become a reality, we need to relinquish the illusion of control that comes with awarding restricted program grants. Instead, we need to trust our grantees, who know these communities far better than we do, to call the shots.

– Karen FitzGerald, Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation

[An Excerpt from [General Operating Support and Relinquishing the Illusion of Control](#)]

INTRODUCING LISYTTE STALLWORTH

The newest member of ONF’s team, Lisytt Stallworth provides critical administrative and bookkeeping support for the Foundation’s grantmaking and office operations. Join us in welcoming Lisytt!



Lisytt Stallworth

Office Operations Coordinator

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LETTER FROM THE CEO



This past October, I had the opportunity – along with Marci Lu and six of our 2Gen DIG grantee partners – to attend the Ascend ThinkXChange: Family Prosperity at the Aspen Institute. Among the many keynotes and workshops, I attended a great session on framing the 2Gen work for greater impact. As I listened to the speaker talk about how to talk about 2Gen to policy makers, service providers and the general public so that they might have a better understanding of 2Gen and why is it different from what has been done in the past; it reminded me of conversations that I've had with various members of the O'Neill family as we have rolled out our 2Gen/DIG strategy over the past two years.

While it is true that we have supported whole family and family strengthening programs through our Responsive Grantmaking programs over the past 7 years, not all of the projects and organizations have worked through a 2Gen approach.

At its core, a Two-Generation (2Gen) approach is a way to build broader family well-being by intentionally and simultaneously working with children and the adults in their lives together.

When we support well-being, we make sure that everyone can reach their full-potential and contribute to our communities. Maximizing people's potential helps communities thrive.

As you read about how some of the 2Gen work that we have funded has progressed, I hope it becomes even more clear what we are supporting through the 2Gen/DIG grants. The feedback from our partners has been affirming, noting that it makes sense but it is not easy to do.

That's where the resources from grant dollars; technical assistance; and connection to national, state and local resources comes into play. Our goal is to build the capacity of organizations and collaborations to apply the 2Gen approach towards the goal of maximizing the potential of all people living in our communities.

We will continue to share learning opportunities with you all throughout the year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie Perkul". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Leslie Perkul
President & CEO

IN CASE YOU MISSED ANNE MOSLE'S PRESENTATION TO THE TRUSTEES...

Anne Mosle is a vice president at the Aspen Institute and executive director of Ascend at the Aspen Institute. In her current role at the Aspen Institute, she directs Ascend, the national hub for breakthrough ideas and collaborations that move vulnerable children and their parents towards educational success and economic security. Ascend has been a national leader in catalyzing a two-generation approach to breaking the cycle of poverty. Under Anne's leadership, Ascend has launched a national values-based fellowship program and is investing \$1.5 million in promising programs and policy solutions. In all its work, Ascend engages the voices of families and diverse leaders.



[Watch now >](#)

2020 IMPORTANT DATES

The following meetings will be open to all family members. Please contact the Foundation's staff to receive meeting materials and call instructions.

JANUARY

January 27 | TechBridge Client Journey Mapping Webinar for 2Gen Grantee Partners, 3pm – 4:30 pm ET

FEBRUARY

February 10 | Responsive Grantmaking Webinar for Grant Applicants

February 13 | [Livestream: Whole Family Approach Conference, 8am – 3:30pm ET](#)

February 24 | Investment Committee Meeting

February 27 | [Livestream: Cleveland City Club Conversation with Anne Mosle, 12pm – 1:30pm ET](#)

March

March 9 | Responsive Grantmaking Applications Due

APRIL

April 6 | Trustee Meeting

MAY

May 18 | Investment Committee Meeting

JUNE

June 22 | Trustee Meeting