Every journey has a turning point.
For 50 years, the San Antonio Area Foundation has served as the city’s
community’s giving headquarters. We facilitate charitable giving from the
community to the community. As a community foundation, we engage donors
throughout the charitable sector by helping manage and supporting over 500
charitable entities. With more than 10 billion in assets, the Area
Foundation has grown to become one of the largest community foundations in the
nation based on assets. To this day, the Area Foundation has awarded
over $300 million in grants and scholarships to enhance the quality of life
in our region. Learn more at sanantonioarea.org.
Turning points often appear as obstacles, unbidden, forcing you to choose a new path. The choices you make, the turns you take, can have a lifelong effect on you and those around you. And at the end of the path, you just might find that the obstacle has become an opportunity.
COLLABORATIVE GRANTMAKING

We were honored to have a cadre of great leaders interested in helping the community. A special thanks to Harvey Najim and the Harvey E. Najim Charitable Foundation, David Rogers and the H. R. Stott Foundation, the Harry Cotton Hard Foundation, and Chris Martin and the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County for their willingness to lead, work, fund, and below to the transformational relief fund. And, ultimately, we are thankful for the visionaries of the John L. Santikos Charitable Foundation, a fund of the San Antonio Area Foundation.

The COVID-19 Response Fund was launched on March 31, 2020. Hosted by the Area Foundation and jointly managed with United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, the fund raised $4.8 million through the tremendous generosity of hundreds of individual donors and dozens of foundations, businesses, and civic organizations who rallied behind our community during the crisis.

These funds were distributed to more than 200 regional nonprofits in a rapid-cycle process advanced by our Community Engagement and Impact (CEI) team. The average award size was $25,000, and grants were prioritized for organizations serving 17 of San Antonio’s lowest-income zip codes.

The COVID-19 Response Fund focuses its philanthropic efforts in the areas of social services, business, employment, food security, and health. We intentionally aligned with Mayor Ron Nirenberg’s focus areas to amplify and coordinate philanthropic and public investments in address the critical needs of San Antonio. The Area Foundation also jointly convened with the City of San Antonio (CitySA) and United Way to provide temporary childcare access subsidies.

Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) hosted at the Area Foundation recommended an additional $1 million in direct grants to 24 nonprofits, and 90% of all DAFs giving in response to COVID-19 helped in Bexar County.

JUST-IN-TIME CAPACITY BUILDING AND ONLINE RESOURCES

Particularly for the hundreds of nonprofit professionals in the Area Foundation services through our training and classes, we upgraded our IT infrastructure before the pandemic struck. Moving remotely since March 2020, our learning and Development Department’s staff readily pivoted to online learning opportunities. In 2020, we offered 77 sessions and had more than 2,000 engaged participants.

We delivered residencies and free community sessions on topics such as leadership in Times of Transition, Commmunizing Minority in Resource Environments, Lead by Example: Outlining Champions, Engaging Employees in Resource Environments, and Beyond New World: Reaching to Work. Also, through a partnership with CMCHEP, the Area Foundation offered free, online access for all San Antonio-area nonprofits to the Foundation Directory Online—the most extensive and up-to-date database on grant makers.

SANTON ANTONIO AREA FOUNDATION 2020 IMPACT REPORT

For a complete list of COVID-19 Response Fund contributors, please visit sandiegoareafoundation.org.

Turning points of...
DATA-DRIVEN EVENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic presented many opportunities for us to engage more deeply with donors and supporters within and beyond the Area Foundation. Throughout the year, we delivered well-attended philanthropic briefings on internal donors and volunteers on COVID-19 and its topics such as corporate social responsibility. We engaged a team of civic and business leaders through strategic conversations and with organizations as varied as Rotary, Humana, and Vantage.

The Area Foundation contributed to the Mayor’s Galvanize in Workforce Development serving as a key partner. This reinforced our priorities for development of and advocacy for Proposition F, which was approved by San Antonio voters in the November election. The initiative, SA Ready to Work, funded by a one-time revenue sales tax, will grow job training programs, scholarships, and emergency financial assistance for up to 40,000 workers caught in the maelstrom of the coronavirus pandemic.

CATALYTIC INVESTMENTS

The Area Foundation provided a matching grant to the Family Independence Initiative (now UpSpring) which formed partnerships with several local landlords to provide rental income directly into the hands of working families. San Antonio is now one of only a dozen sites across the nation to deploy this innovative and proven program which provides access to capital and job-family-driven solutions.

Alongside our local partners, the Area Foundation invested in the South of Golf Ball Drive for San Antonio and neighboring communities. The program coordinates, collaborates, and joins adversity affected hourly workers in the hospitality industry to work peak shifts for organizations such as the San Antonio Food Bank. It helps food service workers who lost their jobs and provides immediate support to organizations involved in providing food service to people in need.

The Area Foundation partnered with Victoria Way, S.A. Foundation, and UAC San Antonio to a weekly basis to survey more than 100 nonprofits to ascertain real-time community needs and engage donors on the most impactful interventions. Our approach to the highest level poverty up codes in Bexar County illustrated social and equitable approaches for our philanthropic partners and influenced their grantmaking.

There are a few of the highlights to look for in our 2020 impact report. You will learn more about our connections and our work in mobilizing philanthropy, the power of the community, and grace with excellence. Thanks to your partnerships, we can continue to serve our community’s needs today, while building a better tomorrow for all who call our region home.

With gratitude,

Mayor Nirenberg

Marcelo Trejos, CEO
San Antonio Area Foundation
Quarantine Is A Cheetah

Quarantine is a cheetah,
Because the ones of people who are getting the virus
Are coming to fast. People can't see
Their family because of the virus.
Quarantine makes me feel like
I can't do anything anymore.
I want to outrun this cheetah,
Be grateful for seafood every Friday
And for people who recover from Covid.

— Olivia S., 9th Grade

[ Be a catalyst. ]

COVID-19 Response Fund
A crisis compels you to be a catalyst for change,

AN UNPRECEDENTED CRISIS
NECESSITATED UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS OF GIVING. THE SAN ANTONIO AREA FOUNDATION WAS THERE TO BUILD PARTNERSHIPS, RAISE FUNDS, AND PROVIDE DATA-DRIVEN, TARGETED FUNDING OF NEARLY $6.5 MILLION THROUGH THE COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND. IN ADDITION, DONOR ADVISED FUNDS RECOMMENDED MORE THAN $7 MILLION IN DIRECT GRANTS TO NONPROFITS SERVING ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE PANDEMIC.
while remaining a safety net

for those who can’t wait for that change,

One gift card recipient was a single parent who lost her job due to COVID-19. She is raising her 10-year-old son and was concerned about their limited food supply and having to wait 12 days for their SNAP benefits. When she learned she would be receiving a gift card, she was so appreciative and thanked the Resident Services Coordinator and the agencies involved with helping her family. She stated that with the gift card she would be able to purchase much needed groceries.
“It is so hard to take the chance to accuse someone when you know their next step is to kill you. You feel powerless and desperate. The Family Justice Center’s services helped me to have courage. Today I am safe. I have been able to carry on with my beautiful life. I am able to see my people without being terrified. I just want to express my gratitude to all of you because you help me feel safe and protected.”

for those who can’t wait for that change,

WHO DO YOU TURN TO WHEN YOU ARE IN PERSONAL CRISIS DURING A LARGER COMMUNITY CRISIS?

One of the many devastating effects of the pandemic has been an increase in domestic violence. The Bexar County Family Justice Center is a critical resource provider to victims of domestic violence. The need to find a way to remain open was no easy feat, but with the help of typically an expansion, staff, and programs.

Before the pandemic, the Annunciation House had already begun the transition to front-loaded philanthropy, allowing organizations to focus on their mission and adjust to apply the goodwill dollars where they were needed most. This effort to cover operational expenses enabled the Bexar County Family Justice Center to re-open to the needed funds to provide crisis intervention and support services to a larger-than-normal client base.
providing others a moment to rest, take a breath, and then keep moving forward.

The people that SAMMinistries serves struggle during normal circumstances to maintain stability. The COVID-19 pandemic amplified vulnerabilities around such issues as food insecurity, rental assistance, access to hygiene, cleaning supplies, and transportation. Those living in transitional housing lost many outlets to socialize and simply let kids expend their energy. Generous funding helped alleviate these burdens, helping to keep households safe and healthy. It helped pay rent, late fees, and mortgages, making SAMMinistries a one-stop shop to address the housing needs of clients in financial crisis. One hundred percent of homeless prevention and rapid re-housing clients remained housed; 80 percent of transitional clients exited to permanent housing; and 98 percent of permanent supportive housing clients remained housed during the worst of the crisis.
This year

This year is as beautiful as a white rose.
This year is as bright as a shining red rose
as hot as the sun and as beautiful as a sunset.
Because this year is the most perfect year
to start over. Life after beauty just blossoming
waiting to bloom once again.

— Proverb 7: 4—5 (Greek)
THANK YOU, GENEROUS DONORS, FOR ENGAGING THE SAN ANTONIO AREA FOUNDATION AS A TRUSTED PARTNER IN SUPPORTING THE NONPROFIT AGENCIES SERVING THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

WE REACHED A MAJOR MILESTONE THIS YEAR WITH $1 BILLION TOTAL ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT.

HERE IS THE IMPACT WE MADE IN 2020.

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**AT A GLANCE**

- **$1 Billion** Total Assets Under Management
- **500+** Charitable Funds
- **$71.9 Million** Total Grantmaking
  - $66.1 Million to Nonprofits
  - $4.7 Million in Scholarships
  - $1.1 Million in Hardship Grants
- **2,342** Total Nonprofit Grants
- **77** Nonprofit Programs and Classes Serving 2,016 Trainees

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$71,901,341

$42,309,054

Direct Granting to Nonprofits

$6,490,115

COVID-19 Relief Fund

$3,199,110

Annual Theme Grantmaking

$6,655,491

Scholarships

$5,168,063

Supporting Organizations

$3,922,681

Designated

$6,156,827

Other Grants, including all hardship and disaster relief grants.
Turning points require bold leadership,

We are proud to have been the bridge between those most able to give and those who most needed to receive. With community input, research, and strategic planning, the San Antonio Area Foundation secured grantmaking and relief efforts on four Impact Areas: Cultural Vibrancy, Livable and Resilient Communities, Youth Success, and Successful Aging.

Key Investment Areas – Annual Responsive Grantmaking

1. Cultural Vibrancy $626,000
2. Livable and Resilient Communities $741,000
3. Youth Success $636,000
4. Successful Aging $545,000

Note: All expenditures as of 12/31/20. Total Giving includes all expenditures. San Antonio Area Foundation’s fiscal year is October 1 through September 30. For the most updated information, visit www.saan.org/impact.
creative thinking,

1. CULTURAL VIBRANCY

Our strategic investments and partnerships with arts and culture organizations in 2020 ensured that the brightness and vitality that make San Antonio special were not dimmed. Quite the opposite: By keeping arts organizations up and running (after virtually), they could continue to provide emotional, intellectual, and creative lifelines to a broad range of audiences in need of community and cultural celebration.

VITAL PARTNERSHIPS

The H. E. Butt Foundation co-invested with the Samsung in early-stage capacity building for three organizations:

America's Best Makers (San Antonio's Cultural Arts and the Chamber of Commerce)

The San Antonio Foundation partnered with the Foundation to provide $100,000 to the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center in appreciation of its 26-year history as a home for San Antonio's Latino artists and culture traditions and as a means to strengthen the Sunshine's ability to work through and beyond the current crisis.

$6,490,115
COVID-19 Relief Fund

$3,199,110
Artistic Excellence Grantmaking

$4,655,491
Scholarships

$3,168,063
Supporting Organizations

$3,922,681
Designated

$6,156,027
Other Grants, including all hardship and disaster relief grants.
2. LIVABLE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The 2019 Compass Poverty Report put numbers to the high economic inequities, racial disparities, and residential segregation that continue to plague our city. The 2020 pandemic put faces on, too often, tragic outcomes to those numbers. As philanthropic leaders, we have taken a hard look at what it takes to build a thriving, connected, and resilient San Antonio where residents in every zip code can enjoy the best quality of life that our city offers.

and committed partners,

VITAL PARTNERSHIPS

Recognizing the challenges rooted in inequitable systems, and identifying the need to uplift the affordable housing and community development sector, the San Antonio Area Foundation partnered with L内衣San Antonio to engage nonprofit executives in a pilot leadership development program supporting new and emerging leaders in the affordable housing arena. “Leading to Change: Building Equity in Community” includes leadership training, racial equity and organizational culture skill-building, and executive coaching.

In a partnership with Medea Health to address health disparities, the Area Foundation awarded seven organizations grants in the amount of $6,757 to support COVID-19 response efforts in communities disproportionately impacted. Over 3,000 individuals received support between the months of December 2020 and March 2021. Services focused on helping individuals meet their basic needs through food distribution, household and hygiene kits, financial assistance, and accessing healthcare.

$42,309,054
COVID-19 Relief Fund

Direct Giving to Nonprofits

$6,490,115
COVID-19 Relief Fund

$3,199,110
African-American Grantmaking

$4,655,491
Scholarships

$5,168,063
Supporting Organizations

$3,922,681
Designated

$6,156,827
Other Grants, including arts and health

and disaster relief grantees.
3. YOUTH SUCCESS

The strength of our community lies in the success of our children. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, exposed the lingering inequalities in our education system. In response, the San Antonio Area Foundation has invested in organizations who take on the challenge of giving every child an accessible pathway, from cradle to career, to achieve lifelong academic and personal success.

forge ahead,

VITAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Area Foundation with VIP Partnership secured an $8 million commitment from Blue Meridian Partners to expand educational and economic opportunities grounded in equity and data-driven approaches. The project will provide support to youth development agencies, workforce programs, childcare, and leadership development programs that amplify our youth’s voices in the community.

The Area Foundation is involved in a city-wide effort to improve youth outcomes through out-of-school time programs. The initiative, known as Excel Beyond the Bell - San Antonio, convenes 48 nonprofit organizations serving 80,000 area youth centered on building developmental relationships with youth, growing service capacity, and committing to an equitable recovery for all youth impacted by COVID-19.

The Area Foundation and VIP Partnership offer organizations the opportunity to rethink many fundamental components of their operations, service delivery, and finances in the wake of the pandemic. RESET* is an organizational recovery framework designed to strengthen the capacity of organizations to navigate challenges. The RESET course launched August 2020 with a focus on organizational recovery, strategic management, program model improvements, and equity-centered data analysis to drive strategic decisions in uncertain times.

* Reflect on the vision guiding your work
Evaluate the underlying needs of your community
Refine your program design
Educate your stakeholders
Transform how your organization learns

$42,309,058
Total Assets (FY21)
Direct Grant to Nonprofits

$6,490,115
COVID-19 Relief Fund

$3,199,110
Arts & Culture Grantmaking

$4,655,491
Scholarships

$5,168,063
Supporting Organizations

$3,922,681
Designated

$6,156,827
Other Grants, including all hardship and disaster relief grants
A SUCCESSFUL AGING

The pandemic has severely affected all of us, but the impact has been even greater for older San Antonians. It’s not just health outcomes. Some older adults face challenges with social isolation, loneliness, transportation, food security, and mental health. We are all aging, and the San Antonio Area Foundation is committed to a community where older adults are respected, thrive, and enjoy connected lives. We are dedicated to Reimagining Aging, a social change endeavor designed to change the public perception of aging by empowering us all to live our best lives as we age. Even when it feels overwhelming to do so.

VITAL PARTNERSHIPS

In 2020, the Successful Aging and Living in San Antonio (SALSA) collective impact initiative took significant momentum. SALSA inspires 38 multi-sector partners to develop a common agenda and implement agreed-upon strategies and activities. Significant accomplishments for SALSA this year include:

- In partnership with WellMed Charitable Foundation, the analysis, development, and distribution of the Family Caregiver Toolkit, in Spanish and English, to offer resources to spouses, family, and significant others who provide care for their loved ones.
- Training and launch of our community’s Reframing Aging Initiative. With training received from The Gerontological Society of America (GSA), who lead the national reframing aging initiative, SALSA formed and graduated its Reframing Aging Facilitators dedicated to using evidence-based, cutting edge communications tools and messages developed by Framworks Institute, and tailored for our community. By changing the way that people talk and think about aging, we are setting the foundation for policies and practices that leverage the strengths and talents of older people, and systems that support well-being for all of us as we age.
- Co-authoring with City of San Antonio and DisabilitySA’s “A survey and report of the experiences of people with disabilities during COVID-19.”
- Reimagining a solution for the Innovators in Aging award for unique and successful efforts to serve older T exans (Texas Health and Human Services).

$42,309,054
COVID-19 Relief Fund (GAP)
Direct Giving to Nonprofits

$6,490,115
COVID-19 Relief Fund

$3,199,110
Arts Endowment Grantmaking

$4,655,691
Scholarships

$5,168,063
Supporting Organizations

$3,922,681
Designated

$6,156,827
Other Grants, including all hardship and disaster relief grants.
Because turning back is not an option.

"I have always loved theater. Since I was six, I knew that was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. But 2020 really brought that dream to a halt. Luckily, taking classes virtually with The Public Theater has given me a way to stay connected with the things that I love, while also staying safe. The classes I’ve taken have given me an outlet to be creative and further my training during this time."

Megan Braas, Jr.

With the second half of its 2019/20 theater season suspended, The Public Theater of San Antonio implemented remote theater arts programming to ensure the community had access to live professional theater experiences to increase the social and emotional well-being of individuals of all ages. By hosting virtual play readings, musical cabarets, instructional classes, and free youth programming, The Public was able to provide income opportunities forDeclared performers and technical crew members, supplement youth educational theater arts programming in distance learning settings, and provide much-needed entertainment.
I Hope The New Year Is

Hope the new year is a happy color like yellow
Hope the new year is like the yellow on rice to cheese
Hope the new year is waiting at everyone as long as it can
Hope the new year is slow like a drift so we can enjoy
the good things about it.

— Bonnie C., 4th Grade
Together we can face turning points,

OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, THE SAN ANTONIO AREA FOUNDATION HAS ACTIVATED ITS LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT TO RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE BY IMPLEMENTING A STRATEGIC, DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH TO SERVING THE COMMUNITY. THIS “EQUITY-BASED DECISION-MAKING” IS THE TARGETED INVESTMENT OF MONEY AND HUMAN CAPITAL TO EQUIP OUR MOST UNDER-SERVED RESIDENTS TO REALIZE A QUALITY OF LIFE FILLED WITH HOPE, GOOD HEALTH, AND OPPORTUNITY.
embracing what matters most.

The following letter was shared with our Board of Directors during the summer of 2020. With their permission, we have updated the letter to be included in the 2020 Impact Report.

I had every reason to believe that 2020 would be a good year. I had every reason to believe that we would be able to move forward with our programs and initiatives without the distraction of a pandemic. But then COVID-19 hit, and everything changed.

As Chief Executive Officer of the San Antonio Area Foundation, I have been fortunate to work with a group of dedicated individuals who are committed to making a difference in our community. We have worked tirelessly to ensure that our programs and initiatives continue to have a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.

As we move forward, I am encouraged by the resilience and determination of our community. We have learned that despite the challenges we face, we are stronger together.

The path forward is not always clear, but we are committed to working towards a better future for all.

Theodore (Ted) Godby II, CPA
Chairman of the Board, SAFF, 2019-2020
Retired, Former Senior Vice President of Risk Management, Valero Energy Corporation

So, no, I am not OK. I cannot be OK while we continue to grapple with the impacts of racial reckoning. Institutional and systemic racism is still here with us, making it even more challenging.

While this is not about me, it is about who we are and what we believe in. It is about the future of our children and grandchildren. We must continue to be advocates for change and work towards a better future for all.

Theo Godby II, CPA
Chairman of the Board, SAFF, 2019-2020
Retired, Former Senior Vice President of Risk Management, Valero Energy Corporation
We need to be a major player. People started looking around to see which organizations were willing to step up and we quickly realized that we needed to be more engaged, providing more leadership in the community.”

ADRESSING EQUITY
The urgency of addressing inequities, spurred by the murder of George Floyd – coupled with a global pandemic – has driven the Area Foundation to seek additional new investments, partnerships, research, and advocacy supporting the African-American and other marginalized communities to ensure that we recognize various marginalized communities are disproportionately impacted. Our path to achieving more equitable outcomes begins by more intentionally focusing our annual responsive grantmaking on the city’s most distressed zip codes and most disproportionately impacted families.

Social Justice Fund
Core and Brian Wright sought our assistance to establish a new charitable fund to provide free legal services for matters involving bail issues, hate enforcement, excessive use of force, racial discrimination, and voting rights.

Census Outreach
We partnered with data analytics organization, G2XChange, and the African-American Fund to develop outreach strategies and collateral materials to target African American community historically underrepresented in the U.S. Census. Additionally, we partnered with COCA and Beaver County and five other organizations to ensure a complete count.

The Area Foundation, through its donor partners, and public, emergency, and rapid response grants to multiple nonprofits who were connected with families disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 by continuing to provide critical safety net and recovery services in the wake of a crisis.

Meaningful decisions need meaningful data. The State of the African-American Community in Beaver County
A clear understanding of a situation is the only way to achieve clear results. The San Antonio Area Foundation has partnered with G2XChange and the San Antonio Area African American Community Fund to sponsor a first-of-its-kind report for Beaver County detailing any initiatives within the African American community populations, education, employment and income, business and workforce development, health, housing, justice, and social issues. The report, to be released in autumn 2021, will be used to guide policy and future community investments in the African American community.

2020 demanded that we deepen our community engagement

HOW DO YOU BRING ABOUT JUSTICE AND EQUITY WHILE STRENGTHENING BONDS BETWEEN DIVERSE COMMUNITIES OF COLOR?

The San Antonio Equity Fellowship Program is a new transformational leadership program focused on working together across diverse and often disparate populations to drive solutions and help ensure that all communities of color in the San Antonio area have equal access to opportunity. The Area Foundation is pleased to offer this unique opportunity for personal and professional growth and development through the Area Foundation’s commitment to equity and inclusion. Fellowships will be awarded to similarly situated nonprofit organizations in San Antonio.

The San Antonio Equity Fellowship Program will provide a series of leadership workshops to nonprofits in the four SAAFon Impact areas – Cultural Vibrancy, Livable and Resilient Communities, Health & Wellness, and Successful Aging in San Antonio – whose work promotes opportunity, policy impact, and community engagement that serve communities of color throughout San Antonio.

The six-month intensive leadership program is focused on strengthening relationships among diverse communities of color. Applicants may be executives, directors or senior program staff at their respective Organization or San Antonio Equity Fellowship Program will work in partnership with leadership for community impact, increased cross cultural understanding, prioritized community collaboration to address common social issues, and enhancement of cross sector and inter-departmental cooperation.
Our three community outreach funds promote philanthropy by and for underrepresented and underserved communities locally. The San Antonio Area African American Community Fund (SAAAACF) promotes and advocates for financial philanthropy to enhance the quality of living of the African American community in the San Antonio Area. The Latino Foundation of San Antonio (Latino Foundation) exists to enhance the economic, cultural, civic, and philanthropic leadership that reflects the population of the Latino community of San Antonio. The Women & Girls Development Fund (WGD) promotes philanthropy and supports nonprofit organizations serving women and girls in the greater San Antonio area to build a community of women who bring positive change through participation as leaders in their schools, jobs, in communities, and eventually through philanthropy. Each outreach fund engages volunteers to increase awareness, provide opportunities for involvement and raise funds to award grants and sustain programs in their particular areas of interest. The community outreach funds are housed at the San Antonio Area Foundation but are directed by volunteer leaders from the community, each with their own independent steering committees and initiatives.
Except this ONE: A free verse poem

I have my fill
Except for this one
This one's too hard
I'll just ignore it
So I don't get hurt
Upon a shelf
The thing that fear
Is fear itself
Why should we be scared when we can feel great?
Was it something real?
Maybe something in our mind?
But it doesn't have eyes
Not eyes or a tongue
No body, no ins.
Certainly nothing.
Well, after all,
It doesn't exist.
At least not for us.
And it will not be missed.

— Taylor B.
A conversation with a colleague about recognizing scholarship donors at our school caused me to reflect on my own experience — first as a scholarship recipient 20 years ago and now as someone who funds scholarships.

My scholarship donors, my husband and I, chose to honor our gifts to help other students, so we could give over so that we have an opportunity to serve the people we’re helping. The conversation with my colleague along with my shared desire to meet our scholarship recipients made me think that I should reach out to those who helped me during my own academic journey.

Much has transpired since graduating from Johnson High School in 1994 and then attending Texas A&M University with the help of a scholarship from the San Antonio Area Foundation. It’s important to send an updated note to thanks to the Foundation to express my sincere gratitude for the impact their gift had on my life and career. The Foundation scholarship helped me achieve my initial goal of earning my bachelor’s degree in psychology in 1996. The Foundation grant helped me graduate from college without the need for loans.

After graduation, I pursued a career in higher education, and I have enjoyed working for the Texas A&M University and Texas State University systems. The highlight of my career was having the opportunity to work in Qatar at Texas A&M University’s branch campus for eight and a half years. I was able to expand the educational aspirations of Aggie engineers from over 24 different countries and provide leadership to my team.

My experiences of living, working, and traveling abroad has deepened my understanding for the need to embrace diversity and to include perspectives from underrepresented groups. My time abroad afforded me the opportunity to grow personally and professionally, preparing me for my current role as Assistant Dean for Accountability and Strategic Initiatives at Texas A&M’s School of Public Health.

My professional success begins with the Foundation’s early investment in me. In turn, my husband and I have been able to fund several scholarships for students at Texas A&M, providing financial assistance to the next generation of professionals. None of this would have been possible had it not been for your gift for the Area Foundation.

Thank you again for the work you do to support future generations of students and thank you again for helping me pursue my dreams.

Erik Wilson
Assistant Dean for Accountability and Strategic Initiatives
Texas A&M School of Public Health

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Area Foundation invested $4.4M in support of 900 scholarship grants in 2020. The Area Foundation hosts more than 100 scholarship funds available for graduating high school students and current college students. Each fund has its own criteria based on the fund advisor’s interest. Some scholarships fund a specific area of study, a donor’s alma mater, or scholarships to students from a specific school.
THANK YOU FROM OUR STUDENT SCHOLARS

“Thank you all so much for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to continue my pursuit in secondary education! I could not have done it without all of your help.”

- Katelyn R. Gedeme
  Rapier Educational Foundation Scholarship Fund

“Being a first-generation student is challenging and overwhelming, but as a recipient of the Whataburger Family Foundation Scholarship, you have given me the hope and confidence to continue pursuing my career in the healthcare field. More than anything, I am filled with gratitude.”

- Diana Herrera
  Whataburger Family Foundation Scholarship Fund

“The San Antonio Area Foundation has invested in me the same way I plan to invest in my community for the rest of my life. This scholarship for my education is just the first of many steps I'll be taking to become a lawyer. I want to use my education for myself and the people of San Antonio and my Latino community. I thank you the San Antonio Area Foundation for showing me that my future is worth investing in.”

- Isabella Garcia
  John L. Santikos Charitable Foundation Scholarship Fund

“The day I met the head of Women in Engineering at Notre Dame, my future was set. Thanks to the Briscoe and Theresa Mozynski Scholarship, my dreams are now my reality!”

- Eleanor Zinnersleber
  Briscoe & Theresa Mozynski Engineering Scholarship Fund

“Thank you for allowing me to pursue my dream of being a nurse and a future nurse practitioner! Right now, I work on the front line of COVID-19, and I can't wait to be able to do more to help people!”

- Elany Garcia
  Methodist Health Stone Oak Employee Scholarship Fund

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Area Foundation awarded $4,391,670 in support of 836 scholarship grants in 2020. The Area Foundation funds more than 400 scholarship funds available for graduating high school students and current college students. Each fund has its own criteria based on the fund's advisor's interests. Some scholarships fund a specific area of study; a donor's alma mater, or scholarships for students from a specific school.
Our turning point has made us a stronger catalyst for change,
bring all of our resources to bear as we create a path toward a new, better San Antonio for all.

"One of the major assets the Foundation is that what we care about is saved for forever."
— Gordon Pare

"The San Antonio Area Foundation’s role is to connect the dots. It’s to be able to see people who have resources and where their wishes are and then connect these wishes of feeling our world a better place with the right nonprofit."
— Lisa Devins

"I want everybody who sees this to go back to their own... to really want to tell the Area Foundation people that we really appreciate the donation for the Campaign.

We’re glad and happy ‘cause it means we’re going, and instead of people money, like the kids and other groups, crappy or great, we’re giving to other foundations."
— Glen Kibbe

YOUR COMPASSION, AMPLIFIED:

Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) are donor-directed charitable funds administered by the Area Foundation, which provided an additional $7 million in grants made directly to nonprofits impacted by COVID-19, while also contributing $1.3 million to the COVID-19 Response Fund. Additionally, Donor Advised Fund grants directly supporting nonprofit organizations totaled $3.5 million for 2020.

DAF grantmaking grew 35% in the first and second quarters of 2020 compared to the same time in 2019, with 85% of all giving in response to COVID-19 staying in Bexar County. This sharp increase is directly attributable to independent donors’ urgent concern for nonprofit working on the front lines of the crisis.

CONNECTING THE DOTS:

The Donor and Development Services team equips each donor with the tools they need to make informed decisions about who, how, and when to give. The San Antonio Area Foundation accepts a wide variety of assets and can facilitate even the most complex forms of giving.

We partner with professional advisors to create highly effective approaches to charitable giving. We offer the maximum tax advantage for most gifts under state and federal law.

The Center for Corporate Philanthropy at the San Antonio Area Foundation, launched in 2020, hosted a virtual townhall for fundholders and key business leaders featuring Donor Walker, President of the Ford Foundation. Mr. Walker provided keen insights on how corporate citizens could help lead a robust and equitable recovery for the nonprofit sector during and after the pandemic, as well as challenging the lack of diversity on corporate boards.
VISIONARY CIRCLE LEGACY SOCIETY

The Visionary Circle Legacy Society recognizes those who, through their estate or financial plans, ensure that the causes they care about today will fare better in the future. While we honor these individuals in our Visionary Circle, those who are listed below, we also express our gratitude to those who wish to remain anonymous.

Will you take this journey with us?

Then, when the next turning point comes, we can face it with confidence and hope.

Together.
Will you take that journey with us?

2020 BOARD MEMBERS

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Geri-Ohmer T. Oyem-Ebi, 2021 Chair Elect
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Jake Reed, Secretary
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Lula.de la Garza
Laura Ehrenberg-Chesler
Lawrence Shemesh, Jr.
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John Hayes, Past Board Chair
Dwight Forrest
Adena Williams Loken, Ph.D.
Niel Parmen
Jane B. Breggs
Marie Smith, Past Board Chair
R. Bruce Tiley
Henry W. Woff, Jr.

The San Antonio Zoo Foundation would like to thank outgoing directors for their outstanding service on our board through 2020.

Laura Ehrenberg-Chesler
Lula.de la Garza
Thiré Guidley
John Hayes
Jane B. Breggs
Marie Smith