

WILLIAM J. AND DOROTHY K.



FOUNDATION IN FOCUS OCTOBER 2017





Check out the 2017
Youth Grantmaking
Video!

Front Cover Images: 2017 Youth Grantmaking Site Visits

Orlando Site Visit Participants: Kim, Greg, Natalie, Vanessa, Joey, & Jessica Polo and Mark, Shea, Katie, Mark, & Ryan Sweeney

Cleveland Site Visit Participants: Laura, Hugh & Maeve Bower and Anna Sullivan

Leadership

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Marlene Corrado, Program Officer, Communications & NextGen Engagement

Laketa L. Jackson-Burts, Grants and Office Coordinator

Letter from the Chair



The summer feels long gone by now, the busy holiday season is right around the corner, and the work of the William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation continues at full pace. Since the family meeting in Denver this summer, staff members have been busy gathering more feedback with grantees, funding partners, and family members who could not attend the family meeting in Denver. The Trustees have reviewed some initial recommendations for concrete next steps, and we plan to share them with our family members in the upcoming months. Save some time over the Thanksgiving dinner table to talk about the O'Neill Foundation! I look forward to hearing your thoughts and hope you will be pleased with the direction we are going.

In other news, hurricanes continue to ravage parts of the south, including Houston where my mother Molly is and Orlando where my brother, Mark, and sister, Kim, and their families live. As you will have seen from the news, there is much suffering and a very long recovery ahead for many communities. I was particularly moved by [this article](#) in the Washington Post and the following quote: "It is on the tired backs of the poor that the heaviest burdens of the hurricane will fall, and they will bear that weight for the longest time. May the sympathy we feel for them in this hour of disaster harden into something more lasting: respect." See additional articles in this newsletter for more details about how the O'Neill Foundation is helping in Houston and will be looking to help in Orlando as we get more details.

Thank you to everyone who is involved in reviewing proposals and doing site visits during this grantmaking cycle. There are many grant organizations doing great work in all of our communities. We were pleased to approve several grants at the last Trustee meeting as recommended by our younger next generation. [Check out their fun video here!](#) I hope that you, like me, are inspired and moved by our shared work in grantmaking and the fun of doing it together as a family.

Happy Fall!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Sweeney McShane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelly Sweeney McShane, Chair

Youth Direct \$40,000 in Grants to Organizations in OH & FL

The O'Neill Foundation trustees met in September and approved the youth grantmaking recommendations. The following six organizations received funding:



[Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida – FL](#)

Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida is a nonprofit organization that collects, stores and distributes donated food to more than 550 feeding partners, including: food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters.



PET ALLIANCE
of Greater Orlando

[Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando – FL](#)

Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando is one of the state's oldest and largest animal welfare agencies. In addition to providing shelter and veterinary care to dogs and cats, Pet Alliance offers adoptions services and a "Meals on Wheels" program to assist pet owners.



[IDEAS for Us \(Fleet Farming\) – FL](#)

IDEAS For Us is a United-Nations-accredited charitable organization. One of their programs, Fleet Farming, is a bike-pedaled urban agriculture program that turns lawns into farms and inspires people to harvest locally and sustainably. Fleet Farming creates environmentally-conscious farmlettes by converting lawns into organic plots.



[Children's Museum of Cleveland – OH](#)

The Children's Museum of Cleveland gives children a place and the tools to learn through interactive exhibits and programs. Scheduled to reopen on November 6th, the former Stager-Beckwith mansion has been reimagined as Northeast Ohio's only museum dedicated entirely to early childhood learning through play.



[Gauga Humane Society's Rescue Village – OH](#)

Rescue Village is an extended stay facility where animals receive immunizations, are sprayed/neutered, are fed and groomed, attend play groups, and interact with volunteers while in the shelter. All healthy, medically treatable, or behaviorally treatable animals are offered up for adoption as soon as possible.



[Kelly's Working Well Farm – OH](#)

Kelly's Working Well Farm provides a place for community members to learn about sustainable agriculture, make crafts using natural materials, and connect with animals and nature. The farm has evolved into a popular summer day camp, an alternative school for self-directed learners, and a resource/incubator for agricultural entrepreneurship.

“ We got to see all of our cousins there and that was my favorite part! -- Vanessa Polo, 4th Generation



How Funders Help Communities Prepare, Respond, and Recover from Major Disasters

Founded in 2012, the [Center for Disaster Philanthropy](#) (CDP) works to increase donor effectiveness in times of disaster. It has since become a leading source of research in the field and analyses of best practices for response and recovery.

[Check out CDP's most recent Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy report.](#)



Trustees Approve \$100,000 Grant to the Greater Houston Community Foundation

The Greater Houston Community Foundation's [Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund](#) is one of many vital philanthropic funds that, in conjunction with Federal and State efforts, are designed to support the relief and reconstruction efforts in Harris County and Houston.

Distributions and grants will be made in support of the Fund's charitable purposes: relief efforts to aid the victims of the flooding and other weather-related incidents caused by Hurricane Harvey, including shelter and temporary housing needs, food and supplies, health care, transportation, child care and more.



Literacy Partners student Angelica Hernandez and her children show off their new books.

Grantee Highlight: Literacy Partners (New York, NY)

[The Chronicle of Philanthropy](#) featured an article about the Foundation's grantee, Literacy Partners. It was published on August 1, 2017.

Fun with Books: Helping Parents Read to Their Kids

[Excerpt] Written by Nicole Wallace, Senior Editor, The Chronicle of Philanthropy

Literacy Partners has long taught adults in New York how to read and improve their English. Several years ago, the 45-year-old charity decided it also wanted to improve the academic prospects of the city's youngest residents. So the organization reshaped its programs to focus on parents and their young children.

"We're serving the adult," says Anthony Tassi, the group's executive director. "But we have impact on both generations, trying to get ahead of the curve to prevent the next generation of educational failure."

Adult learners take intensive reading or ESL (English as a second language) classes for 10 hours a week for nine months, near where their children attend Head Start programs. Literacy Partners gives the children age-appropriate books of their own. Instructors get parents comfortable reading the books and coach them on things like how to build reading into the family schedule and what to do if a child squirms.

Read the full article – [HERE](#).

Proactive Deep Impact Grant Update

In 2016, the Foundation Trustees approved a grant to support the [Sister's of Charity Foundation of Cleveland's](#) initiative, the [Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood \(CCPN\)](#), located in one of the communities where O'Neill family members reside.

Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood (CCPN) – Cleveland, OH

Grant award: \$300,000 payable over two years
Grant term: December 2016 – December 2018

Below is an update on some of their activities:

[Check out the CCPN Blog post](#) to learn about how CCPN is providing teachers in two Central neighborhood Cleveland Metropolitan School District schools with training on how to address the unique needs of students who experience trauma.



Click on the image (left) to learn about how CCPN is partnering with [FrontLine Service](#) and [Cleveland Metropolitan School District](#) to help students and teachers cope with trauma. This content aired on News 5 Cleveland on September 21, 2017.

Cleveland School District Trains Teachers on how to Deal with the Trauma Students Face

[Excerpt] Written by Lauren Wilson, Reporter, News 5 Cleveland

When 12-year-old Tamir Rice was shot and killed by Cleveland police in March 2014, his former classmates went to school. When 3-year-old Major Howard was caught in the crossfire of street shooting and killed, his former friends and classmates, had to go to school.

It's something most students living in or around the Cleveland Metropolitan School district can't avoid — hearing or at least seeing trauma.



[Check out the CCPN Blog post](#) to learn about how CCPN's partner, the Cleveland Public Library is providing vital resources to the children of the Central community.

Central's Sterling Library gives Children Food for Mind, Body, and Soul

[Excerpt] Written by Lynn Ischay, The Plain Dealer

Most of the children head to the community room, where they know they'll get an after-school meal. There is some pushing and shoving in line among the rambunctious group as library branch manager Monica Rudzinski records each student's name for [The Cleveland Food Bank's Kids Cafe](#), which sponsors the food program.

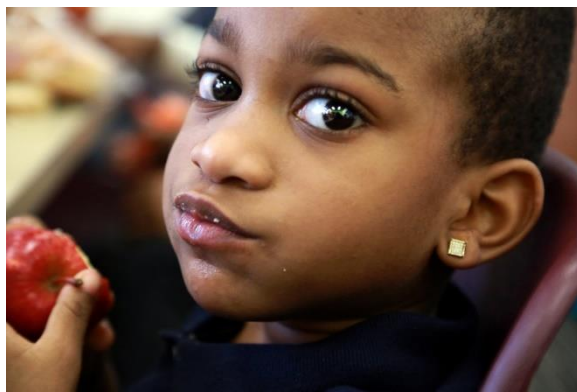
One by one, the children take a brown bag and head to one of 12 tables. A vase of flowers and some flameless tea lights on each of the tables provide ambiance. Inside each bag is a sandwich, milk, juice, a piece of fruit, a bag of carrots and a snack. The students sit next to friends and siblings, laughing and eating, settling down with each bite.

"Libraries aren't just about information anymore," says Rudzinski, wiping down a table to get it ready for the next wave of students. "We are about helping the community get the services they need."

Read the full article – [HERE](#).



Children line up after school for their meal at the library.



Five year-old Dareon Russell takes a big bite of his apple after his school day at Marion Sterling Elementary.



Charnise Russell (10) and her brother Dareon (5) take a selfie to try out some photography software using notebooks at the library on Tech Tuesday.

Family Member Recognition



The Washington Business Journal announced their *2017 Women Who Mean Business* and recognized Kelly Sweeney McShane as an honoree. The full profile was published on September 25, 2017.

[Excerpt] Written by Joseph Coombs, Contributing Writer, Washington Business Journal

Community of Hope was “struggling” when McShane arrived in 2001, she said. There were no formal systems for budgets, job descriptions or strategic plans for the provider of health care and shelter services for low-income families in the District. She began with a budget of \$1.5 million and 39 employees. Today, she has a staff of 207 with a \$19 million budget, and the organization is thriving.

Read the full article – [HERE](#).

Meet the New ONF Staff



Laketa L. Jackson-Burts, Grants and Office Coordinator

Laketa will provide administrative and grant-related support to Foundation staff, O’Neill family members, and the Foundation’s Trustees.

Career: Cleveland Clinic, patient service representative and administrative assistant; University Hospitals, executive secretary; and Cleveland Metropolitan School District, executive assistant.

School: Notre Dame College of Ohio, BA in psychology

Hometown: Cleveland, OH

Favorite Vacation: Hawaii

Farewell & Thanks Kathy!



Kathy Ladiner joined the Foundation staff on December 2, 2015 as a Foundation Assistant. Since then, the Foundation has greatly benefited from her many contributions – efforts that helped prepare for Foundation gatherings, manage ongoing grant cycles, and so much more. With deep gratitude, the Foundation staff celebrated Kathy’s retirement on September 19th.

Letter from the CEO



Greetings from Houston where I am so pleased to be spending a few days with Molly Sweeney conducting site visits as we are in the midst of our second responsive grant cycle of the year.

It has been a truly enlightening trip, meeting with a variety of nonprofit organizations whose work with vulnerable families has been further exacerbated by the impact of Hurricane Harvey.

We found that at every site visit, the executive directors, program directors, development folks, and board members all needed to share their experiences with Hurricane Harvey – how they all knew someone (and in many cases more than one person) who lost a home and sometimes more during the storm and in the days following. Unlike some of the other Hurricanes of recent past, Harvey was non-discriminating and impacted neighborhoods of all kinds. It was amazing to hear the stories, see the pictures that were captured on cell phones of yards, neighborhoods and roads that were flooded over.

The key take-away for me was the enormity of the recovery effort. The impacts will be felt for many years, by some estimates 7-8 years. One of the organizations that we visited, Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM) shared [this blog](#) which sums up the challenges that both families and the organizations that serve them are facing after Harvey.

Communities are grappling with serving families with young children where, for example, there are schools where the entire second grade was displaced from their homes. As they get back into the classroom, they wonder how they even start to train teachers and parents to help their children deal with this major life disruption.

I am so pleased that the Trustees approved funding to support the Mayor of Houston's [fund for hurricane recovery](#). This grant will be leveraged with other contributions to aid in the recovery and rebuilding in Houston.

I will be heading to Orlando in a few weeks where I expect to hear similar stories of displacement and disruption. We may consider further support there as well.

Please keep the people of Houston, Orlando, and all of the other places that have been so deeply impacted by recent events in your thoughts and prayers.

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

It is the mission of the William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation to partner with nonprofits to improve the quality of life for families and communities, in places where O'Neill family members live.

WILLIAM J. AND DOROTHY K.



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2017 IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER

October 5 | [Philanthropy Ohio Annual Conference](#) (Cleveland, OH)

Anna and Bess Sullivan will speak on a panel entitled, *Engaging Youth & Participatory Grantmaking*.

October 20 | [National Forum on Family Philanthropy](#) (Washington, DC)

Kelly Sweeney McShane will speak on a panel entitled, *Effective Board Chairs – Roles, Responsibilities, Realities*.

NOVEMBER

November 13 | O'Neill Foundation Investment Committee Meeting

DECEMBER

December 11 | O'Neill Foundation Trustee Meeting