

Future Philanthropists Program is an educational program supported by the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation

2020 21

Editor's Note

If you are looking forward with great eagerness to see 2020 come to an end, the great majority of us feel the same way. Not that anything will be different when we wake up on January 1, mind you. This is not like *The Wizard of Oz*. In fact, the last nine months have been more like *Groundhog Day*, but with no people at Gobbler's Knob. We have grown weary of non-social life and of the adjustments we have had to make in our daily lives. With a COVID-19 vaccine now on the way, 2021 gives us hope that next year will ease the constant distresses we have endured this year caused by high unemployment, social justice issues, political divisiveness and the devastating effects of the pandemic. The pandemic may go down as one the worst human disasters in U.S. history right up there with the Civil War and the Great Depression. We overcame both of them; we'll overcome this.

In this edition of the *FPP Post* we want to welcome our new Junior Cohort of Future Philanthropists, 25 students from OPRF, Fenwick and Trinity High Schools who will have the opportunity to award grants totaling \$30,000 to area nonprofit organizations and contribute volunteer hours to various community service projects. We also want to share some particularly good news about GivingTuesday which just occurred and some unsettling news about next year's charitable giving projections. Corporate social responsibility is part of FPP's curriculum and there have been many new developments over this past year that are worth sharing. Nonprofit organizations have not escaped the impact of the pandemic on their operations. Opportunities for creative approaches to promoting community involvement have sprouted in some interesting ways. Two articles explore this phenomenon.

All of us at the Future Philanthropists Program want to wish you and yours a Happy New Year! Make philanthropy part of your everyday life.

Rick King, Editor
Director, FPP

Welcome to the New Junior Cohort: Class of 2022

Despite COVID-19, and with the help of technology in a socially distanced world, the new FPP cohort of 25 juniors was selected in September and dove right into learning the art, science and business of philanthropy. Congratulations to all of these outstanding teens who represent the 11th year of FPP, and whose names appear below with their mentors.

We also welcomed two new junior mentors this year: Sarah Finnegan and Wendy Will. Sarah, who with her husband are 27-year River Forest residents, is the development director at Thrive Counseling Center in Oak Park and previously worked as a fundraiser for Rush University Medical Center and as a consultant with Lipman-Hearn. She has a BA in humanities and an MBA. Wendy, who with her husband are 40+ year residents of Oak Park, has been a teacher all of her adult life as well as the Ministry Coordinator at Grace Lutheran Church for most of her career. She has a BA in pastoral studies and an MA. Both have grown children who attended OPRF High School. Thank you, Sarah and Wendy, for your commitment to teaching the next generation of community leaders!

MENTORS AND FPP CLASS OF 2022



Mentor:
Adam Alonzo

- Mentees:*
Reece Buczek
Jonathon Hugh
Camille Nouri
Macy Stanislaw
Angie Strand



Mentor:
Cindy Milojevic

- Mentees:*
Julia Daun
Michael Healy
Claire Jackson
Lexi Lannon
Thomas Rotatorie



Mentor:
Joe Smith

- Mentees:*
Maggie Brangle
Jasmine Davis
Sabine Roser
Phillip Walby
Sam Zimmeroff



Mentor:
Sarah Finnegan

- Mentees:*
Claire Dooley
Josie Humbert
Zoe Klein
Louis Leonardi
Julian McCracken



Mentor:
Wendy Will

- Mentees:*
Teresa Giacchino
Chris Hedrich
Molly Morrissey
Teagan Osga
Lily Scully-Granzeier

GIVING BACK

GivingTuesday 2020 Jumps 25% More Than 2019

Despite the pandemic, high unemployment and social unrest, an estimated \$2.47 billion was raised in the United States during the ninth annual GivingTuesday.

According to the GivingTuesday Data Commons, a network of more than seventy contributing partners and forty global data labs, online and offline giving for the December 1 event surged 25 percent, from \$1.97 billion in 2019, while the estimated number of people participating increased 29 percent, to 34.8 million.

"This groundswell of giving reaffirms that generosity is universal and powerful, and that it acts as an antidote to fear, division, and isolation," said Asha Curran, co-founder and CEO of GivingTuesday. "Throughout this year, we have seen people driving extraordinary efforts rooted in a pursuit of equity, community, and shared humanity –driving giving and action across all races, faiths, and political views. We know that when we act collectively – what we can, with what we have, from where we are – we can make massive change happen. Now, let's resolve to carry this energy forward to reimagine a world where generosity is at the heart of all we do."

<https://philanthropynewsdigest.org/news/givingtuesday-2020-raises-an-estimated-2.47-billion-in-u.s>

These and the following articles are excerpts from noted publications relating to the philanthropic environment amidst the pandemic and how communities and corporations are responding.

Helping Others During the Pandemic Can Help Your Own Emotional, Financial Well-Being

As Covid-19 cases continue to rise and businesses struggle to adapt to their new normal, many Americans are stepping up to help people in their communities. From personal gestures to financial contributions, experts say giving back in many ways — big and small — can have a significant impact on your own well-being, emotionally and financially.

"It gives people a sense of purpose, feeling that even though in these difficult times, there's something I can do about it, that I have some sense of, some feeling of control, even when everything else feels out of control," says Dr. George James, a licensed marriage and family therapist and chief innovation officer at the Council for Relationships, a nonprofit behavioral health organization in Philadelphia.

Research shows helping others in a crisis can be an effective way to alleviate stress and anxiety. In this pandemic, psychologists say turning our attention away from rising coronavirus cases, daily death tolls, job losses and economic turmoil to ways we can help others get through this crisis can make it easier for us to cope as well.

"If we can distract ourselves, we move away from the constant thought, the worry, the overthinking, and one of the best ways to distract yourself is to help somebody else," said Dr. James, a member of the CNBC Financial Wellness Council.

Sewing masks, creating personal protective equipment, feeding frontline workers, coordinating rides to appointments for cancer patients and raising money for charities, shuttered businesses, as well as families and individuals in need are just some of the ways people have found to uplift their communities.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/07/16/helping-others-during-covid-19-can-help-your-own-financial-emotional-well-being.html>

ACTIVISM

Unemployed Americans Are Turning to Advocacy Work Amid Covid

The coronavirus pandemic has led to massive unemployment in the U.S. There are currently more than 21.5 million people collecting unemployment insurance benefits through all programs, according to the latest figures from the Labor Department.

Certain industries have been hit harder than others. The unemployment rate overall has declined from its peak of nearly 15% in April, but remains at 16.3% in leisure and hospitality, 18.3% in arts, entertainment and recreation and nearly 16% in accommodation and food services according to the October jobs report from the Labor Department.

Some of those unemployed workers have sprung into action in the meantime, organizing activist groups, starting nonprofits and volunteering for causes they believe in to help their communities and stay busy.

Many unemployed workers have put their efforts into solving problems in their communities. Kristin Guerin, a 30-year-old performer in Miami, was laid off in March when her long-running show closed due to Covid-19.

She and two colleagues, Eric Trope and Jessica Gutierrez, who also became unemployed due to the pandemic, joined together to launch Buddy System, a nonprofit that helps people gain access to food and support in the Miami area.

Today, they have more than 800 volunteers and are serving thousands in Miami, according to Guerin. The organization currently stocks six community fridges throughout the city and has a goal of expanding to 20 by the end of the year.

"Day to day, I work 40-plus hours a week on this nonprofit," she said. "Everyone that works for the organization is a volunteer — staying alive through unemployment."

Others have reacted to need they see within their own fields, especially theater and the arts. Bridget McCarthy, 27, was an actor, teaching artist, writer and director before Covid-19 decimated her industry. Now, she's the executive director of the Atlanta Artist Relief Fund, which provides food, unemployment assistance, access to mental health counseling and more in the greater Atlanta area. To date, the organization has helped more than 400 people navigate the unemployment system and has a volunteer roster of about 250 people, she said.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/06/unemployed-americans-are-turning-to-advocacy-work-amid-covid.html>

The New Greta Thunberg Foundation

Climate activist Greta Thunberg has used the 1 million Swedish Krona (\$102,062) prize money she won in a recent award to launch a non-profit foundation.

Thunberg received the Right Livelihood Award, also known as the "alternative Nobel prize," in December and the organization behind the prize announced Thursday that she used her winnings to establish The Greta Thunberg Foundation.

The young activist will focus her non-profit on promoting ecological and social sustainability, as well as mental health issues.

The 17-year-old announced in January via Instagram that she had set up a foundation, adding that she had applied to trademark her name and the "Fridays for Future" movement she created.

The Right Livelihood Foundation said that Thunberg transferred her prize money to establish the foundation, and the funds would also be used for its charitable purposes.

Thunberg received the Right Livelihood Award "for inspiring and amplifying political demands for urgent climate action reflecting scientist facts."

In addition to her this prize, Thunberg was also named Time magazine's Person of the Year for 2019 for her influential work on climate change and was the youngest person to receive the accolade.

Thunberg shot to fame in 2018 for skipping school every Friday to hold a vigil outside the Swedish Parliament calling for action against climate change.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/21/greta-thunberg-sets-up-non-profit-with-alternative-nobel-prize-money.html>

CORPORATE INVESTMENT

EQUITY IN EDUCATION

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Walmart Launches Equity in Education Initiative

Walmart and North Carolina A&T State University, the largest historically black university in the country, have announced a five-year initiative aimed at increasing the number of African-American college graduates who build successful careers in fields that are critical to the nation's economic future.

With a \$5 million commitment from Walmart — the largest corporate investment ever received by North Carolina A&T — the Equity in Education Initiative will provide customized resources and assistance to undergraduate students pursuing degrees in business, engineering, and other professional disciplines. To that end, the initiative will deliver resources in four areas: the Black Male Initiative, which will work to strengthen Black male achievement, retention, and graduation rates; the Leadership Cohort Initiative, which will be supported by Management Leadership for Tomorrow (MLT) and provide undergrads in the colleges of business and engineering with the skills, coaching, and connections they need to accelerate their professional careers after graduation; Advancing Blacks in Engineering, which will work to both increase the number of engineering graduates and prepare them for leadership roles within the profession; and scholarship support.

<http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/news/walmart-north-carolina-a-t-launch-equity-in-education-initiative>

Chase Invests in Social Justice, Equality

JPMorgan Chase is making a \$30 billion commitment it says will help address U.S. wealth inequality, especially in traditionally underserved Black and Latino communities.

The bank's pledge is a combination of loans, investments and philanthropy over five years that it says goes beyond what it would do in the normal course of business.

The great bulk of JPMorgan's dollar commitment is tied to housing. The bank says it will provide \$14 billion in loans and investments for 100,000 affordable rental units and make \$12 billion in mortgages it wouldn't otherwise.

The goal, according to the firm's press release: To "drive an inclusive economic recovery, support employees and break down barriers of systemic racism."

Questions about racial inequality in the U.S. were triggered after the May 25 death of George Floyd at the hands of a police officer sparked weeks of protests across the country. The coronavirus pandemic also exposed the gap in circumstances and health outcomes faced by the Black community in particular, resulting in a far higher Covid-19 mortality rate than in the overall population.

"Systemic racism is a tragic part of America's history," said Jamie Dimon, CEO of JPMorgan, in a statement. "We can do more and do better to break down systems that have propagated racism and widespread economic inequality, especially for Black and Latinx people. It's long past time that society addresses racial inequities in a more tangible, meaningful way."

Banks, which historically have contributed to inequality through now-banned practices including redlining, are hoping to be part of the solution to society's problems. Earlier, Bank of America and Citigroup each made \$1 billion commitments to reduce inequality.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/08/jpmorgan-chase-makes-30-billion-commitment-to-help-close-americas-racial-wealth-gap.html>

Raytheon Supports Racial Justice

Raytheon Technologies has announced a five-year, \$25 million commitment in support of efforts to advance racial justice, empowerment, and career readiness in underserved communities.

The commitment is part of the company's four-pillar strategy, which integrates initiatives in talent management, community engagement, public policy, and supplier diversity to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion across its workforce. As part of the commitment, Raytheon will offer a two-to-one match for every dollar employees donate to select nonprofits working in the area of racial justice.

"Our goal is to effectively partner with organizations on programs that empower individuals by creating tangible opportunities in the workforce and [that] advance our communities to drive meaningful societal impact," said Pam Erickson, Raytheon chief communications officer and head of corporate philanthropy. "

<http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/news/raytheon-commits-25-million-in-support-of-racial-justice-dei>

FOUNDATION IMPACT

RACIAL EQUITY

SYSTEMIC RACISM

WKKF Launches Racial Equity Program For Corporate Sector

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan, has announced the launch of a program aimed at transforming corporate workplaces into equitable places of opportunity.

Piloted earlier this year in partnership with five financial services firms with more than \$300 billion in assets under management, the Expanding Equity program will provide corporations with the tools, knowledge, and human-centered approaches needed to create workplaces that attract, develop, retain, and promote diverse talent. Among other things, the nine-month program offers a supportive learning environment; access to racial equity/healing tools, coaching, and expertise; a racial equity mini-diagnostic tool designed to provide baseline information that can be used to inform internal employee development initiatives, engagement, and retention strategies; workshops that support peer learning, problem solving, and the development of concrete plans for piloting internal racial equity initiatives; and specialized leadership programming.

<http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/news/wkkf-launches-racial-equity-program-for-corporate-sector>

Dismantling Systemic Racism Requires Philanthropic Investment

As the nation grapples with its legacy of systemic racism and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on poor people and communities of color, philanthropy needs to take a stronger stand for a community that too often is overlooked: the 22.6 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) who call the United States home.

As a formerly incarcerated immigrant who is now leading a foundation, I am acutely aware of the need for increased philanthropic support targeting marginalized AAPI communities. Less than 1 percent of philanthropic dollars goes to funding AAPI causes. At a time when AAPIs are facing a new wave of discrimination and hate and, like other communities of color, are suffering disproportionately from the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, that's not enough.

Why are AAPI causes so underfunded? Partly because of the false perception that Asian Americans don't face the same kinds of structural racism and discrimination as other communities of color. But a quick tour of American history reveals that AAPI communities have always had to contend with racist policies driven by anti-Asian sentiment — from the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, to the Immigration Act of 1924, to the Japanese internment camps of the 1940s.

Even before COVID-19, Asian Americans were facing significant challenges. When people think of Asian Americans as a single monolithic group, they are ignoring the appreciable diversity of AAPI communities, as well as the many disparities in education, income level, health outcomes, and other measures. Pew Research reports that Asian Americans are the most economically unequal group in the country and, as a group, have seen a dramatic increase since the 1970s in the number of its members living in poverty.

We can thank popular culture for perpetuating the myth of a monolithic "Asian" community. It is often the wealthy, successful Chinese- or Japanese-American professional or whiz kid who comes to mind, not the persecuted refugee from Southeast Asia whose pending deportation is a likely death sentence, or the poverty-stricken Pacific Islander caught in the net of mass incarceration. But as long as this "model minority" myth persists and people in power continue to use it as a wedge to seed hate and division, those of us not living the stereotypical "model" life will remain invisible.

Foundations must fund intersectional work that builds power and voice across all Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. To effectively build equity and address the harmful disparities affecting communities of color, philanthropy must look beyond stereotypes and public misconception to see the individuals whose lives are full, complex, and valuable. When we, as donors, take the time to get to know the unique and varied challenges that Asian Americans face and, more importantly, include them in our giving, we are modeling a fuller understanding of racial justice and our commitment to a truly pluralistic, multi-ethnic America.

<http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/commentary-and-opinion/dismantling-systemic-racism-requires-philanthropic-investment-in-aapi-communities>

GIVING



A Third of Americans Plan to Give Less or No Money to Charity in 2021

More than a third of Americans plan to cut back on their charitable giving or not give at all in 2021 while more than half plan to reduce their volunteer time or not volunteer at all.

Based on a survey of more than a thousand adults conducted by Eagle Hill Consulting, the 2020 Non-Profit Charitable Giving and Volunteering Survey found that 69 percent of respondents reported that they had given to charity over the last few years, including 59 percent of those between the ages of 18 and 34, 71 percent of those between the ages of 35 and 54, and 75 percent of those 55 and older. When asked about their giving plans for 2021, 35 percent of respondents said they would give less (10 percent) than they did in 2020 or not give at all (25 percent), while 48 percent said they would give about the same and 17 percent said they would give more. Younger respondents between the ages of 18 and 34 said they were more likely to give more (27 percent) than did those between the ages of 35 and 54 (18 percent) and those age 55 and older (9 percent), but also more likely to not to give at all (29 percent vs. 25 percent and 21 percent).

According to the survey, the top charitable causes Americans plan to support include social services (34 percent), education (25 percent), religious organizations (22 percent), health (21 percent), COVID-19 relief (20 percent), environment/climate change (20 percent), and racial justice (19 percent). Among respondents between the ages of 18 and 34, the top causes were social services (32 percent), education (31 percent), and racial justice (30 percent), while those age 55 and older were more inclined to support social services (37 percent), religious organizations (31 percent), and medical research (22 percent).

The survey also found that about half of Americans planned to volunteer less (42 percent) or not at all (10 percent) in 2021, with 44 percent saying they did not feel safe volunteering during a pandemic. At the same time, 21 percent of respondents planned to volunteer more in 2021, including 31 percent of those ages 18 to 34, 21 percent of those ages 35 to 54, and 14 percent of those 55 and older.

<http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/news/a-third-of-americans-plan-to-give-less-or-no-money-to-charity-in-2021>

Funders Call For Tax Reforms Designed to Increase Charitable Giving

A coalition of philanthropists and foundation leaders has launched an initiative to promote commonsense, nonpartisan charitable giving reforms that help increase donations to charities while enhancing the effectiveness of the philanthropic sector.

Announced on #GivingTuesday, the Initiative to Accelerate Charitable Giving will work “to promote greater and more accountable charitable giving” by “fixing the inefficiencies in our charitable giving tax laws [to] ensure the timely flow and increase of resources to working charities.”

According to the initiative’s Statement of Principles, “more than \$1 trillion is sitting in private foundations and donor-advised funds (DAFs) – money that could be used to support charities and the millions of people they serve during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond – while “[e]xisting laws deliver significant tax breaks upon initial funding, but do not provide sufficient incentives or requirements to ensure that these funds will ever be distributed to working charities.” The coalition’s members are calling on lawmakers to enact reforms to close loopholes for private foundations and better ensure that distributions that can be applied to the mandatory payout requirement are available for use by working charities; incentivize higher payout through reforms to the excise tax on private foundations; adopt measures to ensure that funds in donor-advised accounts are distributed to working charities within a reasonable period of time; and incentivize greater giving by individuals by expanding and extending the non-itemizer charitable deduction in a cost-effective way.

“If you’re wondering about the disparity between the immense philanthropic wealth in this country and the daily fight most charities have to wage to stay alive, look no further than charitable tax laws,” said Arnold Ventures founder and co-chair John Arnold. “The rules disincentivize philanthropists from giving with any sense of urgency. [F]oundations and donor-advised funds get immediate tax breaks and feel no pressure to deliver resources to where they are needed: charities solving this generation’s most pressing problems.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic is deepening inequality and putting a monumental strain on nonprofit organizations that serve marginalized communities,” said Ford Foundation president Darren Walker. “Philanthropy needs to act with bold leadership and innovation to help frontline advocacy organizations and movements remain strong and resilient in the days and months ahead.”

<http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/news/funders-call-for-reforms-designed-to-increase-charitable-giving>

Joeisms

Always give a quick question a slow answer.



Joe Smith, FPP Mentor

*"Truth is confirmed by inspection and delay;
falsehood by haste and uncertainty."*

Tacitus

Here is a little something to ponder: The Internet does not represent the information revolution. That honor belongs to the telegraph. Until its invention by Samuel Morse in 1837, a military leader received information at the same speed as Julius Caesar did in 37 BC. The telegraph moves information at the speed of light. Nothing moves faster than the speed of light.

If we remove speed from the equation, what is the difference between the telegraph and the Internet? It is the manner with which the information is processed and the expectation of how quickly that process works. Each of us has a unique way in which we process

information. You have the right for your thought process to be respected; but you have the responsibility to respect the thought process of others.

Introspective thinking and rumination are two of the characteristics that separate us from all the plants and most of the members of the animal kingdom. A well cultivated thought process is one of the few tools that becomes sharper from frequent use. It can produce the combination of better conversation and fewer retractions.

Among the treacheries of this time of troubles is the weaponizing of words. It has never been more important to listen actively more than to speak and to speak with a calm voice. Hyperbole should never be confused with logic. The volume of one's voice seldom improves the quality of its message. Minute Rice® was not improved by creating a microwave recipe. It was still lousy tasting rice, just available more quickly.

"It is better to be silent and be thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt."

Abraham Lincoln
