

O'Neill Foundation

William J. & Dorothy K.



April 2020

Leadership

Trustees

Bob Donahey, Chair
Laura Bower
Linda France Clifford
David Donahey, Treasurer
Tim O’Neill, Secretary
Brian Sweeney
Mary France Walker
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

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
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



Last week, the Trustees convened for the first Board meeting of 2020.

The rapid spread of COVID-19 has created a global health and economic crisis that is testing every one of us. We know that the shocks of this “new normal” are severe and unanticipated, especially for ONF’s grantee partners.

Given the urgency of the situation, the Trustees approved:

- **ONF’s 2020 Grantmaking budget of \$5,471,000.**
- **\$1.1 million for the Responsive Grantmaking Committees (+/- \$550,000 per committee) to allocate at their discretion, moving funds quickly into their communities.**
- **\$1 million for rapid response funding to address the immediate COVID-19 needs across ONF’s 8 communities.**

This week, the Responsive Grantmaking Committees approved their cycle 1 grant dockets (several weeks ahead of schedule) and approved \$1 million for rapid response funding.

Rapid response funding allocations include:

Vermont

- [Stratton Community Foundation COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) | \$82,500

Washington, DC

- [Greater Washington Community Foundation COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund](#) | \$117,500
- [DC Education Equity Fund](#) | \$50,000

Anne Arundel County & Baltimore City, Maryland

- [United Way of Central Maryland: COVID-19 Community Fund](#) | \$92,500, *of which \$10,000 will be designated as pass through for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank*
- [The Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County: The Community Crisis Response Fund](#) | \$25,000
- [Anne Arundel Medical Center: COVID-19 Community Response Fund](#) | \$40,000
- [Anne Arundel Community College Foundation Helplink Fund](#) | \$10,000

New York, NY

- [NYC COVID-19 Response & Impact Fund](#) | \$132,500
- [Arab-American Family Support Center for COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund](#) | \$20,000
- [Jewish Board COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) | \$15,000

Cleveland, OH

- [Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund](#) | \$50,000
- University Hospitals COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund | \$117,500 *to support the UH COVID-19 Community Response Fund and UH COVID-19 Caregiver Support Fund*

Houston, TX

- [The Greater Houston COVID-19 Recovery Fund](#) | \$82,500

Orlando, FL

- Heart of Florida United Way | \$40,000
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida | \$30,000
- Homeless Services Network of Central Florida | \$12,500

Big Island, HI

- For needs that will be determined by O'Neill family members living on the Big Island | \$82,500

To meet the growing needs impacting our communities, ONF is joining other funders and leaders in the philanthropic sector by responding swiftly.

In an effort to communicate openly about our decision-making process, we're pleased to share that:

- Current grantee partners were notified that they can flex their grant dollars – by converting program or capacity building grants from 2019 to general operating support – to best meet the immediate needs of their organization.
- ONF's Trustees already approved a shift to general operating support in 2020, so that grantee partners have maximum flexibility with their grant dollars.
- We are trying to limit what is asked of grantee partners during this challenging period by postponing site visits and (potentially) extending grant reporting deadlines.

As information continues to unfold daily, let's look forward to brighter days ahead. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact your family's branch representative or the Foundation's staff.

Stay safe and healthy!

Bob Donahey
Board Chair

Letter from the President & CEO



Resilience, Compassion, Creativity, Humanity – These are just some of the words that come to mind as I read through more than 100 emails from current and former O’Neill Foundation grantees, our Foundation colleagues in the communities where we provide grants, our vendors who provide services to keep the Foundation running (IT, grants management, investments, banking etc.), and from O’Neill family members who are asking what our response will be to address the coronavirus pandemic that has impacted us all.

In Bob’s message, you’ve read about the steps that the Trustees have taken to more rapidly deploy resources into our communities. In this newsletter, we’ll share a few stories from our grantee partners. **For every story that we share, there are at least 10 more that are similar.** What I realized is that all of the nonprofits we work with have responded to the crisis in extraordinary ways. All nonprofits who, by and large, operate very close to the margins are continuing to serve the very vulnerable families; despite their real or anticipated loss of revenue to cover their costs for this year.

In their communications to us, 30% have cancelled or (best-case scenario) postponed their annual fundraiser/gala, which for most of these organizations means the loss of the only flexible, unrestricted dollars that they would raise all year. We heard from Union Settlement who planned to celebrate their 125th anniversary at their (now cancelled) gala in April. Almost as an afterthought they remarked, “we hope to have a smaller celebration of this significant milestone sometime later this year”.

Universally, organizations moved their programming and services online as much as possible. Health care, behavioral health, case management, family coaching, home visiting, legal service, educational programs for kids and adults, and even hearing aid fittings for babies are now all offered through Zoom, Facebook Live, Facetime, and any other social distancing method that will meet families where they are in terms of technology access. Some organizations have had to pause services – while they scrambled to supply their case managers, teachers, and coaches with the appropriate technology to conduct work. **They’ve been incredibly creative, dedicated, and compassionate every step of the way.**

We heard from the health clinics, homeless shelters and other similar housing programs, outreach teams, and pre-natal support givers who are unable to transition their services to a virtual world. As one grantee partner providing pre-natal support to first time, at-risk moms noted, “Babies are still going to be born – Coronavirus or not!” It’s the front-line workers at these agencies who are the most at-risk, not always provided with the appropriate protective wear, yet needing to continue their work.

And all of this shifting and pivoting has happened in just 4-5 short weeks! It’s crisis response at its best. We know, too, that this is just the tip of the iceberg. Next will come a recovery phase as the whole world comes to live in a different way. For our nonprofit partners, it is unknown how they will operate in the future. **I just know that based on what I’ve seen and heard, they are up to the challenge, whatever the “new normal” will look like.**

Please be well,

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

Leslie Perkul
President & CEO

Staying Home



This is the easiest thing you can do to help protect loved ones and others who are at a greater risk for severe COVID-19 symptoms.



Ways to Provide Immediate Support

1. Family Directed, Birthday, & Matching Gifts

If you wish to make a financial contribution in response to COVID-19, staff are more than happy to process any family directed, birthday, and/or matching gifts. You can [log into the ONF Family Portal](#) to make your designation online – or open the attachment and email it to Kara: kmccullough@oneill-foundation.org.

For ideas, [check out this comprehensive list of vetted relief funds >](#)

2. Volunteer at a local food bank

The nation's food banks are in desperate need of healthy volunteers to do everything from packaging food bags to making home deliveries to the most vulnerable. If you need assistance contacting your local food bank, let the ONF staff know and they'll be happy to connect you.

3. Support the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross is experiencing a severe shortage of blood and encourages those who can to consider donating blood (or other resources) to do so.

[Visit the American Red Cross' website to learn more >](#)

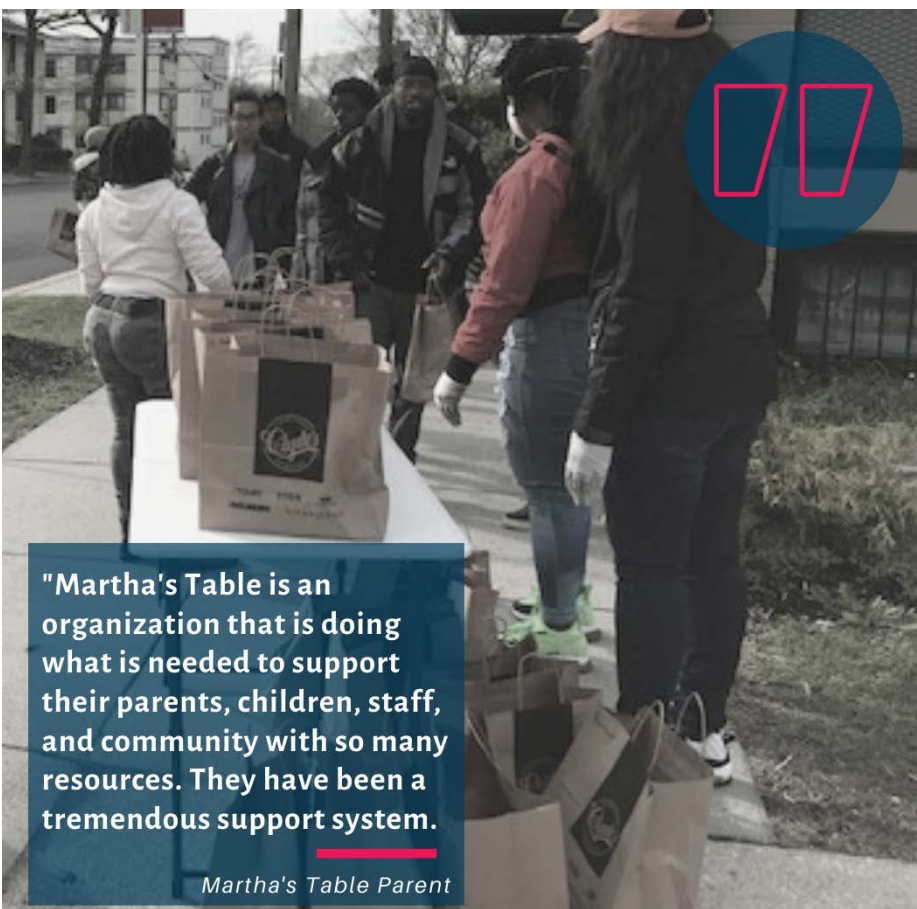


The Impact of COVID-19 on ONF's Grantee Partners: Martha's Table | Washington, DC

For 40 Years, Martha's Table has worked to support strong children, strong families, and strong communities. In the past few weeks, their work has reached unprecedented levels. They're working diligently to respond to increased needs due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The simplest of these needs is groceries.

With only three grocery stores located throughout Wards 7 and 8, the demand for groceries has grown at a rapid rate. With over 162,000 visits by community members to Martha's Table's healthy food markets in 2019, it is now more important than ever that children and families have access to healthy foods.

Martha's Table has more than tripled the number of groceries that they're distributing, all at no cost. Families with children enrolled in educational programs are also receiving a weekly stipend of \$750, grocery store gift cards supplementing \$15 a day, and a supply of diapers, wipes, and formula.



"Martha's Table is an organization that is doing what is needed to support their parents, children, staff, and community with so many resources. They have been a tremendous support system."

Martha's Table Parent



AT EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE WE

ELIMINATE OPPORTUNITY GAPS FOR FAMILIES.



Educational Alliance | New York, NY

Over the past 130 years, Educational Alliance has been a source of hope and optimism for the Lower East Side and East Village during New York City's greatest challenges. Whether the tragic terrorist attacks on 9/11 or the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy, they have always opened their doors wide and provided their community with critical support and services.

As soon as it was clear that COVID-19 had reached New York City, Educational Alliance's team sprang into action. Within the first two weeks of the outbreak, they prepared and distributed over 4,000 take-home meals to older adults and students from their early-childhood programs. Their staff conducted over 5,000 calls to make sure that older adults were safe while isolated at home.

Early-childhood classrooms moved to virtual programming, engaging nearly 750 students—with hundreds of morning meetings, sing-a-longs, and art classes happening via Zoom. SAT Prep programs moved online, so that Educational Alliance's 85 teens wouldn't have to defer their dreams of college.

The Manny Cantor Center's art school and fitness center are live-streaming dozens of classes to members, so that families can connect to free physical and educational resources online. Educational Alliance's "Virtual 14th Street Y" was created to connect members to each other and to the programs they love. Educational Alliance's employment services program has also been busy connecting those facing unemployment to dozens of resources and work opportunities.

To learn more about what's happening in your community, [visit the ONF family portal >](#)





Making the Case for Setting up Children, Parents, and Caregivers for Success Beyond the Short-Term

Written by Anne Mosle, Executive Director of Ascend at the Aspen Institute (ONF's 2Gen grantee partner)

[An Excerpt] Published on *The Hill* on March 24, 2020

There's a truth we're all experiencing now: Uncertainty is the enemy of prosperity. Not knowing if and when we can get food for our families. Not knowing if or when we'll go back to work. Not knowing when we'll have dependable, quality care for our children.

Not knowing if we'll have the flexibility to meet all of our responsibilities – from going to work, to raising kids, to caring for our elderly parents. Not knowing how we'll be able to make up lost wages. Not knowing if an action or interaction can put human life at risk.

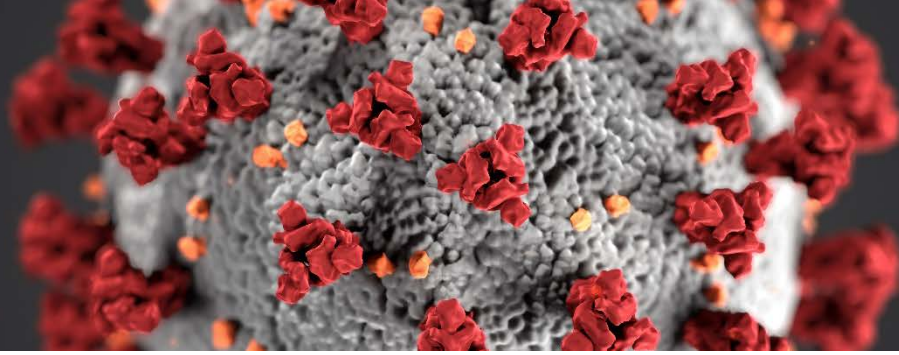
As we look to the day this crisis is over, and seek solutions to ensure this never happens again, we should do so in a way that offers permanent fixes for the millions of families who have experienced this level of disruption on a daily basis for generations — before COVID-19 came to dominate the news cycle, the economy, and our lives. The time to address these structural inequities is now when we are rebuilding systems that impact our lives and dictate the kind of life we each can have.

Right now, many parents don't know what to do when their childcare is closed. So far, 46 states have closed schools. For families with low incomes, this is a constant reality: Nearly thirty percent report they cannot find child care that is either affordable or has open slots on a regular basis. Headlines are filled with people worried about when they'll be able to go back to work and trying to figure out the hours they'll need to work to stay afloat while they juggle responsibilities.

Half the hourly workers in the U. S., many of them women of color, get less than a week's notice and sometimes same-day notice about being scheduled to work. This makes going to school, arranging childcare and taking care of a loved one a difficult task.

This feeling of anxiety that many Americans feel now is the status quo in the daily life of families with low incomes. Uncertainty is the damaging byproduct of poverty. What we are feeling now as coronavirus moves through our nation is something we never want to feel again. Let's make it so no one ever has to.

[Read the full article >](#)



Join Us in Our COVID-19 Learnings

Should you wish to learn more about how COVID-19 is affecting our communities and the philanthropic sector, below are links to a few perspectives and resources:

 givingCOMPASS™

[Coronavirus and COVID-19 Funds](#)



[COVID-19 Portal](#)



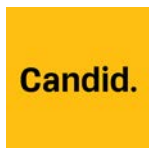
[COVID-19 Resource Hub](#)



[COVID-19: Resources for Giving Families](#)

 exponent philanthropy

[COVID-19 Resources for Lean Funders](#)



[The Philanthropic Response By The Numbers](#)

Inside Philanthropy

[Philanthropy Has a Duty to Respond Quickly...](#)



[A few Things for Nonprofits & Funders to Consider](#)

For a list of upcoming webinars and webinar recordings, [visit the ONF family portal](#) >

We're All in this Together!

Just as many of ONF's grantee partners have started using Zoom, Facebook Live, Facetime, etc., the Foundation's staff is also familiar with a variety of video-conferencing tools.

If you'd like to organize a virtual hangout for your family, please contact your family's branch representative or contact Marlene: mcorrado@oneill-foundation.org.