



The Community Foundation's Lora Terry with Eddie Friend, one of the original Catalyst Fund donors and Tanya Shunnara, a member of the inaugural class of Catalyst Fellows.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM

Founded in 1959 and created by and for the people of Greater Birmingham to exist in perpetuity, the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham is the largest foundation in Alabama. The Community Foundation is a permanent resource that leverages philanthropic investments and connects philanthropists, nonprofits, leaders and citizens to build a stronger more vibrant future for our community. Together, with our partners, the Foundation serves Blount, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby and Walker Counties.

VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

Our vision is for a just, prosperous and unified region where every person is empowered to reach their full potential. The mission of the Community Foundation is to ignite passion for transformational change in our community. Our values are to lead, inspire, innovate and include.

GENEROSITY IS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Community Foundation in 2009, a group of generous donors who cared deeply about the Birmingham region came together to launch the Community Catalyst Funds. This special pool of assets was designated to support transformational, catalytic projects throughout our region.

In the ten years since, the Catalyst Funds have helped with revitalization efforts in downtown Birmingham by funding Birmingham Lights, the light installations in the underpasses that connect the north and south sides of town; have been integral in spurring the move toward regional cooperation by funding the Together We Prosper study and subsequent cooperation efforts; and helped drive innovation in the region by providing seed funding for Innovate Birmingham.

"The Community Catalyst Funds have substantially increased investments available for targeted, high-impact work," says

Christopher Nanni, President and CEO of the Community Foundation. "The foresight of my predecessor, Kate Nielsen, alongside these Catalyst donors to invest in such a unique project has allowed the Foundation to lead the region to continued growth and success and truly transformational change."

As part of their strategy for the next ten years of investment in our community, the Catalyst Fund recently introduced a Catalyst Fellowship Program. Led by the Foundation's Vice President of Philanthropic Services, Lora Terry, the program pairs some of our community's most dynamic young leaders with the Foundation's Catalyst Funds. "The goal of the program is twofold," says Terry. "It will train the next generation of leaders to utilize the power of philanthropy to better our community while also working to identify and develop projects for potential investment from Catalyst Funds."

The inaugural class of the Catalyst Fellowship includes ten emerging leaders in the region: Grant Brigham, ARC Realty; Kaija Flood, TheraNest; Kendra Key, Maynard Cooper & Gale; Bernard Mays, Jr., UAB; Chaz C. Mitchell, City of Birmingham; Tanya Shunnara, Sirote & Permutt; John Smola, Alabama Power; Jeff Sokol, Acacia Partners; Mashonda S. Taylor, Woodlawn Foundation; and Whitney Wright, Cook & Bynum. They have committed to a two-year program that includes education focused on philanthropic strategy and community knowledge, research around community issues and the opportunity to learn from community leaders.

Thanks to the generosity of this group of thoughtful donors the next generation of philanthropists will have the community knowledge and understanding of the history and effectiveness of charitable initiatives needed to continue to drive catalytic change in our region.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Through the years, we have helped thousands of families and businesses achieve their charitable goals and built a permanent source of community capital for our region. You can visit our website at cfbham.org or contact us at 205.327.3800 for more information about opening a fund or supporting the work of the Community Foundation.