GROWING COMMUNITY GIVING
CFT’s NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF IMPACT
Read more about how you can share your care for community on page 8 ▶
This edition of our IMPACT magazine is centered around generosity. Growing community giving is one of our top priorities as an organization, and this year marks the 15th anniversary of CFT’s North Texas Giving Day. Fifteen years and more than $500 million raised for 3,000-plus local organizations—what a cause for celebration! (Read more on pages 8-9.) To the hundreds of thousands of givers who have participated in giving through NorthTexasGivingDay.org over the years: we thank you, and our nonprofit community thanks you. Yet, at the same time, new data released by Giving USA shows that charitable giving is down across the nation for the first time in many years. It’s going to take each of us to ensure this trend is reversed across our region, and we hope you’ll utilize North Texas Giving Day as your one-stop shop to give to what matters most to you.

At CFT, we witness firsthand the impact that generosity has on the lives of our community members. On pages 4-5, you can read about how our community of givers came together in the wake of the tragic shooting at Allen Premium Outlets through CFT’s Support for Allen Fund. On pages 13-14, you can learn how local professional advisors and businesses work side by side with CFT to create giving strategies and partner with us to give back.

If you haven’t yet read about our new president and CEO, Wayne White, I hope you’ll take a few moments to do so on pages 6-7, and join me in extending him a warm welcome to North Texas. I know he looks forward to meeting with and learning from each of you as he determines how to lead our staff experts into CFT’s next era to expand community impact. On page 15, you can read about the awards and accolades of some of our dedicated colleagues, including recent thought leadership in the media on education issues from some of CFT’s Educate Texas leaders.

It’s an honor to serve as the board chair of this growing organization, and I welcome your partnership and feedback any time.

With gratitude for your generosity,
SUPPORTING OUR ALLEN COMMUNITY, TOGETHER

$500,000 donated to CFT’s Support for Allen Fund

More than 650 individuals, families, and businesses have given a combined $500,000 to CFT’s SUPPORT FOR ALLEN FUND to assist local nonprofits providing resources and services in response to the tragic mass shooting at Allen Premium Outlets. Grants from the fund are being made to nonprofits providing mental health, grief, and trauma support for the victims and their families, as well as for the impacted first responders.

Initial grants totaling $115,000 have been awarded to LifePath Systems and the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute. Additional grants will be awarded in the coming months for ongoing support and long-term recovery services.

To learn more about the grantees and see the full list of businesses that supported the fund, visit CFTEXAS.ORG/ALLEN

LifePath Systems

AMOUNT AWARDED: $75,000

GRANT PURPOSE: To support ongoing mental health and trauma services to Allen and Collin County community members and those impacted by the shooting.

LifePath Systems is the designated behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disabilities authority for Collin County, operating as a unit of local government and a nonprofit center to provide essential mental health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disability services to families and individuals. The team at LifePath worked quickly and closely with the City of Allen to open and staff the Family Assistance Center after the mass shooting, where they provided free grief and trauma support directly to victims and those impacted.

Their staff went store to store to provide support at the Allen Premium Outlets as they reopened.

LifePath now continues to host a hotline for anyone affected, offering services at no cost.

This grant will support the new Center for Healing in partnership with LifePath Systems, known as a community resiliency center, on their McKinney campus, where licensed therapists and crisis counselors will work closely with those affected by the shooting. They will also offer specialized therapy for youth experiencing mental health issues, and are working closely with school districts to ensure parents and students have access to resources. For more information, call LifePath at 972-422-5939 or visit CenterforHealingTX.org.

“The initial grant funding from CFT’s Support for Allen Fund is helping significantly as we onboard additional staff and contractors, and as we continue our outreach and education to ensure that those impacted are aware of the trauma response counseling and therapy resources available to them.”

— Tammy Mahan
Chief Executive Officer, LifePath Systems

Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

AMOUNT AWARDED: $40,500

GRANT PURPOSE: Funding for the DFW First Responders Support Network that provided clinical services to officers who responded to the shooting and their families, as well as support for the new “Blue Chip” program that helps officers access confidential mental health services.

The Texas Law Enforcement Peer Network (TLEPN) was established in 2022 by the UNT Dallas Caruth Police Institute, and is a trailblazing statewide peer support initiative that is accessible around the clock to Texas law enforcement officers. This confidential and anonymous network seeks to ensure the well-being of those who commit themselves to safeguarding our communities, connecting officers with trained peers equipped to assist with managing stress, trauma, and fatigue.

In response to the mass shooting in Allen, TLEPN and the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute/Caruth Police Institute formulated a response plan launched at the Allen Police Department to provide mental health resources to affected officers and their families. Clinical support was provided by the DFW First Responders Support Network, which consists of more than 40 culturally competent clinicians who saw 120 unique visits in the initial three weeks following the tragedy.

“While officers may have avenues for private mental health care through insurance or peer networks, many still hesitate to seek help, even in the aftermath of traumatic incidents. The Texas Blue Chip Program offers an additional anonymous channel through which officers can obtain assistance on their own terms.”

— B.J. Wagner
Senior Vice President of Health and Public Safety at The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

THE TEXAS BLUE CHIP PROGRAM

In response to events such as the May 2023 shooting in Allen, in late August, the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute introduced the Texas Blue Chip Program, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at offering North Texas law enforcement officers an additional access point for confidential and free mental health services in collaboration with TLEPN.

The Texas Blue Chip Program introduces specially designed poker chips that are accessible at police stations throughout the region and virtually on the TLEPN app. These chips grant an officer access to free, discreet, and confidential counseling sessions with mental health providers.

The urgency of this program is underscored by the distressing statistic that Texas recorded the highest number of law enforcement officer suicides in 2022, with a total of 16 lives lost.

Learn more at CFTexas.org/BlueChip.
“The path to this decision spanned many states and ZIP codes, and ultimately resulted in the successful recruitment of a talented leader to join our North Texas community. Wayne brings a wealth of leadership experience and a passion for positive change. With his exceptional leadership skills coupled with extensive business and nonprofit management experience, the Board’s search committee is confident that Wayne is the right leader to guide our foundation toward achieving even greater heights in alignment with our mission and vision. We’re eager for our region to experience the impact that Wayne has made across the nation,” said Richie Butler, who served as chair of the CEO search committee.

Board of Trustees Vice Chair and search committee member Connie O’Neil agreed, noting, “In addition to his professional accomplishments, Wayne brings a collaborative and inclusive approach to our work. He firmly believes in the power of partnership and community engagement to effect meaningful change. Wayne’s ability to bring diverse stakeholders together, foster collaboration, and inspire collective action will be instrumental in strengthening our foundation’s impact and forging new connections across our communities.”

“Words from Wayne

“I am very excited to lead the team of experts at Communities Foundation of Texas. To join such a well-established and impactful organization and to have the opportunity to build on the achievements of the past 70 years through this role is a true honor, and one that I take very seriously. I am committed to furthering and expanding the organization’s priorities of growing community giving, expanding community impact, and advancing community equity, and I am eager to build a community of my own here as I make the move from the Midwest to North Texas.

I firmly believe that the most effective solutions are created through collaboration, dialogue, and active involvement of stakeholders, and I look forward to learning from, listening to, and partnering with all who make CFT’s work possible.”

To learn more about Wayne White, visit CFTEXAS.ORG/MEETWAYNE
NTX GIVING DAY
Celebrating 15 Years of Impact

North Texas Giving Day is the largest regional giving event in the nation, but even bigger than that—it serves as a day of unity and hope. Our community of givers has created more than $500 million in impact through CFT’s NTX Giving Day since its inception in 2009. As nonprofits fill in the gaps for critical needs, NTX Giving Day amplifies their stories, uplifts their impact, and welcomes each person to share their care for community. Through CFT’s NTX Giving Day, we can all be a part of something bigger, together.

No matter who you are, there is something you can do to support your community. Give now through September 21 at NorthTexasGivingDay.org

Serving & Giving

“My family believes that most of what we have in life is meant for others. That principle is reflected in days like this.”
GUNJAN JAIN
Owner, Access Healthcare Services, LLC and Community Foundation of Texas Trustee

A legacy of generosity

“Supporting North Texas Giving Day for the past decade has been meaningful to our family, as it furthers the culture of giving back that my grandfather, Granville C. Morton, instilled.”
Meredith Woodworth
Community Foundation of Texas Fund Holder and Long-Time NTX Giving Day Supporter

Winning by Giving

“By donating on NTX Giving Day, you help make the world a better place, starting right here at home.”
Dan & Rebecca Tatsch
NTX Giving Day Donation Record Holders

Cheers to 15 years:

Created in 2009, NTX Giving Day, then called Dallas Giving Day, raised $4.2 million for 112 Dallas-based nonprofits. In 2022, over $62 million was raised for more than 3,000 local organizations.

Check out CFT’s NTX Giving Day history on display at Galleria Dallas from September 1-30. Learn more at CFTEXAS.ORG/NTX15
As part of CFT’s celebration of Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May, CFT hosted Asian Women Leaders Connect, an evening filled with meaningful connection and thoughtful conversation on values-based giving and the effect of culture on philanthropy.

Panelists Bianca Chow, Jin-Ya Huang, Mona Kafeel, and Gowri N. Sharma discussed their values and what drives them to give back with moderator Boski Sharma, CFT’s senior donor relations officer.

Attendees learned about ways that the panelists give back.

Panelists shared how their heritage and history informs their philanthropy.

Asian Women Leaders Connect

LUNCHEON AT HEIRLOOM HALL

CFT hosted a luncheon at Heirloom Hall in Frisco for charitably-minded women across Collin County. Attendees shared their values, discussed giving, and learned how CFT can be a partner to amplify charitable goals.

Emerging Leaders in Philanthropy

CFT 2023’s Emerging Leaders in Philanthropy cohort spent the year working to identify two priority issue areas: education, with an emphasis on early education, and work-based learning/adult education, teacher preparation, retention, and representation; and economic security and opportunity, with an emphasis on financial literacy, workforce development, and affordable housing. Their nine-month journey in grantmaking resulted in a $25,000 grant to Lone Star Justice Alliance.

Learn more at CFTexas.org/ELP

Photo credits: Kim Leeson

Board Chair Celebration

CFT recently hosted our current Board of Trustees and past trustees for our annual Board Chair Celebration.

This year’s event included a special toast saluting former Board Chair Frank Risch for his service as Special Advisor to the Chair while we searched for our next President and CEO following Dave Scullin’s retirement in spring 2023.

We are so grateful to each of those who have served on our Board, as their tireless efforts and expertise have made our work possible over the past 70 years.

Current and former trustees gather annually to discuss CFT’s progress and priorities.

Photo credits: Kim Leeson

Board Chair Celebration

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Photo credits: Kim Leeson
Angie Herrington, a Certified Financial Planner®, wealth advisor, and owner of Herrington Wealth Management, has been working side by side with CFT to provide valuable advisory services for her charitable clients. Angie first became acquainted with CFT’s senior donor engagement officer for Collin County, Jeri Chambers, at a monthly women’s networking event. “Angie learned about our work and what we could offer her clients,” Jeri recalled. “It quickly became a values-aligned professional relationship and personal friendship.” Angie has since referred several clients to CFT’s team of charitable experts—often those who have acquired new wealth and have a passion for uplifting their communities through giving.

Two of Angie’s charitably-minded clients, sisters Kappi Helms and Kristi Wise-Derrick, were interested in exploring how they could support their passions through their planned giving, in addition to discussing the tax advantages available to maximize their impact. Angie recalls being “blown away by CFT’s professionalism and expertise” during their planning meetings. “It’s important for clients to feel safe and understood when having discussions about giving, and CFT provides that,” said Angie.

“Angie introduced us to CFT because she knew we were interested in making an impact in our community and beyond. She knew that CFT would be a natural fit, especially with creative programs like North Texas Giving Day,” said Kappi.

CFT works to build bridges between fund holders’ charitable interests and community needs by offering opportunities to broaden and scale their philanthropy through partnership and collaboration.
Giving back has been embedded in Neiman Marcus Group’s culture since its inception in 1907. By tapping into CFT’s charitable expertise over the past fifteen years, The Heart of Neiman Marcus Foundation has taken its charitable giving strategies to the next level. CFT’s business-advised funds offer a unique service to companies, supporting the business’s goals with a full spectrum of services, including grantmaking, due diligence, site visits, strategy support, and more.

Neiman Marcus Group has partnered with CFT since 2008, and today, CFT oversees six of Neiman Marcus Group’s charitable funds. CFT provides the organization with grant oversight and philanthropic guidance, allowing the company to focus on the good that they want to do in their community.

According to Ali Mize, Senior Director of ESG, Belonging, and Corporate Philanthropy at Neiman Marcus Group, working with CFT “allows them to have an extra set of hands, hearts, and minds to execute the work that we do on a national scale.”

The Heart of Neiman Marcus Foundation believes that when we empower our next generation, cultivate a culture of belonging, and invest in a sustainable future, the world will be a better place. Their current giving strategy is aligned with their brand values of youth, belonging, and sustainability.

They award scholarships to students pursuing careers in ethical fashion, support advocacy work advancing LGBTQIA+ communities through the Human Rights Campaign, partner with nonprofits like Boys and Girls Club of America to educate youth on career opportunities in retail, and more.

Additionally, while based in New York, the company’s newly established Bergdorf Goodness Foundation is managed right here in Texas through CFT. The Bergdorf Goodness Foundation’s mission is to improve the lives of underserved communities in New York City through the transformative power of the arts.

With guidance from CFT’s team of experts, the Neiman Marcus Group is championing social responsibility locally and nationally, shining as an example of a company with a heart for good.

“For CFT has been a great partner in making our grantmaking more strategic, equitable, and transparent. CFT staff have provided us with resources to establish our grant guidelines and have removed the administrative burden of record-keeping and validating 501(c)(3) status. This has allowed our team to focus on driving impact and building partnerships. We wouldn’t be able to do nearly as much if we had to do the administrative work that CFT does for us.”

— ALI MIZE, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ESG, BELONGING, AND CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY AT NEIMAN MARCUS GROUP

Learn more about Neiman Marcus Group and their giving at: CFTEXAS.ORG/NMG

Join us in celebrating our Educate Texas staff experts who recently authored opinion pieces published in The Dallas Morning News.
KEY DATES

SEPTEMBER 1-20
EARLY GIVING FOR NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY
Starting September 1, you can make your gifts to your favorite North Texas nonprofits. Search 3,000+ nonprofits by cause area, location, size, and more. Give between September 1-21 at NorthTexasGivingDay.org

SEPTEMBER 21
NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY
During North Texas Giving Day, everyone can be a philanthropist online from 6 a.m. to midnight. Will you join us? Give via credit card, Apple Pay, PayPal, or Venmo at NorthTexasGivingDay.org

NOVEMBER 9
FUND HOLDER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION
CFT fund holders are invited to join us on November 9 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. for an evening of appreciation and a celebration of generosity. Additional details and formal invitation to follow.

MAY 14, 2024
PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR
Save the date! Join us for next year’s professional seminar, where hundreds of advisors will gather for CFT’s continuing education seminar with Southern Methodist University. Learn more at CFTexas.org/Seminar

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