FOX
FAMILY
FOUNDATION

30th

ANNIVERSARY REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Photo Credit: Natalia Weedy

3 From Our President

4 Our Story

6 Our Mission, Vision, & Values

8 Our Grantmaking

10 Grant Highlights

20 Our Grantees

24 Giving Highlights

26 Our Endowment

27 Our Board & Staff

Cover Photo Credit: Natalia Weedy

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In the fall of 1994, I joined the board of Fox Family Foundation and also began work as its first Executive Director. For the next ten years, I came to appreciate my grandmother, Dr. Frances Hill Fox, not only as a grandmother, but as a businesswoman and a philanthropist. In those early days, the board was especially respectful of my grandmother's interests, and so the few grantees we selected almost exclusively represented her giving priorities. As we grew in size, thanks to several donations to the Foundation that she made, the Foundation's grantmaking shifted in response to the broader perspectives of the board, including both family members and independent directors.

After her passing in 2003, the Foundation began to grow significantly. I do not believe my grandmother could envision, however, the depth and breadth of our grantmaking over the next two decades and its positive impact in the community.

As I reflect on the work of the Foundation, I am proud of all we have accomplished, and I want to especially thank all of the organizations we have partnered with over the last thirty years. Your work in our community makes a difference each day. In addition, many thanks to our independent board members and their dedication to the Foundation and its initiatives. Finally, a special thank you to our current Executive Director, Kate Shirah, as we have benefited from her expertise over the last two years since she joined the Foundation.

As you review our 30th anniversary report, I hope it captures the Foundation's fulfillment of my grandmother's wish to help people flourish and be part of making the greater Durham area a better place. As we look to the future, we intend to continue our support of a vibrant nonprofit sector and to expand our collaboration with others who like us are improving the quality of life in our community.

With appreciation,
David D. Beischer, President

Meals on Wheels
Photo Credit: Natalia Weedy

OUR STORY

The Fox Family Foundation was created in 1991 by Dr. Frances Hill Fox to assist with her generous philanthropy in Durham and the Triangle. Dr. Fox was joined on the original board of the Foundation by her children, Susan Fox Beischer and Randy Fox. Together with community leaders who served as non-family board members, they chose to focus the Foundation's charitable giving primarily on organizations supporting arts, community services, education, and health.

The Foundation board, including the current generation of family members, continues to be guided by Dr. Fox's independent spirit and pragmatic approach. While the Foundation remains constant in its founding principles, it is equally dedicated to listening for shifts in community and organizational priorities and new opportunities. By doing so, Fox Family Foundation is able to responsively pivot as necessary to address needs that might otherwise go unnoticed or unanswered.

Fox Family Foundation is proud to continue to serve the community through an enduring commitment to practical, carefully-targeted support aimed at improving the quality of life for those who live in Durham and the surrounding area.

OUR MISSION

We support and engage with partners to make a positive difference in our community through arts and culture, education, health, and human services.

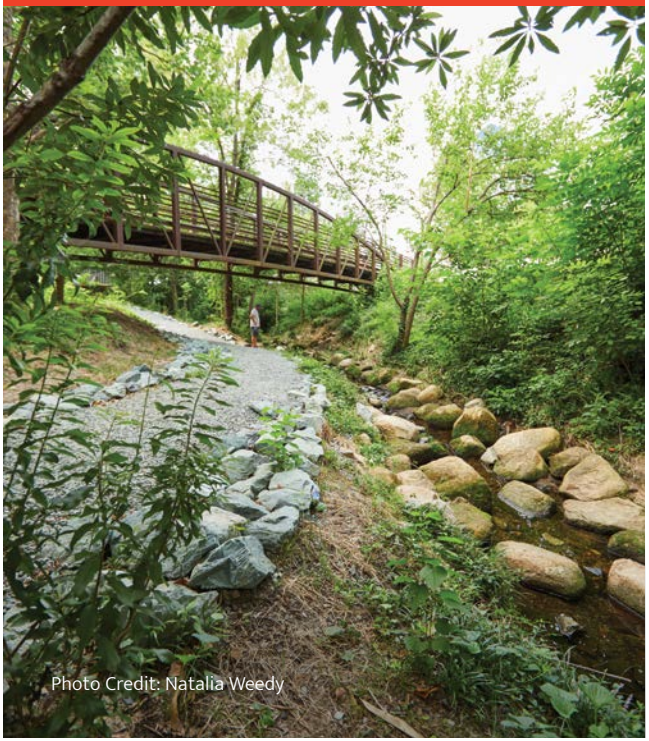


Photo Credit: Natalia Weedy

Photo Credit: Natalia Weedy

OUR VISION

A greater Durham area where people's lives are enriched and improved.

OUR AREAS OF SUPPORT

Arts and Culture

Education

Health

Human Services

OUR VALUES

People

We center our choices and actions on how community members ultimately benefit.

Relationships

We value conversation, connection, and collaboration both in our interactions and in the community.

Pragmatism

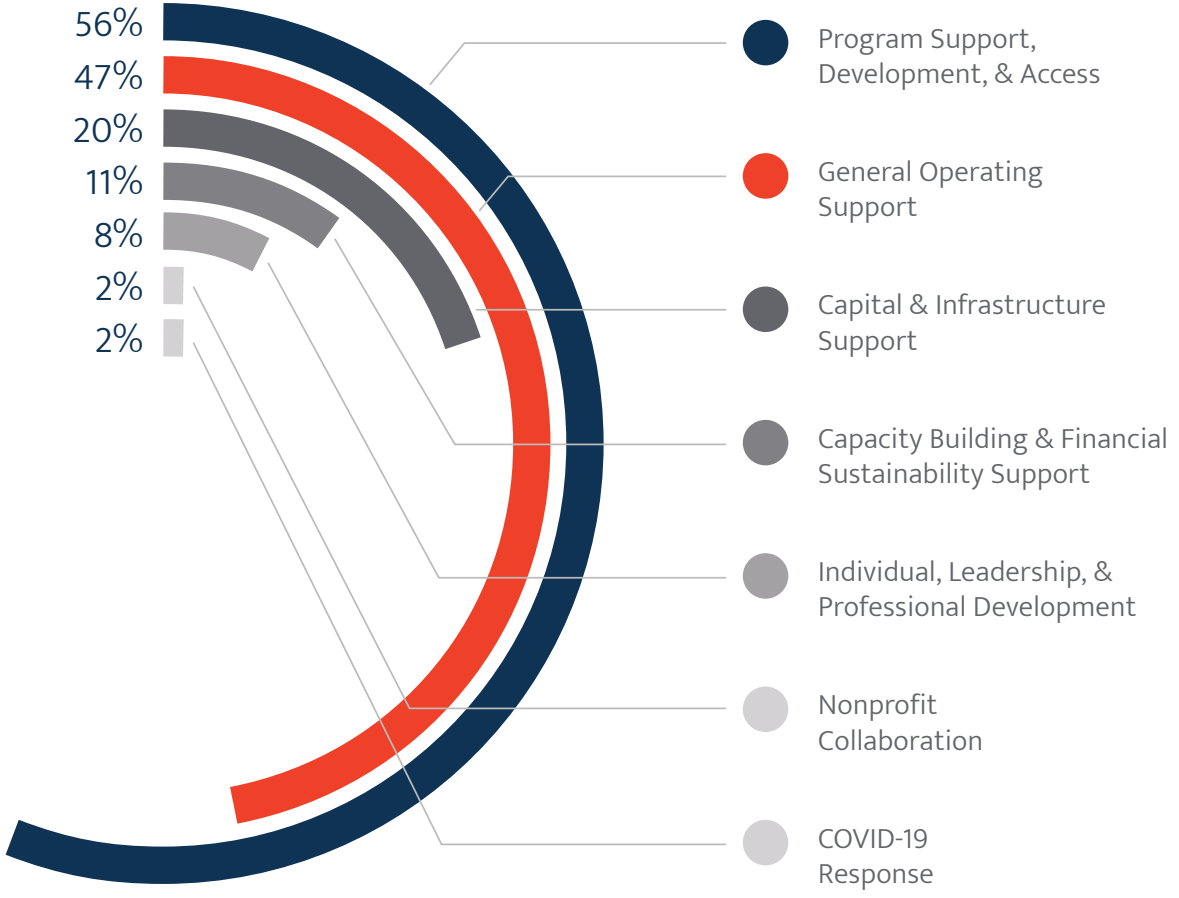
We promise a practical approach: grant processes that are straightforward and decisions informed by real opportunities and needs.

Responsiveness

We commit to listening, learning, and adapting in order to effectively carry out our mission now and in the future.

OUR GRANTMAKING

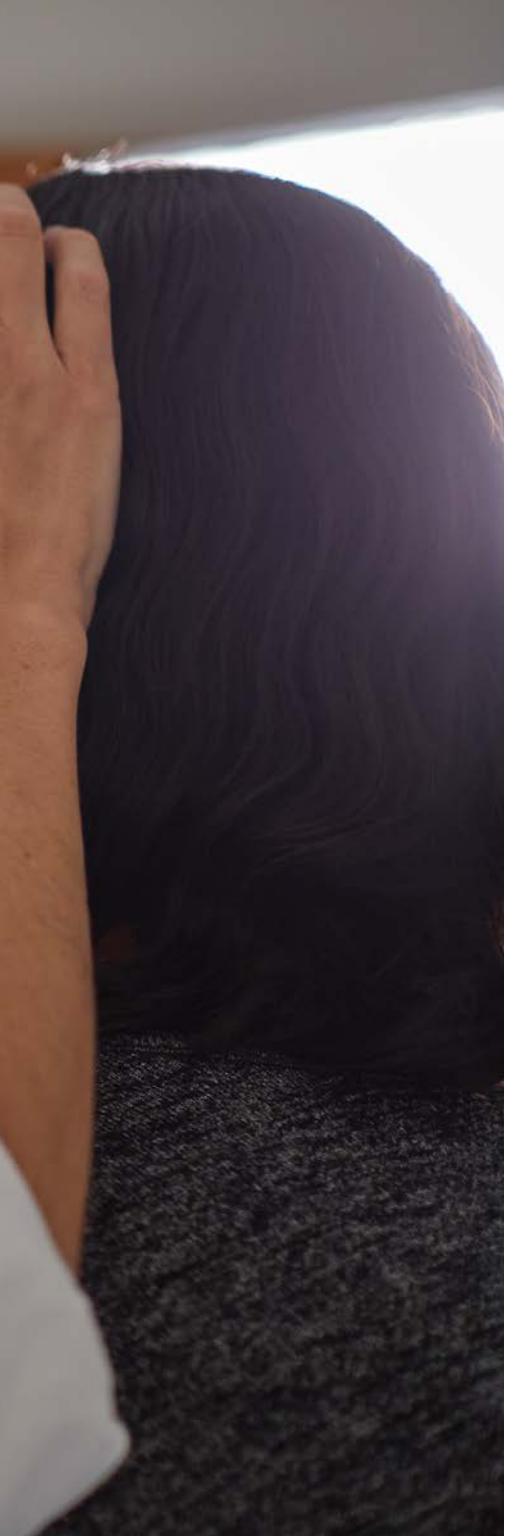
Types of grant support as a % of total grant dollars awarded as of January 1, 2021.
Percentages do not equal 100% as some grants included multiple types of support.



American Dance Festival
Photo Credit: Ben McKeown

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Lincoln Community Health Center
Photo Credit: Natalia Weedy



ASSISTING WITH PRACTICAL NEEDS

Lincoln Community Health Center—Durham County's only community health center—is a primary care facility to 40,000 local children and adults, many of whom have low income or are uninsured. Lincoln receives much of its funding from federal, state, and local public sector sources. But in order to enhance services or create new patient-centered programs, Lincoln looks to supporters like Fox Family Foundation to pay for some projects that traditional funding sources will not accommodate.

An example of this kind of practical support can be seen in a $12,000 grant awarded in 2017 to help Lincoln purchase three adjustable-height examination tables as part of a larger capital renovation. Providing a portion of the funds needed to replace the exam tables was a necessary complement since restricted funding sources wouldn't have covered all the equipment needed in the examination rooms. The new tables promised improved comfort and accessibility for both very young and elderly patients with limited mobility. The tables also relieved the danger to and burden on staff who, with the old tables, had to sometimes physically lift and lower their patients.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the adjustable tables also offered an unanticipated benefit in helping staff and patients maintain appropriate social distancing. Lincoln's Chief of Family Medicine, Dr. Holly Biola, described the tables' additional usefulness: "When our certified medical assistants are processing a patient, the adjustable-height exam tables can be put at just the right height for a patient to rest their arm for a blood pressure reading while the medical assistant charts the results 6 feet away. It underscores how small investments like this can make a difference."

DEVELOPING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

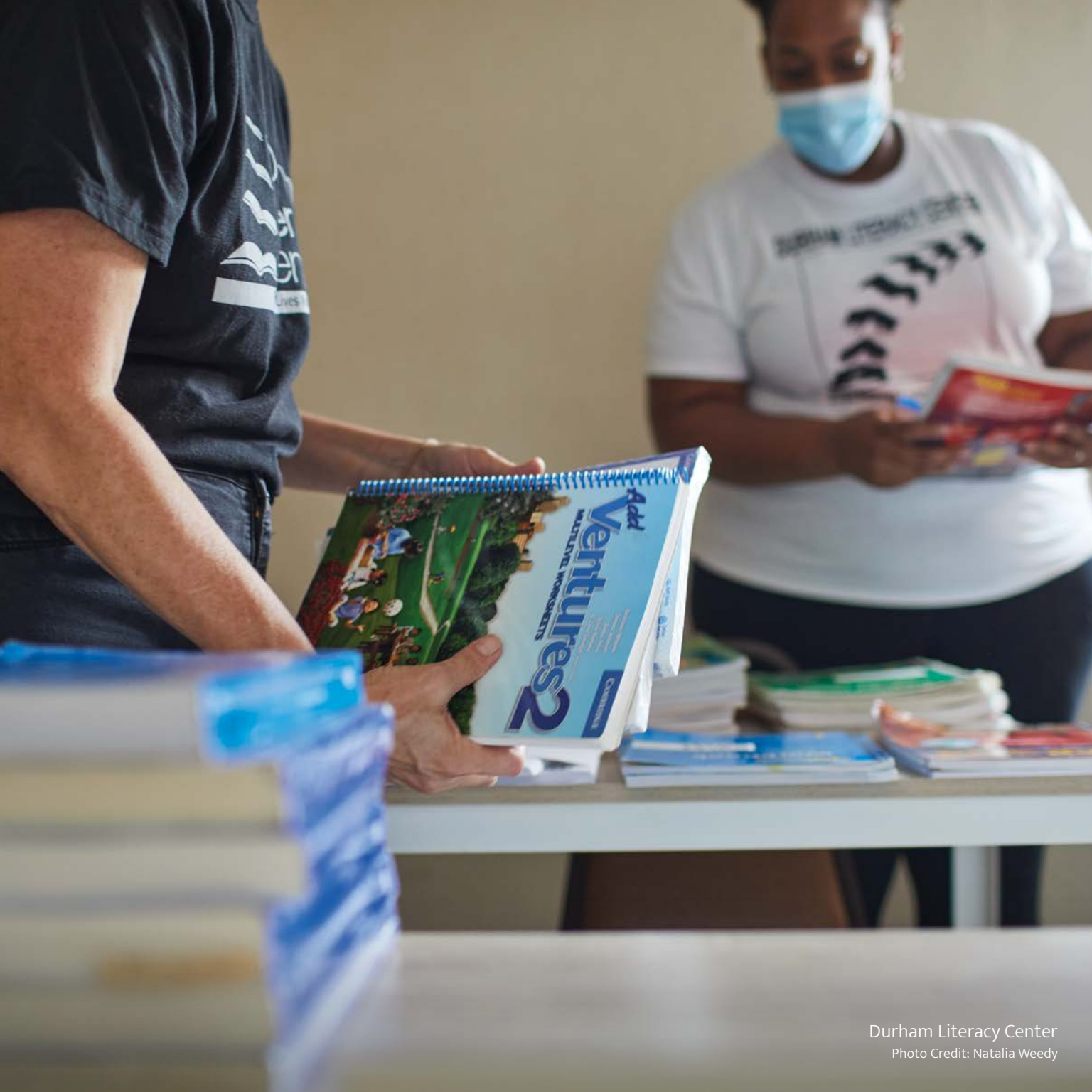
Nonprofits need funding to make strategic investments in their organizations in addition to financial support for programs. These kinds of capacity and infrastructure investments can support a nonprofit's organizational sustainability, or they might allow a nonprofit to shift or scale its work. Durham Literacy Center (DLC) and Student U are among the nonprofits that found in Fox Family Foundation a philanthropic partner who understands that nonprofits' internal infrastructures, administrative systems, and staffing cannot be under-resourced and still realize high impact in the community.

The DLC came to Fox Family Foundation in 2018 requesting a $60,000 grant to be awarded over three years. Some of the grant funds would be used to support hiring a Development Director and also enable a creative, multi-dimensional approach to maintaining and expanding DLC's existing funding streams and cultivating additional funding avenues. Lizzie Ellis-Furlong, DLC Executive Director, reported, "This partnership has been a game changer. The grant accelerated our sustainability efforts and even allowed us to exceed our ambitious goals to increase funding from a wider range of sources. Now, we can focus on increasing our impact in a realistic way."

Student U was awarded a $75,000 grant in 2018 as well, more than half of which was geared towards technology upgrades and equipment. In 2020, that funding helped the organization to respond to the evolving needs of their students and families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Student U was better-positioned to shift to virtual and remote delivery of tutoring, learning, and wellness programs.

"Fox Family Foundation helped us do even more toward supporting our students and families holistically at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the systemic racism and structural barriers that Durham's most vulnerable students experience," Student U Executive Director, Alexandra Zagbayou, reflected. "If it weren't for funders like the Foundation who are allocating funding and encouraging nonprofits to invest in their own capacity, we would not be able to meet the compelling needs of students and families in the Durham community."

This strategic funding of organizational infrastructure and development is not just about keeping a nonprofit viable—it's also about helping an organization realize its potential to be an even bigger community resource with an even bigger impact.



Durham Literacy Center
Photo Credit: Natalia Weedy

Threshold Inc.
Photo Credit: Natalia Weedy

FUNDING GENERAL OPERATIONS

Threshold Inc. serves people experiencing severe mental illness, providing to them diverse services that promote pride through belonging, productivity, and functionality. In the 20 years that Fox Family Foundation has supported Threshold and its mission, grants have totaled $155,500; and the $15,000 grant made during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 constituted a major gift.

The unrestricted award was needed across the full range of Threshold's operations and costs: programming, infrastructure, critical mental health interventions, and ongoing advocacy on behalf of members. "The Foundation's grant helped Threshold continue its comprehensive spectrum of services at a time when member needs rose," Threshold Executive Director, Elizabeth Barber, stated. "Additionally, by innovating how we provided services during the pandemic, we served even more Threshold members and their families each week than we had on average in 2019."

Fox Family Foundation's history of providing general operating support grants like those to Threshold highlights that sometimes what organizations need most is flexibility and trust that they will use the funding where it is most beneficial.

SUPPORTING COLLABORATION

Some of Durham's residents face challenges that are bigger than any one organization can tackle on its own. Experts find, for example, that between 2007 and 2020, the number of unsheltered individuals increased by 108%[1]—and that number includes children and families.

Families Moving Forward, Housing for New Hope, Urban Ministries of Durham, and Durham's Partnership for Children came together in 2015 knowing that finding a solution to this multi-dimensional community problem requires a deeply collaborative approach. The partners shared with Fox Family Foundation their goal of creating a system of services that moves families experiencing homelessness into permanent housing.

Fox Family Foundation—persuaded by the collaborators' holistic approach to solving housing instability—awarded a $150,000, multi-year grant in 2016 to the Durham Collaborative to End Family Homelessness (DCEFH).

"This grant was a vote of confidence for our vision," shared Russell Pierce, Executive Director of Housing for New Hope. "Further, it gave us the latitude early on to research and fine-tune a responsive model toward our goal to end family homelessness in Durham." In addition, the partners used the funding to implement critical action steps to decrease both wait times for and time spent in emergency shelters, and to ensure that families who finally land in permanent housing get the help they need to stay there long-term.

The success of this nonprofit collaboration—sharing resources to strengthen existing programs and creating strategies to help families remain in stable housing—can be seen in the success of the people they serve together. Data for 2019 and 2020 show that just a little more than 1% of the 1728 family members served by DCEFH during that time period returned to shelters. The Collaborative's approach to shared resources magnifies the impact each of these agencies would have if they worked independently and offers a seamless, intergenerational system to help Durham families move as quickly as possible from housing instability into permanent housing.

[1] Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness (n.d.). State of Homelessness: Durham City & County CoC. Retrieved on August 15, 2021, from https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness-dashboards/?State=North%20Carolina

Housing for New Hope

Museum of Life and Science

FINDING PROMISE ACROSS COMMUNITY ASSETS

The greater Durham area has a tradition of cultural richness that undergirds the community's state and national profile as a vibrant place to live and do business. Three organizations—Carolina Theatre of Durham, Durham Arts Council, and Museum of Life and Science—exemplify our unique arts and culture sector as well as the strong collaboration that fosters and fortifies Durham's educational assets.

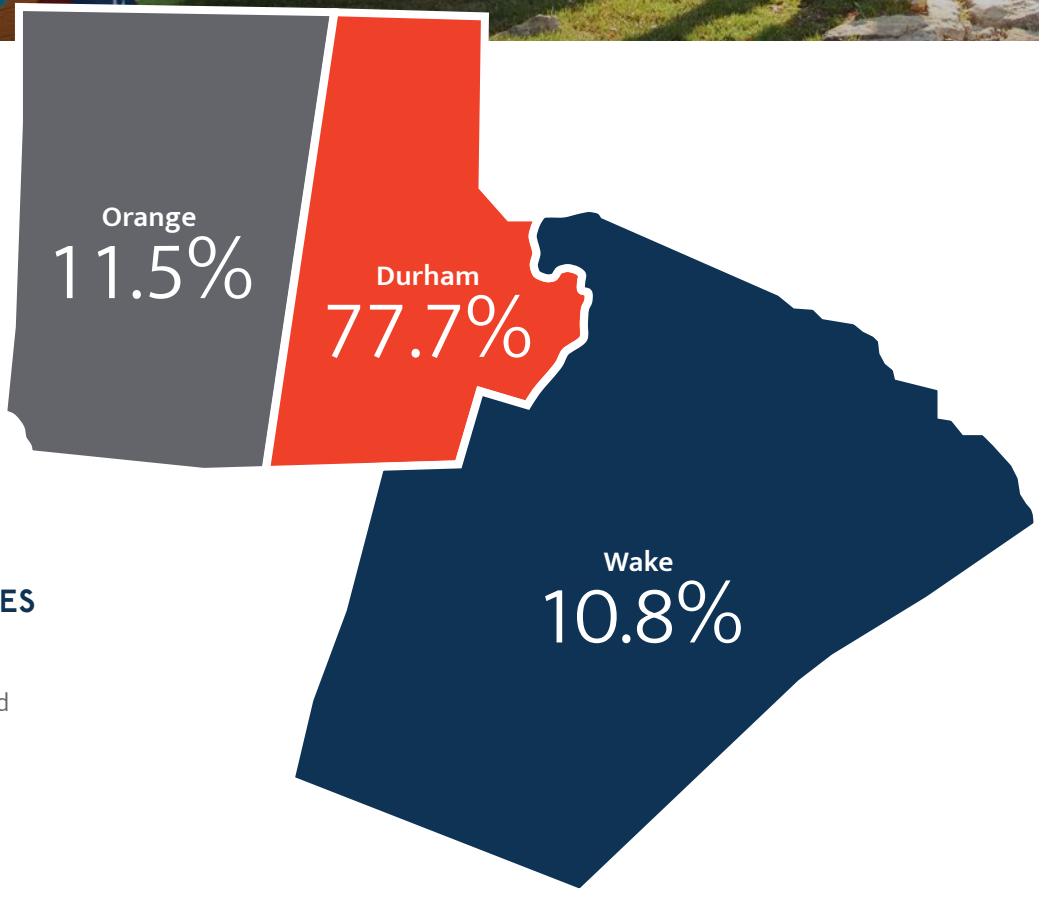
Durham Arts Council harnesses the time afforded during school breaks—both year-round and during the summer—to offer Durham's young people an opportunity to explore and understand cultures around the world via the arts. Through mini-camps, Durham Arts Council enhances student engagement with the arts and provides a critical confidence-building experience toward success in school, in the job market, and in life. Since 2000, Fox Family Foundation has provided $266,500 to ensure that all of these arts experiences are broadly accessible to Durham's young people regardless of their economic circumstances.

With a deep appreciation for how a teacher's work in the classroom can be enhanced by experiences beyond the schoolyard, the Carolina Theatre of Durham created the Arts Discovery Educational Series (ADES) program. Over the last 22 years, Fox Family Foundation has granted more than $280,000 to the Carolina Theatre, with a significant portion of those funds devoted to making ADES performances free of charge. During the 2019-2020 school year, more than 15,000 of Durham Public School's diverse student population attended one of ADES' 25 school-time performances. Working with educators to dovetail classroom curriculum with arts events, Carolina Theatre knows that ADES helps young people learn the importance the arts play in giving voice to a person's or community's creative expression and building communal understanding and respect.

Fox Family Foundation granted $100,000 in 2017 to the launch of Earth Moves, an "immersive exhibit" at the Museum of Life and Science that helps visitors understand how humans impact the environment, directly and indirectly. Pairing visitors of all ages with the Museum's community of expert staff, earth science professionals, and artists, people who engage with Earth Moves learn in an atmosphere of play how a community's most fundamental assets—its soil and water—are impacted by erosion, run-off, changes in vegetation, and the impact of weather.

These examples illustrate both how our arts and culture sector create unique experiences for learners of all ages and the promise at the nexus of Durham's many community assets.

OUR GRANTEES



BASE OF GRANTEES 1991–2020

% of total dollars awarded

El Futuro
Photo Credit: Natalia Weedy

Grants Awarded	736
Organizations Supported	101

25+ years

American Dance Festival

Dispute Settlement Center, Inc.

Senior PharmAssist

20+ years

Arts NC State

Carolina Theatre of Durham

Durham Arts Council

Durham Literacy Center

Families Moving Forward

Housing for New Hope

Museum of Life and Science

North Carolina Veterinary Medical Foundation, Inc.

Threshold Inc.

15+ years

Duke HomeCare & Hospice

Duke Pediatric Transplant and Cellular Therapy Family Support Program

Durham Academy

Durham Nativity School

Inter-Faith Council for Social Service

Planned Parenthood

Urban Ministries of Durham

10+ years

A Helping Hand

Alliance of AIDS Services-Carolina

Artspace

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle

Caring House

Dress for Success Triangle NC

Duke University School of Law

Durham Children's Initiative

Durham Library Foundation

Durham Symphony

El Futuro

Emily Krzyzewski Center

Executive Service Corps of the Triangle

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina

Hill Learning Center

Lucy Daniels Center

Meals on Wheels Durham

Museum of Durham History

Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University

Student U

Voices Together

5+ years

Achievement Academy of Durham

Adolescent Pregnancy Preventon Coalition of NC

Affordable Community Residence Association

American Red Cross – Central North Carolina Chapter

Augustine Literacy Project

City of Durham Police Department

Communities in Schools of Durham

Duke Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development

Duke University Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership

Durham Collaborative to End Family Homelessness

Foundation for Better Health

Friends of the Durham Youth Orchestra

Habitat for Humanity of Durham

Lincoln Community Health Center

North Carolina Arts in Action

Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina

Ronald McDonald House of Durham & Wake

SouthLight Healthcare

Teach for America – Eastern North Carolina

TROSA

UNC-TV

1+ years

Arts & Health at Duke

Boy Scouts of America Occoneechee Council

Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University

Child Care Services Association

Colors of Collaboration

Downtown Durham

Ducks Unlimited – Chapel Hill Chapter

Duke Heart Center

Duke Homestead

Duke Sports Medicine

Durham 150

Durham Public Education Network

Durham Tech Foundation

Eno River Association

Full Frame Documentary Film Festival

Go Global NC

Hillandale Elementary PTA

Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University

Kramden Institute

Little River Community Complex

Maureen Joy Charter School

North Carolina Botanical Garden

North Carolina Central University

North Carolina Folklife Institute

North Carolina Symphony

Project Compassion

Project Graduation of Durham

Public Allies North Carolina

Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Self-Help

Shodor Education Foundation

Southern Documentary Fund

Special Olympics World Summer Games

Triangle Community Foundation – Miscellaneous Funds

Triangle Land Conservancy

Triangle Opera

UNC Arts and Sciences Foundation

UNC Law Foundation

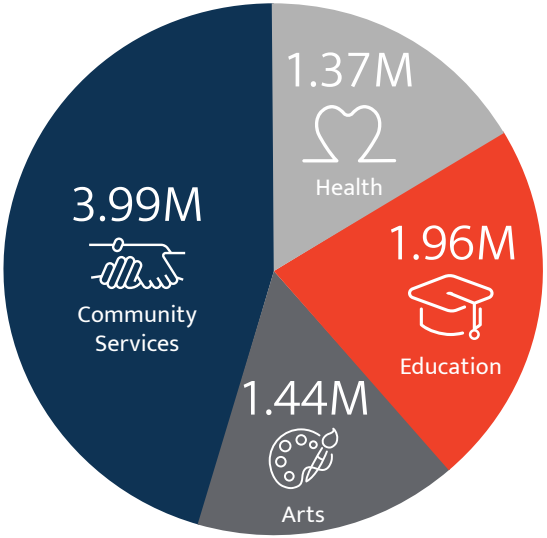
Watts Hospital

WUNC North Carolina Public Radio

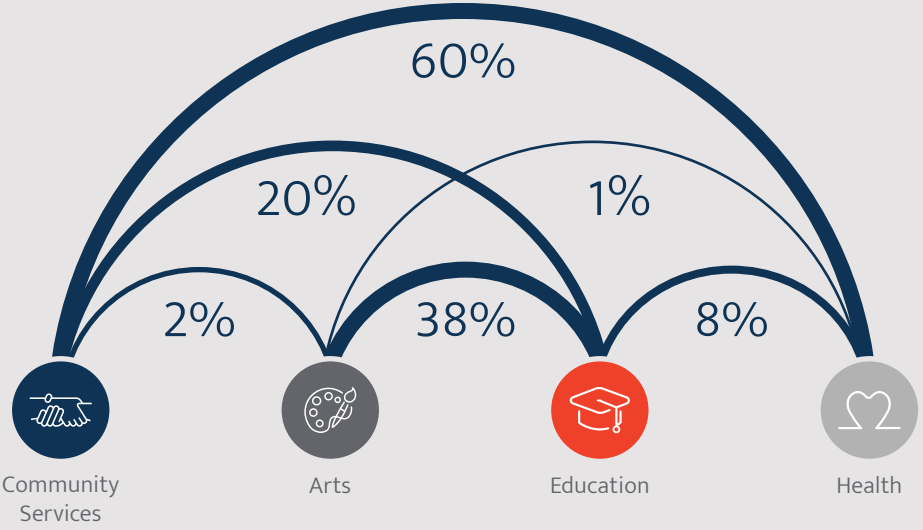
GIVING HIGHLIGHTS

Dispute Settlement Center, Inc.
Photo Credit: Natalia Weedy

TOTAL DOLLARS PAID BY AREA OF SUPPORT 1991–2020

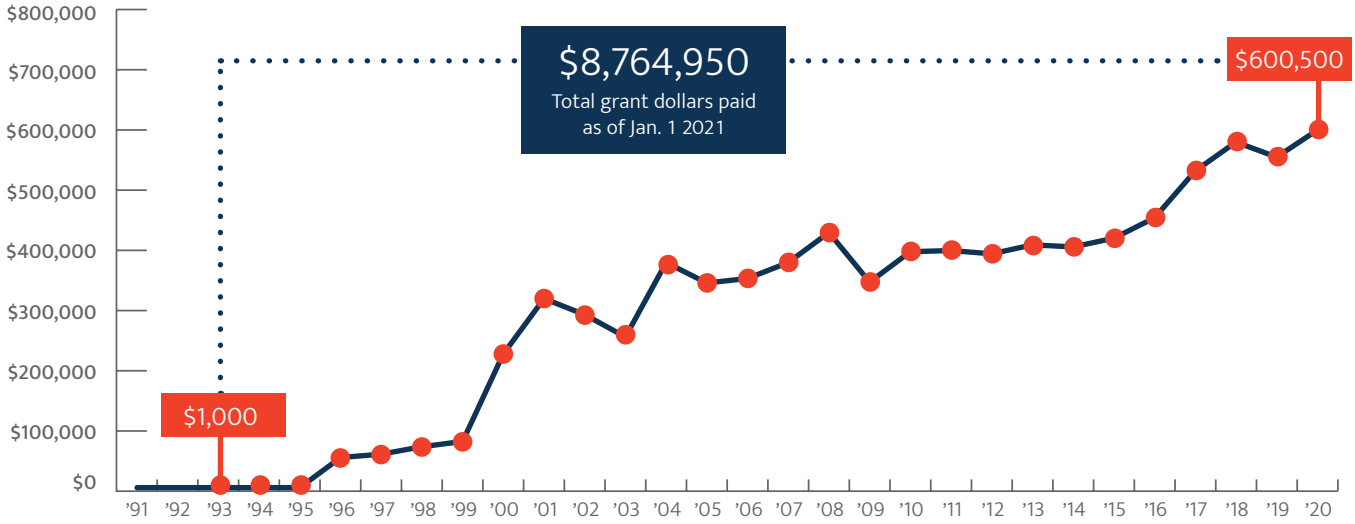


GRANTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF AREAS OF SUPPORT 1991–2020



Fox Family Foundation renamed our areas of support in 2021 to arts and culture; education; health; and human services.

ANNUAL GIVING 1991-2020



OUR ENDOWMENT 1993–2021

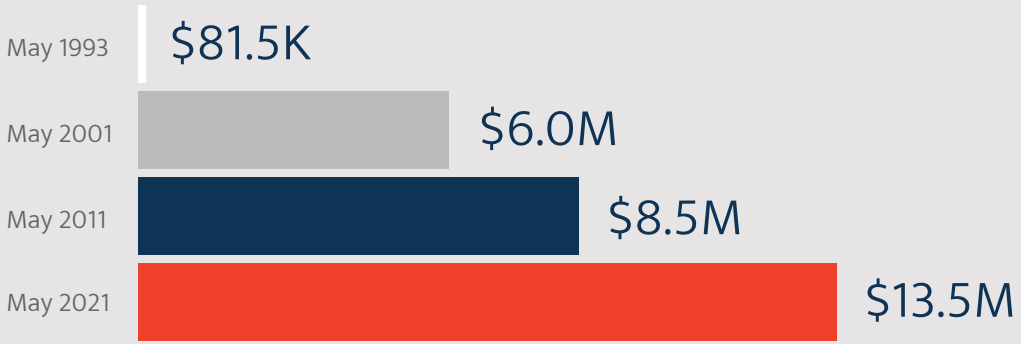


Photo Credit: Natalia Weedy

Current Board & Staff

Family Directors

David Beischer
Michelle Beischer
Thomas Beischer

Independent Directors

Rhodes Craver
Barker French
J. David Ross

Staff

Kate Shirah
David Wilson

Former Board & Staff

Family Directors

Frances Hill Fox
Susan Fox Beischer
Randolph Fox

Independent Directors

William Kennon
John Mallard
Norwood Thomas, Jr.

Staff

Catherine McGhee

CONTACT US

2451 Croasdaile Farm Pkwy, Suite 101
Durham, NC 27705
919.383.5575 phone
hello@foxfoundation.org
foxfoundation.org

FOX
FAMILY
FOUNDATION