

HPCF Grant Awards Reception 2019

David Reich

Presentation to Nancy:

As you may know, tonight will be one of Nancy's last official acts as Chairman of the Foundation. I'd like to begin by thanking her for her incredible service to the Foundation and Community over the past ten *plus* years, but particularly for her leadership over the last two years.

I believe that Nancy and I first met at Ravinia Nursery School over 50 years ago. While I was eating paste and digging tunnels in the sandbox, Nancy was organizing games and helping others to learn their shapes and colors. Not much has changed in that time. We went our separate ways by kindergarten, but renewed our friendship in high school and then again when I joined the board 8 years ago. I'm grateful for her help with shapes and colors, and over the past two years with all she has taught me about leadership and passion to improve the lives of others and our community.

Last year at this event, when I thanked Nancy for all she had accomplished, I noted that her time with the Foundation was "transformational". I'm unable to come up with a better word to describe her service. Let me briefly explain.

As a board member, among other things, Nancy singlehandedly created our communications strategy and helped to develop our website and social media presence. The success of Nancy's initiatives raised our profile in the Community and worked to increase our fundraising and giving to new levels.

In 2017, we gave 182 Thousand Dollars to support 35 programs. Tonight, we will be giving 525 Thousand Dollars to support 50 programs. Our endowment has grown to over 4.2 Million Dollars. While a large portion of the annual funding comes from money that was granted to us by the City, it was Nancy's leadership that gave the City confidence that the Community Foundation was the right place to steward these funds.

However, it is not just numbers that demonstrate her lasting impact on the Foundation. Nancy created the Foundation's Personal Achievement Award and led us through our successful 1st and 2nd Gather for Good Events. I have been amazed by her tireless effort and skill in working with the leaders and organizations in the Community. Primarily though, her care for those in need, her desire to make the Community a more inclusive and welcoming place for all, and to provide opportunities for those who could use just a little help, are her greatest achievement.

Although I haven't cut out all of my paste eating, I do know that I have big shoes to fill. Thankfully, Nancy has paved the way by leaving the Foundation financially strong and with a clear vision for the future. We owe her an incredible debt of gratitude.

Thank you Nancy.

Awards Presentation:

I am honored once again to present the grant awards tonight with Sofia Alvarez, who is not only my fellow board member, but the chair of this wonderful reception. I always find this event to be so rewarding - to see all of you and hear from our grant recipients about the incredible things they are doing in this Community. It is truly gratifying to partner with so many caring and capable individuals who work so incredibly hard to provide support and services to meet the needs in our Community.

As you know, the needs of the Community are as great as ever. The organizations we support are challenged by the unique times we live in and the loss of traditional funding sources. As a result, once again we received more grant requests, seeking more funding than ever before. We are fortunate that the founders of the Foundation had the foresight to create an endowment fund that continues to grow. Through our renewed efforts, we've also been able to raise more money than ever before. This has allowed us to contribute much needed funding to more organizations. We know that there are still many needs in the Community and we are working hard to meet them.

Closing:

Sofia, Terri and Deb, thank you for all of your efforts to put this evening together. We'd once again like to thank Sunset Foods and the rest of our generous donors and sponsors. We'd also like to thank all of you for the hard work you are doing to make our Community a better and more inclusive place to live.

Thank you for coming.