

O'Neill Foundation

William J. & Dorothy K.



September 2020

Front Cover Image: A family served by ONF's 2020 (Cycle 1) Responsive Grantmaking grantee partner, the Center for Hearing and Speech (TX).

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
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Molly Sweeney

Committee 3

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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

At our last Trustee meeting, we were joined by The Nord Family Foundation's Executive Director, Anthony (Tony) Richardson.

[In this recording \[21:07 minutes\], you'll hear Tony speak about The Nord Family Foundation's learning journey to become a more nimble, humble, and approachable Foundation.](#)

Tony shared how the Foundation's funding strategy is being shaped by conversations of diversity, equity, and inclusion; how the staff and family are using data to inform their decisions; and how their openness to listening is providing a space for broader conversations among each other and within their community.

Here's a quote that he shared that speaks to the Nord family's legacy and approach to philanthropy:



I am one of a lot of people who understand that they owe what they have received to a large component of luck or divine intervention. I, for one, feel our family was very fortunate. We did work hard. We took big chances that paid off, but we owe a lot of our work to good fortune.

When you are lucky to have money, it is not enough to give it away. You also have to be involved. You will never know what the problems are if all you do for a community is send out checks.

— Eric Nord, Founder, The Nord Family Foundation

In the last family newsletter, I mentioned that the Trustees have been discussing racial equity – what it means for our work, our grantees, our communities, and families.

While we are all still committed to learning, below (on page 3) is an example of what one of the Trustees (Mary France Walker) is doing to learn more.

Family Directed Giving: It's not too late!

Let's not forget. Family Directed Giving requests are due to Kara McCullough (kmccullough@oneill-foundation.org) no later than November 30, 2020.

[DOWNLOAD THE FORM](#)

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

Bob Donahey, Chair

What one Trustee is Reading



*Diving into racial justice work initially felt incredibly intimidating, so I broke it down into bite-size pieces. I bought three books and decided to start with **White Fragility**.*

What I quickly figured out was each section within a chapter was extremely thought provoking for me. I would have to sit with what I read in just two pages. It was then that I had to break it down even more.

*Instead of telling myself I had to read as many books as possible, I noticed how much I was challenging my own belief systems and inherent biases in just a few pages of reading. **Every few days I read a few pages and, for me, that's enough to keep myself in the work amidst everything else I have going on.***

*If you're looking for potent content that you can digest little by little, I highly recommend **White Fragility**. Next up for me is **Me and White Supremacy**, which includes journal prompts and more tools for reflection.*

Racial justice work can fit into our busy day-to-day lives if you break it down into bite sized pieces of information. Hopefully this helps you reframe how it can possibly fit into your life. :)

— Mary France Walker

Letter from the CEO

Community & Connection – two things that have required a different approach over the past six months of social distancing.

As I reflect on what this means for our work at the Foundation, I realize that I miss being in community, connecting with grantee partners and with O'Neill family members. I miss opportunities for our staff to all come together in-person to spend time together as professional and personal colleagues.

As we looked for ways to build connection with each other, we thought there would be value in bringing our grantees together virtually. This idea was raised on a grantmaking committee call earlier this year.

We hosted two sessions (both completely peer-led) with over 30 participants on the first call and 20 on the second. Using a new tool that allows for self-selection into small group discussions, grantees spoke in groups (of 6 or less) and exchanged stories about the amazingly creative and resilient ways that they are adapting to meet and serve families. We might host other peer-shares later this fall or early next year.

I look forward to the time when I, along with the rest of the team, will be back engaged in community. Until then, stay healthy and safe – and enjoy the season's change.

Leslie Perkul
President & CEO



Our Newest 2Gen/DIG Grantee Partners

BROC Community Action: *Southern Vermont Families*
Planning/demonstration grant | \$100,000 over 1 year

BROC Community Action, in partnership with the Parent Child Centers in Rutland and Bennington and state and federal officials, will develop and pilot family-centered navigational approaches to improve service coordination and family economic stability using a 2Gen framework, including testing a state Advisory Council to inform policy changes and address barriers identified at the local level so all Vermont families might benefit.

The MetroHealth Foundation: *Nurse Family Partnership*
Implementation grant | \$375,000 over 3 years

MetroHealth's Nurse-Family Partnership, a nationally-recognized, evidence-based community health program serves low-income women pregnant with their first child. Its goals are to improve pregnancy outcomes, improve child health and development, and improve economic self-sufficiency of the family. The program will address Cuyahoga County's racially disproportionate and high pre-term and infant mortality rates.

Working to End the Cycle of Multi-generational Poverty

In 2019, the United Way of Central Maryland and Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children Youth & Families received 2Gen/DIG funding to support their Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP). The program addresses the cycle of multi-generational family poverty through family-centered advocacy and case management.

Early on during the COVID-19 crisis, when families were under stay-at-home orders, HPP's Family Coach organized virtual activities for families such as pizza parties, scavenger hunts, book discussions, and craft nights that promoted self-care. In addition to distributing food and school supplies, families received a cookbook (pictured right) with packets of ingredients to help families stretch meals and enjoy cooking at home, together.



This cookbook is designed to encourage and further develop healthy communication skills, to get everyone working together as a team, to teach practical life skills, to create and celebrate family traditions, to honor the unique talents every member of your family has, and to assist your family on the road to better financial health.

— Jocelyn Martin, HPP Family Coach

THE REALITIES OF INEQUITY: The Housing Crisis in our Region

How Housing Insecurity is Impacting MD

Did you know that in Maryland, someone would have to work 2 ½ full-time, minimum-wage jobs to be able to afford a two-bedroom apartment?

Even before COVID struck, soaring rents combined with stagnant wages put decent, affordable housing out of reach for hundreds of thousands of people. Now, many more will face eviction due to record levels of unemployment and reduced hours as a result of the pandemic.

ONF's 2Gen/DIG grantee, the United Way of Central Maryland, hosted a panel discussion examining the barriers that prevent hardworking people from getting ahead—or even just making ends meet.

[Watch the video >](#)

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

Given that one of the 2Gen guiding principles is focused on building evidence + innovation together, we wanted to bring the following to your attention.

You're invited to attend the free Virtual Research and Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency (RECS) that will be held on October 13–15 and October 19–22, 2020.

Since 1998, the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has convened the RECS to present the latest findings from evaluations of programs, policies, and services that support low-income and vulnerable families on the path to economic self-sufficiency.

[Register for the free virtual conference >](#)



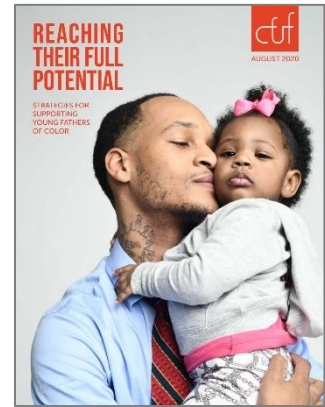
VIRTUAL
RECS
2020

From our Responsive Grantmaking Partners

The [Center for Urban Families](#), led by [Ascend](#) Fellow Joseph Jones, published a new report titled, *Reaching Their Full Potential: Strategies for Supporting Young Fathers of Color*.

The brief details creative approaches to serve fathers of color and highlights opportunities to strengthen services to young men who are parenting.

[Download the report >](#)



One Family's Story

If you were to meet 7-year-old Keysen, you'd probably not know he was deaf, especially if you get him talking about his beloved Houston Astros.

Keysen was diagnosed with profound hearing loss bilaterally at 18 months. He received his first cochlear implant at age of 2, followed by the second at 2.5 years. At the time of implantation Keysen spoke no words, only making a few sounds.

ONF grantee partner, [The Center for Hearing and Speech](#) (CHS), provides a full range of services for hearing-impaired children and their families.



All the dreams and the things that you think your future is going to be just kind of goes out the window and you just don't know what their future is going to be like. How are we going to communicate? Is he ever going to hear you say 'I love you'? You know, as a parent, that's a huge thing... [CHS] gave him the foundation that he needed – and the tools he needed – to be successful in a mainstream world.

— Kimberly Woods, CHS Parent & Keysen's mom

[Watch the video to learn more >](#)





[Pictured above: One of the NextGen grantees (also supported through ONF's Responsive Grantmaking Program), [The Light House](#) located in Annapolis, MD, provides support to those who need it most — moving shelter residents into safe and stable housing, finding housing options for the chronically homeless, and diverting at-risk individuals and families from becoming homeless. [Watch the video >](#)]

NextGen Direct \$250,000 in Grants

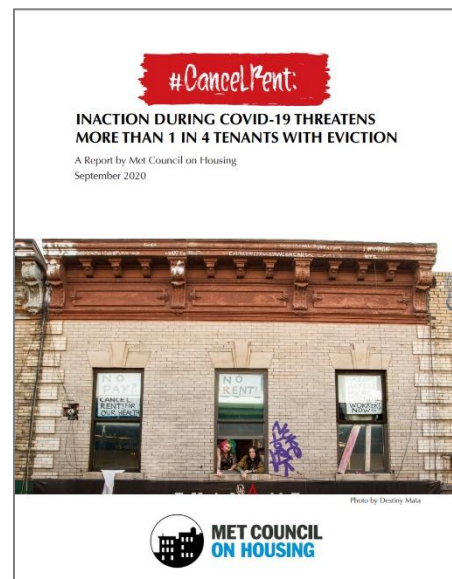
This year, with an expedited grantmaking process, 10 of the NextGen (ages: 21 – 30) voted to re-grant General Operating Support to the same 10 organizations that were supported through last year's NextGen Grantmaking Program – and support 5 organizations and rapid response funds that are working to address homelessness and housing insecurity.

What the NextGen are Learning

The Met Council on Housing – one of the recently approved NextGen grantees (also awarded in 2019) – recently published a report outlining a number of findings that reflect Met Council's member community (primarily low- and middle-income tenants in New York City). For example, their hotline data suggests five times as many tenants are unable to pay rent in 2020 compared to 2019, and that 1.4 to 1.6 million tenants are now at risk of eviction.

You'll also see that ONF was recognized as one of their foundation supporters!

[Read the Report >](#)



Youth Direct \$16,500 in Grants

The Trustees approved funding for the [Cleveland Foundation's Digital Equity Fund](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown a spotlight on Greater Cleveland's digital inequities, barring students from accessing their education in an age of remote learning, preventing underemployed and unemployed adults from finding or applying for jobs, and denying residents – especially older adults – access to medical support through telehealth services.



To learn more, [here's a recording \(starting at about 16:30\)](#) featuring leaders from Cuyahoga County.

Thanks to the NextGen & Youth

In lieu of an in-person gathering, a Zoom call was organized for the NextGen/Youth (under 21). The program, facilitated by ONF staff and our colleagues at 21/64, included a conversation with ONF's leadership (Bob and Leslie) and time spent learning together. We're grateful to those that could make it!



2020 IMPORTANT DATES

October

October 1 | Responsive Grantmaking Call – Committee 3

November

November 30 | Family Directed Giving Deadline

December

December 14 | Trustee Meeting