



connecting for change

Women's Giving Network

OF WAKE COUNTY

a program of the North Carolina Community Foundation

Spring 2016

THE QUEEN'S FOUNDATION

Learn more about one of our winners in last year's grant cycle

The Queens Foundation's (TQF) mission is to develop and promote under-served young women to reach their greatest potential to higher education and leadership through a society of women across North Carolina. They were awarded a \$25,000 grant for their PowerHouse Project, a leadership and college preparation program designed to close the gap for first generation young women who live in poverty.

Young women selected remain in the program for four years until their first completed year of college. The girls experience intensive training preparing them for leadership, scholarship and higher education to help them become confident and competitive to achieve their goals. PowerHouse Project helps young women who are the first in their family to attend college and who live in poverty to reach their goals for higher education and leadership.

Participants commit to four years in the program and must demonstrate a high need and a high level of motivation to achieve what no one in their family has achieved. The program places girls in experiences to prepare them during their critical high school years, to break the cycle of poverty, starting with earning a four-year college degree.

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"The program places girls in experiences to prepare them to break the cycle of poverty, starting with earning a four-year college degree."

QUEEN'S FOUNDATION CONTINUED...

There are three focus areas to the program: Leadership, Scholarship and Higher Education, with the goal for each student to be confident and competitive to achieve their goals upon high school graduation.

Leadership: Participation in Leadership Academy, including weekend and week-long overnight trips across the state, one-on-one mentoring by a professional female mentor, service learning opportunities to work with local and international organizations, etiquette training and public speaking training.

Scholarship: Academic development and advising, including writing and math courses during the summer, internships, career exploration in STEAM with leading female executives in our state and attending women's conferences.

Higher Education: There is no cost for student selected to be in the program, which includes college tours and admission presentations to universities in North Carolina and college preparation workshops. Once girls enter college, TQF prepares them for volunteer leadership within TCF as well as success in college with support services to maintain academic performance and to secure college internships, scholarships, and study abroad.



*President of WGN,
Kella Hatcher and the
Executive Director of
Queen's Foundation,
Nadia Shirin Moffett*



Meet Hayden Constance

This year's Chair of the Grants Committee, Hayden Constance, is a former VP of Sales and Marketing at Verizon. She is also a Senior Consultant to BTS Group, which does business simulations for Fortune 500 companies for leadership training.

We are fortunate to have her taking and applying her advanced sales and marketing skills to our Grants Committee. Hayden was a member of the committee last year. She and other committee members worked to implement changes to simplify and streamline the application process. "We are making changes to make it easier for people who are applying this year," she explains. "Last year we had fabulous grantees, and expect to have some wonderful ones this year as well."

The Grants Committee will peruse applications in mid-May once the LOI deadline is met, and will extend an offer to many of them to submit full proposals. In August, the final proposals will be reviewed and site visits will take place through September at Wake County non-profits to determine which ones are the best fit for funding.

Grant committee members include: Sandy Crane, Susan Garrity, Paige Haensel, Allison Atkinson, Debbie Ratliff, Jan Frantz, Molly Painter, Sandy Pearce, Tricia Phoenix, Beverly Clark, Mary-Owens Fitzgerald, and Brenda Coules.

"We had so many wonderful proposals last year and are looking forward to this year's submissions," Hayden explains. "There is such great need in Wake County, and WGN plays a significant role in helping fund the organizations."

KidzNotes

Spring Concerts Series

KidzNotes, another of our 2015 Grantees held its Raleigh Concert on April 30th. For those who couldn't make it—you have a second chance to see Kidznotes perform at the Durham Concert on May 7th.

For more information:

<http://www.kidznotes.org/our-spring-concert>



Picture take from KidzNotes website—concert series page

A BIG THANK YOU !

For all those who participated in our recent survey—a **big thank you!** Your feedback helps ensure our organization is moving in the right direction each year! The leadership committee will be reviewing your feedback and will report out on the results later this summer.

AND A REMINDER OF KELLA'S CHALLENGE TO US!

The WGN Leadership Committee would like to ask you to join us in challenging ourselves to continue the WGN pattern of making annual distributions of \$100,000 or more, but it won't be easy. Our form of collective giving is fueled by women who inspire other women to come together for a philanthropic goal.

What can you DO?

- **Challenge yourself to introduce at least one person to WGN this year:** Share our website with prospective members; bring them to an event; ask the WGN Leadership Committee to reach out to an individual or to a group.
- **Renew!** If your membership expired in 2015, send in your renewal for 2 or 5 years.
- **Stay engaged:** Mark your calendar to attend a WGN event; stay current with our newsletters; join a committee!
- **Take your pledge seriously:** Fulfill your pledge obligation in a timely manner.
- **Extra donations:** We welcome donations to our grant fund by members who choose to give beyond their pledge amount or by outside individuals or organizations (voting privileges are still only given to individual members who fulfill their pledge).

With your help, we can continue that impact for 2016 and beyond!

BE ON THE LOOK OUT

For more information in our next newsletter on our fourth grantee in 2015 - The Women's Center of Wake County

THE GREEN CHAIR PROJECT

\$40,000 for the Sweeter Dreams project

Green Chair provides comprehensive furniture assistance to families who are working to achieve self-sufficient lifestyles after transitioning from homelessness, crisis or disaster. The Women's Giving Network's grant to its Sweeter Dreams program will help children secure a bed for a good night's sleep. The program has provided 403 children with beds.

Green Chair Project is the only resource in Wake County filling the void of providing fully-equipped beds for children who would otherwise go without. Recipients are identified by school social workers and human service agency case managers. Often, a child's performance, health or behavior in school has been linked to the fact that the child does not have a bed of their own. For children identified as not having a bed of their own, along with the permission and participation of the parent, TGCP's "Sweeter Dreams" twin bed distribution provides fully-equipped beds (a \$250 value) for a co-pay of \$30. The co-pay model provides the dignity of ownership and "skin in the game" for the participants.

"Families who receive these beds say it is the first step in improving positive outcomes for their children at school and in life. They are excited for their children to finally be able to have a good night sleep."

Stephanie Veeder, WCPSS Preschool Special-Needs Lead Social Service Worker

Green Chair's "Sweeter Dreams" Bed Distribution Program was launched in 2012. Green Chair is the soleresource and distribution center for 297 Wake County Public School System children in need of twin size beds, sheets, comforters and pillows. Children in the program are identified and referred to Green Chair by WCPSS social workers. In April 2015, the bed program was expanded to participants in the transitional furniture assistance program, what has enabled an additional 34 children to secure a bed of their very own. The Green Chair's hope is to expand the program even further and provide a bed to EVERY child served through the furnishing program, as well as expand its reach through the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) Social Workers.

TGCP provides the working poor a dignified way to access home furnishings, which empowers individuals to work toward self-sufficiency and build a stable life. A sustainable and economically viable life is more likely to be attained in an adequate and comfortable home. In 2010, The Green Chair was founded to provide people with too much "stuff" in their homes a receptacle for useful items they no longer needed. TGCP makes donated home furnishings available at a nominal cost to individuals and families who are identified and referred by its partner agencies and are taking positive steps to become self-sufficient. This process permits the recipients to contribute to their successful transition to self-sufficiency with dignity, as they furnish their homes and create comfortable home environments for themselves and their families.

Since its founding in 2010, Green Chair has furnished more than 1,000 households, served 2,750 individuals and received 25,000 furniture donations from 5,000 community members.



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