

July 2014**Education in Greenville County****@ Sterling School**

Superintendent Burke Royster presented at GPP's first membership meeting on the strategic plan of Greenville County Schools, the G+ initiative, and priorities and challenges of the district.

September 2014**Homelessness****@ Triune Mercy Center**

Many foundations and corporate giving programs fund agencies helping those in poverty, and in 2014, several funders joined to support solutions to Greenville's "Tent City" (featured in this [Greenville News article](#)). A panel shared thoughts on homelessness in our community followed by questions from and conversation with GPP members. Panelists were: Duff Bruce, the Jolley Foundation; Reid Lehman, Miracle Hill Ministries; Rev. Deb Richardson-Moore, Triune Mercy Center; Deborah McKetty, Community Works Carolina; and Monroe Free, Habitat for Humanity.

October 2014**State of the South, 2014****@ West End Community Center**

The State of the South 2014: Youth, Young Adults and the South's Economic Future was the eighth publication in the prior 20 years from MDC, Inc. with the goal of painting a clear portrait of the region and spelling out critical recommendations for economic and social advancement. This edition looked at today's generation of youth and young adults and their prospects for upward mobility, and identified the components of a community's successful education-to-employment agenda. Attendees heard from MDC President David Dodson and considered how Greenville follows or differs from regional trends and what implications the findings have for Greenville.

November 2014**Access to Health Care****@ Long Branch Baptist Church**

Greenville's health care safety net

A panel of experts and safety net health care providers shared an overview on access to care, including rates of insurance, the Affordable Care Act and its implications for SC, and how the local safety net works to treat illness – but how much of what impacts health falls outside of the health care system. Presenters were Dr. Kristy Maher, Furman University; Suzie Foley, Greenville Free Medical Clinic; Dr. Saria Saccocio, Bon Secours St. Francis Health System; Dr. Angelo Sinopoli, Greenville Health System; and Stephen Williams, New Horizon Family Health Services.

December 2014**Social Innovation Fund Collaborative Investments @ United Way of Greenville County**

The United Way of Greenville County's Social Innovation Fund grant, awarded in the fall of 2014, to develop and implement an Early Warning and Support System for middle schoolers at risk of dropping out presented an exciting opportunity for our community. It didn't just provide nonprofit organizations funding to implement evidence based methods to prevent drop outs – it also gave local funders the chance to fund collaboratively. This information session and discussion was the first joint consideration of how Greenville Partnership for Philanthropy could serve as a platform for strategic investment.

January 2015

Child Welfare

@ Phoenix Center's Training Center of Excellence

A report released in October 2014 by the Legislative Audit Council found that high caseloads, high caseworker turnover, insufficient caseworker training, and an inadequate system of screening, investigation, treatment and placement for abused and neglected children has left thousands of children in South Carolina in unsafe situations and at times placed them in more danger than the homes from which they'd been removed. Keith Frazier, County Director for the Greenville County Department of Social Services, shared what changes he and his staff implemented to protect our community's children ahead of the report's release and shared his vision for improving our collective response to vulnerable children. Sue Priester with Greenville Women Giving facilitated.

February 2015

Social Innovation Fund Update

@ United Way of Greenville County

As a follow up to the December 2015 information session, this update on the United Way of Greenville County's recent Social Innovation Fund grant to develop and implement an Early Warning and Response System for middle schoolers at risk of dropping out introduced Tobi Kinsell, Middle Grades Success Director with United Way of Greenville County. She reported on the process of selecting nonprofits to be subgrantees in delivering services to middle schoolers, their teachers and schools, and their families. Phyllis Martin with United Way and Katy Smith with GPP described the process for connecting interested investors with the project.

March 2015

Access to Healthy Foods

@ Culinary Institute of the Carolinas, Greenville Tech

Food deserts - areas that lack healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food - have been the focus of much attention as our nation wrestles with obesity and poverty. Here in Greenville County, Dr. Alicia Powers, Assistant Professor of Health and Exercise Science at Furman University, has led an effort to inventory more than 1,000 grocery stores, convenience stores, and restaurants and determine what food is offered and at what price and what quality. Her research began a movement in our area to improve access to healthy food, seen in programs such as Mill Village Farms, Gardening for Good, and Good to Go mobile produce market. Dr. Powers shared her research and members discussed its implications for nonprofits and our work as funders. Katie Howell, Trustee with the Daniel-Mickel Foundation, facilitated.

March 2015

Middle Grades Success Review Session

@ United Way of Greenville County

Funders interested in supporting the Middle Grades Success Initiative by investing Greenville County's Early Warning and Response System attended this Grant Review Session which included presentations and Q&A by subgrantees (nonprofit organizations that will provide interventions in middle schools), and private discussion among funders on overall Middle Grades Success Initiative budget and their interest in participation. The meeting led to a total local commitment of \$2.2 million in local match for the 2015-16 school year, which continues to date.

April 2015

Discussion on steps to address homelessness@ Overcomer Center, Miracle Hill Ministries

In 2014-15, Greenville County's service providers to the homeless drafted a white paper reflecting their agreement on the top next critical steps for our community to take in addressing homelessness. This was the first time there had been facilitated discussion and broad agreement on which gaps should take priority in being addressed in Greenville County. This plan was developed following the September GPP meeting where several executive

directors from agencies focused on poverty and homelessness detailed their individual visions for the service system. Reid Lehman, President and CEO of Miracle Hill Ministries, and Rev. Deb Richardson-Moore, Senior Pastor of Triune Mercy Center, presented the plan and solicited feedback from funders.

May 2015

Donor/Grantee Relationships

@ Greenville Chamber of Commerce

Grantmakers for Effective Organizations's research has found that grantmakers who understand and act in the best interest of grantees achieve better results. Practicing smarter grantmaking can make the difference between pretty good performance and achieving the best possible results. But, where should funders start? Emily Wexler with GEO shared the Smarter Grantmaking Playbook with GPP members, helping us identify ways our funding practices can best achieve results for our community. Gage Weekes with the Hollingsworth Funds, Inc. served as our member host for this session.

July 2015

STEM Education

@ Buck Mickel Center for Corporate and Career Development

Tom Peters, Executive Director of the SC Coalition for Mathematics and Science, addressed the significant interest among GPP members in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education. Tom discussed the challenges of defining STEM Education and its overall goals and discussed with funders how to evaluate grant applications for their likeliness of truly impacting STEM education. The session was facilitated by GPP members and STEM funders Joan Burket, ScanSource, and Cheryl Smith, Fluor.

July 2015

OnTrack Greenville field trip: featuring BELL

@ Tanglewood Middle School

GPP members visit with BELL, the first OnTrack Greenville partner to launch its work with middle schoolers in the White Horse communities. Members saw firsthand how BELL's rigorous and stimulating full-day six-week summer program for 220 rising sixth graders at Berea, Lakeview, and Tanglewood Middle Schools helps students avoid summer learning loss, experience success, gain self-confidence, and enter the school year more ready to succeed in core subjects.

August 2015

Strategic Planning Retreat

@ Hollingsworth Funds Conference Room

During our first year, GPP promoted networking, education, and collaboration among our members. We discovered strength in working together and found ways to improve our funding practice in our own organizations. Members participated in a strategic planning retreat to review feedback from GPP members and from nonprofits in Greenville County and map out our next steps.

September 2015

Affordable Housing

@ Phillis Wheatley Center

The housing market in the City of Greenville is booming, with many neighborhoods changing dramatically as houses are renovated or torn down and rebuilt, new apartments and condominiums are constructed in once "undesirable" areas, and lots occupied by one home are subdivided to create their own neighborhoods. One result of this change is tremendous pressure on affordable housing in the City of Greenville and a demographic shift in the county, which in turn impacts workforce, transportation, health and human service delivery and more. Our September 2015 meeting featured a panel addressing issues related to affordable housing, including planning, policy, programs, and nonprofit organizations and the role of funders within this complex topic.

October 2015

Joint meeting with Nonprofit Alliance

@ Greenville Chamber of Commerce

The primary way funders fulfill their charitable missions is through investments in nonprofit organizations. This meeting of the Nonprofit Alliance was used to formally introduce the Greenville Partnership for Philanthropy to our nonprofit colleagues and to have open discussion on the funder-grantee relationship. Prior to the meeting, Katy Smith interviewed 17 nonprofit leaders and summarized their feedback and ideas in a presentation, which was followed by discussion on how nonprofits and funders could work together and what roles GPP could play.

November 2015

Transportation

@ Senior Action

The lack of a comprehensive system of transportation has long been cited by employers, nonprofit organizations, community leaders and residents as a barrier to accessing health care, jobs, education, recreation and more. The Piedmont Health Foundation, along with community partners, launched a comprehensive study of public transit and health and human services transportation to better understand current ridership of all transportation services, needs and desires of area residents, and existing transit assets. The goal was to identify solutions that will help Greenville County residents get where they need to go. Katy Smith, Executive Director of the Piedmont Health Foundation, presented the study's findings and recommendations.

November 2015

OnTrack Greenville update

@ Lakeview Middle School

OnTrack Greenville – our community's Middle Grades Success Initiative – was off to a great start, thanks in no small part to the investment of its funding partners. Those who have invested in OnTrack Greenville attended this first reporting session, which will include information on the new Early Warning and Response System and the results of BELL's work in middle schools during the summer. Funders toured the school and learned about the many activities for summer scholars to boost their connection to the school and their academic success.

January 2016

Nonprofit Capacity

@ United Community Bank

Funders and nonprofits alike express an interest in nonprofit "capacity building," which can mean anything from new equipment necessary for operations to Executive Director training to funding for a new resource development staff member. This session sought a definition of capacity building as well as its intended target - both in terms of outcome and audience. Funders discussed the opportunities and pitfalls of capacity building and considered the implications of engaging in capacity building for both their individual organizations and the community overall. Eleanor Dunlap with The Graham Foundation facilitated the session, joined by Addy Matney, TMPR; Joelle Teachey, Trees Greenville; and Scott Dishman, The Family Effect.

March 2016

Environment

@ Hubble Lighting

Nationwide, funders interested in the broad category of the environment make grants related to climate and atmosphere, biodiversity, ecosystems, energy, and more. While these topics may feel out of reach for Greenville funders, they are actually quite interconnected with issues of our current grantees and to our day-to-day life. Frank Holleman, Senior Attorney with in the Chapel Hill office of the Southern Environmental Law Center, and Andrea Cooper, Executive Director of Upstate Forever, shared their perspectives with GPP on the environment, where our community and nation are headed, and what it means for GPP members.

May 2016

Rural Greenville County

@ Foothills Family Resources

Part of what makes Greenville County so desirable – our mountainous northern border and the rolling farmlands of the south – make it challenging to meet the needs of residents with few resources. How can we connect rural residents with opportunities when their distance from helpful programs is an obstacle? And what strengths are intrinsic to the communities and people of rural Greenville County? Andrew Ross, Executive Director of the Center for Community Services in Fountain Inn, and David Bolton, Executive Director of Foothills Family Resources in Slater-Marietta, discussed ways they are serving their communities and offered unique perspectives on what it means to live outside of the urban core. The 30-minute drive to Northern Greenville County itself provided a glimpse of the rural resident's experience.

July 2016

Community Engagement

@ United Way of Greenville County

"Community Engagement" means different things to different people. Connecting in an authentic way with the people you serve, learning and communicating with all stakeholders, approaching social issues with the belief that those affected by the issues have answers and insights. But what does community engagement look like when practiced by funders? And how can funders do this effectively when they may have little staff time to do so? More importantly, what is a funder to do with the information learned? Presentations from Stephanie Cooper-Lewter with Sisters of Charity Foundation of SC, Tobi Kinsell with OnTrack Greenville, and Scott Neely with Speaking Down Barriers looked at new approaches for participants to use as individuals and as philanthropic funders.

August 2016

OnTrack Greenville update for funders

@ United Way of Greenville County

As OnTrack Greenville staff, Implementation Partners and partner schools prepared to enter the second academic year, they had a deeper understanding of the impact of the collaboration on the students, families, community and on the nature of community work itself. This lunch update gave funders the chance to hear from the OnTrack Greenville partners and progress to date.

September 2016

The Arts

@ The Warehouse Theatre

A panel led by Sue Priester with the Priester Foundation examined how art is a driver of economic development, education and enrichment, and financial sustainability. Van Broad with the City of Mauldin discussed how he used performing and visual art to stimulate growth in Fountain Inn. Will Ragland with Mill Town Players inspired with stories of how theatre was a part of uniting the Woodmont High School community and now the town of Pelzer. Jason Johnson with The Warehouse Theatre shared how visiting artists and performers come to Greenville and spend money, attract others to spend money, and help build the economy of which Greenvillians are so proud.

October 2016

Affordable Housing: presentation by czb

@ Sears Shelter, City of Greenville

Over the prior several months, a diverse Steering Committee initiated by the City of Greenville worked with a well-respected national housing consultant (Charles Buki from czb LLC) to develop a set of recommendations to address systems-level change to our housing challenges. GPP members Gage Weeks with Hollingsworth Funds John Concklin with United Way participated on the Steering Committee. As the Steering Committee wrapped up its work with czb, City Council began considering a \$2M allocation from a recently identified budget surplus that could jump start czb's recommendations. In this meeting, Charles Buki shared preliminary findings and discussed partnership ideas for private philanthropy to play a role in future housing solutions.

November 2016

Faith and Philanthropy

@ First Baptist Church Greenville

Faith communities in Greenville County are a significant part of the nonprofit and philanthropic sector. Churches and other religious organizations are investing charitable dollars in many of the same nonprofits as foundations and corporate funders. Other times, churches are grant recipients as they operate their own programs. And churches have a history of starting nonprofit organizations in Greenville County that are then supported by other funders. Our November membership meeting considered this topic of faith and philanthropy. Laura Caligan-Gilliam with The Graham Foundation served as host for this meeting of GPP members and leaders from twenty faith communities in Greenville County.

January 2017

Looking back and looking ahead

@ United Way of Greenville County

Since GPP's first meeting 2 1/2 years ago, so much has changed. We've discussed school success, homelessness, affordable housing, transportation, capacity building, and so much. What are we learning? What impact have we had? And what more can we do going forward? This was a highly interactive meeting with rich discussion on how to continue improving our practice of philanthropy and the community. GPP member host: Bob Morris, Community Foundation of Greenville.

May 2017

Veterans Issues

@ Veterans Administration Clinic

Veterans' needs and issues have been discussed - although not adequately - in news stories about slow access to medical care, post-traumatic stress disorder, lack of job opportunities and more, but the experience of returning to civilian life can be difficult for civilians to understand. Too, these discussions often focus on weaknesses and challenges rather than opportunities. The May meeting of GPP brought the perspectives of a panel to inform members about veterans issues and the ways Greenville County organizations are serving them. Cheryl Wiggins with Fluor facilitated and Upstate Warrior Solution presented.

June 2017

Poverty Simulation

@ United Ministries Learning Center

The Poverty Simulation from Beth Templeton with Our Eyes Were Opened gave GPP members experience with the human cost of poverty. The power of this unique learning resource is that it creates, like nothing else, insight into the state of chronic crisis that consumes so many working poor families. Participants experienced one month of poverty comprised of four fifteen-minute weeks. In our debriefing, we discussed how the experience affected us as community members and as funders.

July 2017

Public Policy and Philanthropy

@ United Way of Greenville County

Funders are discovering that focusing community change at times requires them to work with government, which is new for most GPP members. Funders can work with government as a partner - either co-funding an initiative or organization or making a grant to a governmental entity - or as an advocate, seeking changes in policies or regulations. What does it mean for funders to work with government? What are the opportunities and potential pitfalls? Stephanie Powers, Senior Director for Policies and Partnerships with the Council on Foundations, shared her perspective based her extensive non-profit and public sector experience in workforce development, community organizing, public policy advocacy, and disability employment advocacy. Attendees included GPP members and colleagues from philanthropic organizations in nearby counties.

August 2017

OnTrack Greenville

@ United Way of Greenville County

OnTrack Greenville partners gave an update to funders on continued learning, growth, and progress in academic year two and plans for academic year three.

September 2017

Opioids in Greenville County

@ FAVOR Greenville

The opioid epidemic is making news nationwide, and Greenville County is no exception. Why is this so rapidly overtaking our nation? This session educated members about these drugs, their effects on families and communities, where we're winning and losing the battle, and what funders can do. Presenters included Rich Jones, Executive Director of FAVOR Greenville, Greenville County Sheriff Will Lewis, City of Greenville Police Department Captain Stacey Owens (Crisis Intervention Team), and Dr. Lauren Demosthenes, Faculty at University of SC School of Medicine – Greenville.

November 2017

Aging in South Carolina

@ Senior Action

It's no secret that Greenville County's population - like the rest of the nation - is becoming significantly older. Some call the impact of this wave of older adults a tsunami, as it is likely to overwhelm our nation in every way, not just from the needs of the older adults themselves but from the strain they will likely create on our their adult children and their own savings and participation in the workforce. But unlike a tsunami, we've had plenty of warning that this wave was coming. What are we doing to prepare? What should we be doing? What should the philanthropic sector's role be? Andrea Smith, Executive Director of Senior Action, hosted the session, which featured Dr. Kerstin Gerst Emerson, Gerontologist with the University of Georgia.

January 2018

Capital Campaign Training

@ Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Center

A capital campaign can be one of the most significant activities a nonprofit organization undertakes. Nonprofits leaders come to GPP members with requests for financial support for capital campaigns, so GPP aimed to support nonprofits with knowledge as they embark on these quests. This daylong training from Association of Fundraising Professionals Master Trainer Erik Daubert served 95 GPP members and nonprofit leaders. For nonprofits – for those with a capital campaign as just a twinkle in the eye and for those already in the midst of one – the training outlined the groundwork necessary for success and the how-tos once a campaign is underway. For GPP members, the session provided insights to what you should look for when receiving capital campaign requests.

February 2018

Youth Economic Mobility in Greenville County

@ Goodwill Industries Training Center

Greenville County is one of the most difficult places in the country to climb out of poverty. Living in Greenville County limits youth earning potential, and this is especially true if you're poor and if you're a boy. Yet, Greenville has historic job growth and low unemployment. So where is the disconnect? The Greenville Network for Southern Economic Mobility is focusing on developing an infrastructure of opportunity to connect the people and communities in most need with all of the incredible opportunities our community provides. The Greenville Network is one of eight communities in the Southeast (which also includes Athens, GA, Chattanooga, Jacksonville, FL, Savannah, Little Rock, Fayetteville, AR, and Spartanburg) that are working to better understand the lack of mobility for low income youth and develop an integrated action plan to improve possibilities for them. This special February session of GPP informed members about the striking data on immobility and let us know how we can be a part of systemic change. Speakers: Jil Littlejohn, Uban League of the Upstate, Julio Hernandez, Clemson University, Gage Weekes, Hollingsworth Funds.

March 2018

Adverse Childhood Experiences

@ Sterling School

Research on adverse childhood experiences is causing schools, service providers, and others to rethink the way child development is approached. Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic events, including abuse and neglect. They may also include household dysfunction such as witnessing domestic violence or growing up with family members who have substance use disorders. Adverse Childhood Experiences have been linked to risky health behaviors, chronic health conditions, low life potential, and early death, and as the number of ACEs increases, so does the risk for these outcomes. But ACEs can be reduced and their impact minimized by building community capacity through efforts such as Compassionate Schools. Dr. Jennifer Parker, founding Director of the Child Advocacy Studies program and Child Protection Training Center at USC Upstate, presented to GPP on ACEs, what they mean for funders' work, and what we can do about them.

May 2018

OnTrack Update for Funders

@ Tanglewood Middle School

This meeting at an OnTrack school shared the first results of impact evaluations by the Riley Institute as well as the latest implementation and process evaluations. It also offered plans for continuing the good work of OnTrack in academic years four and five now that the Social Innovation Fund is coming to an end.

May 2018

Session with Greenville County Council

@ Kroc Center

Some of the issues that are of interest to the philanthropic and nonprofit sector in Greenville County – workforce development, affordable housing, transportation, and growth – are ones best addressed in partnership with our local policy makers. More than 130 philanthropic and nonprofit staff and board members joined together for a forum with Greenville County Council members to hear their perspectives on these topics and what they foresee for our community and our work ahead. Diana Watson, co-anchor of FOX Carolina The Five O'Clock News and FOX Carolina served as moderator.

June 2018

Greenville Community Data and Philanthropy

@ United Way of Greenville County

Motivated by a shared vision for more inclusive growth in Greenville and by shared concerns about the lack of quality integrated community data, a group of leaders have been in early stage discussions about how Greenville might develop a community data system that can serve social, private, and public sector interests. This session was designed to introduce funders to the conversations, present a series of case studies on how other communities have implemented such systems, and consider in particular how philanthropy could benefit from such a system. The session was led by community data architecture firm Asemio with local support from Openfields.

July 2018

Growth in Greenville County

@ Greenville County Square

It's no secret that Greenville County – and the municipalities within it – is growing. But how do we manage that growth and maintain quality of life and opportunities for prosperity for all residents? Our July membership meeting explored growth, why funders should be interested in it, and what funders can do to be informed and involved. This meeting opened with a brief overview of comprehensive planning followed by a panel including County Council Chairman Butch Kirven, Greenville City Councilwoman Amy Ryberg Doyle, Upstate Forever, and a developer, moderated by Maurie Lawrence with Hughes Development Corporation. Attendees included funders, elected officials, and lead staff from Greenville County and municipalities.