

# DAVIDSON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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## Q & A

### 1. Why are you establishing a new Community Fund at this time?

Organizers Dave Cable and Ellen Donaldson have been evaluating the potential for a community foundation for several months. The concept first surfaced near the end of the Town of Davidson comprehensive planning process when plan advisors were asked to recommend a “big idea” that could address key community needs or challenges. The framework for DCF benefited from interviews with more than 50 community residents and leaders.

Davidson Community Foundation (DCF) provides funding to support immediate or emergency needs as well as support longer-term transformative projects. DCF goals are grounded in Davidson residents’ values of racial and socioeconomic diversity, inclusion, affordable housing, neighborhood preservation, and the unique and powerful bond we have with the community. The stage is set for DCF to broadly address the community’s most pressing needs in partnership with local non-profit agencies and houses of worship. The COVID-19 crisis has devastated many of our community’s most disadvantaged neighbors. The urgent and profound community needs from the COVID-19 crisis prompted the accelerated launch of DCF.

### 2. How is DCF different from existing charitable funds/organizations? Who runs DCF and who’s accountable?

DCF is an all-volunteer effort with no staff, office, overhead, or costs of a non-profit agency. It is a community foundation grounded in a philosophy of abundance. The goal is to *grow the philanthropic pie* to provide greater funding and capacity for our local non-profits and to focus funding to address key community needs. DCF is powered by Foundation For The Carolinas (FFTC) as a Field of Interest Fund, and 99 cents of every donor dollar (small administrative fee for FFTC) goes directly to the community to meet the most pressing needs, as determined by the Board of Advisors. DCF will leverage critical partnerships – with residents, non-profits, Town of Davidson, Davidson College, local businesses, and FFTC – to create transformative initiatives for the betterment of the community, supporting efforts to address needs such as the current COVID-19 crisis, as well as longer-term issues like affordable housing. Donations to DCF are tax deductible.

DCF embraces a culture of and commitment to performance, transparency and accountability for both itself and for all organizations receiving DCF grants.

### 3. How much are you seeking to raise now? Long term?

DCF partnered with local non-profit agencies and houses of worship to quantify the acute needs of vulnerable families in Davidson. Some needs were identified among families in the broader Lake Norman community served by the Davidson-based non-profits. The Emergency Fund goal is to raise funds to address urgent needs identified by local non-profit partner organizations, expanding their ability to respond to community members in dire need of assistance.

DCF is envisioned to be a permanent foundation that can enhance the lives of Davidson residents, now and for generations. The DCF’s Board of Advisors is committed to carefully and thoughtfully studying the community needs and to galvanizing support to address those needs. Plans include Emergency Fund efforts as well as longer-term campaigns and bequests and planned giving.

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#### BOARD OF ADVISORS

*Chris Ahearn*

*Jane Avinger*

*Bill Boehmler*

*Marvin Brandon*

*Dave Cable*

*Lisa Combs*

*Ellen Donaldson*

*Jim Folds*

*Ruby Houston*

*Frank Jordan*

*John Kuykendall*

*Paul Leonard*

*Ann McCorvey*

*Lauren Millovitsch*

*Carol Quillen*

*Buck Shuford*

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**4. How much have you raised so far?**

DCF was launched on Friday, April 10 with an initial gift of \$15,000. The Board of Advisors set the Emergency Fund goal at \$250,000 based on a detailed needs assessment, and the Board is currently focused on raising donations for the Emergency Fund. Great progress is being made because of strong and broad-based community response. Neighborhood groups have formed to help with the effort in the St Albans and McConnell neighborhoods.

**5. Are you taking money away from existing non-profit organizations by setting up another charity?**

DCF's goal is to *grow the philanthropic pie* to provide greater funding and capacity for our local non-profit agencies and to focus funding to address key community needs. DCF has conferred with the leadership from the Ada Jenkins Center, Davidson-Cornelius Child Development Center, Davidson Housing Coalition, and Habitat for Humanity of the Charlotte Region to understand how all efforts can be additive and collaborative. DCF is committed to expand the capacity of our local non-profits, grow philanthropy substantially, and effectively address the community's most pressing needs.

**6. Where do you expect funds for DCF to come from?**

DCF funding comes from the generosity of our residents, reaching beyond current gifts to non-profit agencies and houses of worship through Emergency Funds and special project fund efforts. DCF will apply for appropriate local, regional and federal grants that would help the foundation advance its mission. And there will be opportunities for individuals to include DCF as a beneficiary in wills, trusts and other estate planning elements.

From the concept stage, DCF believed that it could grow the philanthropy to provide greater funding and capacity to our local non-profits to effectively address the needs of the Davidson community. With the COVID-19 crisis and its unprecedented impact on people across our town, our state and our country, we are even more convinced that philanthropy can be expanded significantly.

**7. Who is on the Board of Advisors? How were they selected?**

The most important characteristics in the selection of the DCF Board of Advisors are racial, socioeconomic, geographic and work experience diversity, leadership and community trust. Members of the founding board include leaders from the community, local non-profits, the Town of Davidson, and Davidson College:

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|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chris Ahearn    | Frank Jordan                        |
| Jane Avinger    | Jamie Justice                       |
| Bill Boehmler   | Rusty Knox ( <i>ex officio</i> )    |
| Marvin Brandon  | John Kuykendall                     |
| Dave Cable      | Paul Leonard                        |
| Lisa Combs      | Ann McCorvey                        |
| Ellen Donaldson | Lauren Millovitsch                  |
| Jim Folds       | Carol Quillen ( <i>ex officio</i> ) |
| Ruby Houston    | Buck Shuford                        |

## **8. How will grants be awarded?**

For the Emergency Fund, DCF sought proposals from local non-profit agencies and houses of worship for services to meet the needs of and fill gaps in services for people in Davidson and the broader community suffering from the impact of the COVID-19 virus. The initial round of grants totaling \$165,000 were awarded to 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that: 1) are able to meet the basic human needs of our most vulnerable community members suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on health, life, jobs and the economy; 2) have a track record of providing services in Davidson; 3) have a demonstrated ability to deploy resources quickly, effectively, and to scale their efforts; and 4) have the ability to track and report on utilization and outcome data. An Emergency Grant subset of the Board of Advisors reviewed proposals and recommended awardees and funding amounts to the full board for approval. The funding will be sent directly from Foundation For The Carolinas (FFTC) to the grant awardee(s).

Beyond the DCF Emergency Fund, the Board of Advisors will establish a Grants Committee that will oversee proposal requests and evaluation and make non-profit funding recommendations to the Board.

## **9. You talk about preserving the West Davidson community. How was that need identified?**

DCF's Board of Advisors will determine the Foundation's focus areas and projects based on detailed and thoughtful analyses. This summer, the Board plans to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the plethora of community information available, commissioning additional studies as required, to determine its forward focus. Stabilization of the West Davidson community is a clear community need that was identified as part of the Town of Davidson's 2020 Comprehensive Planning Process, and is among critical needs to be considered.

As part of the 2020 Comprehensive Planning Process, the Town of Davidson received over 13,000 public inputs collected online and in-person, with over 1,300 residents participating in in-depth workshops to shape the plan. As part of the 2020 plan process, engagement reports catalogue the impacts of systematic and institutional inequities in the West Davidson community, with residents pointing to issues of access to services, facilities, or enfranchisement. The 2020 plan was a key source of information on community needs such as: 1) affordable housing across low-to-middle income and workforce residents; 2) preservation of the West Davidson neighborhood, and increasing diversity and inclusion in general in the face of increasing taxes, gentrification and displacement. Additionally, a focus group was held with 7 residents of West Davidson; each shared positive feedback regarding the concept of preservation, home restoration, and tax amelioration efforts for West Davidson residents facing these challenges.

Additional information from West Davidson residents, non-profits, and houses of worship is needed in order to more fully understand needs and gain input on potential solutions. DCF will collaborate with these and additional stakeholders as needed to plan strategies and the Foundation's possible involvement.

## **10. How do non-profit organizations apply for Emergency Fund grants?**

For the Emergency Fund, DCF sent requests for proposals to local non-profit agencies and houses of worship that provide services to vulnerable and underserved community members. The non-profit organizations submitted a grant application for funding, based on detailed needs assessments. DCF will continue to monitor community needs through ongoing discussions with non-profit partners as well as the Town of Davidson. Questions or future requests for funding should be directed to Ellen Donaldson at [ellengdonaldson@gmail.com](mailto:ellengdonaldson@gmail.com).

**11. When do you expect to award the first grants? Will there be more grant funding available?**

DCF awarded its first round of grants totaling \$165,000 on April 29. DCF will continue to partner with local non-profits to identify and quantify COVID-19 crisis-related needs and will respond with funding consistent with our capacity to help. The forward path of the crisis is unknowable, and DCF is striving to be positioned to respond quickly and meaningfully to ongoing or new crisis-related needs.

**12. How do people donate to DCF? Are donations tax deductible?**

- a. To donate online** visit [www.fftc.org/Davidson](http://www.fftc.org/Davidson)
- b. To send a check**, please make the check payable to:  
Foundation For The Carolinas  
ATTN: Davidson Community Foundation  
220 North Tryon Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202
- c. For an ACH transfer**, send to:  
Truist Bank  
Account Name: Foundation For The Carolinas  
Special Instructions: Davidson Community Foundation  
Bank Routing # (ABA): 021052053  
Account #: 48477231
- d. For a gift through a Donor Advised Fund (DAF)**, Select Foundation for the Carolinas as the beneficiary, and designate Davidson Community Foundation in the notes section.
- e. All donations to DCF are tax deductible as a Fund of FFTC, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.**

**13. Who should people contact if they have questions or want additional information?**

Please contact [info@davidsoncommunityfoundation.org](mailto:info@davidsoncommunityfoundation.org) for more information about DCF. Information is also available at [www.davidsoncommunityfoundation.org](http://www.davidsoncommunityfoundation.org).