Toby Levey recognized a special kind of energy at work in Tacoma not long after he moved to the region two years ago, “When you come to the Pacific Northwest, you forget very quickly that in other parts of the country, social innovation is considered an impediment to a free market; that greed in large part rules the day on real estate transactions; that the concept of partnership for innovation in development is almost unknown. Here, partnership is considered a form of development.”

Toby is VP of Real Estate Transactions at Forterra, Washington’s local land trust. He was one of four panelists who discussed impact investing at GTCF’s May 7 Professional Advisor Breakfast. Impact investing is sometimes referred to as “social capital,” “social impact,” or “place-based investing.”

The event’s keynote speaker, Dana Brakman Reiser, Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School, maintains that community is at the heart of impact investing: “Pursuing both financial return and returns for society.”

The other panelists included Kathleen Simpson of the The Russell Family Foundation, Saif Hakim of community development financial institution Craft3, and Teresa Wells of Tiedemann Advisors. Each of their organizations has made a commitment to impact investment in our region. Their work relies on partnership for innovation as they align financial investments with community-focused values.

Impact investment in Tacoma and Pierce County is already creating tangible returns and mutual opportunities for communities and individuals:

+ Craft3 and The Russell Family Foundation launched a joint project on Hood Canal that directly improves water quality in Pierce County. The deal also creates what Simpson calls “an investable product” tied to Russell’s clean water grantmaking initiative and Craft3’s financial commitment to Washington’s economy, families and environment.

+ Forterra is currently “under contract” for a city block in Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood to provide nonprofit community space and opportunities for workforce and affordable housing. The trust’s ongoing work to buy undeveloped land in communities of color and hold or develop it in partnership with those communities prevents it from reverting to luxury condos or other “non-community-benefiting uses.”

The other panelists included Kathleen Simpson of the The Russell Family Foundation, Saif Hakim of community development financial institution Craft3, and Teresa Wells of Tiedemann Advisors. Each of their organizations has made a commitment to impact investment in our region. Their work relies on partnership for innovation as they align financial investments with community-focused values.

Impact investment in Tacoma and Pierce County is already creating tangible returns and mutual opportunities for communities and individuals:

+ Craft3 and The Russell Family Foundation launched a joint project on Hood Canal that directly improves water quality in Pierce County. The deal also creates what Simpson calls “an investable product” tied to Russell’s clean water grantmaking initiative and Craft3’s financial commitment to Washington’s economy, families and environment.

+ Forterra is currently “under contract” for a city block in Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood to provide nonprofit community space and opportunities for workforce and affordable housing. The trust’s ongoing work to buy undeveloped land in communities of color and hold or develop it in partnership with those communities prevents it from reverting to luxury condos or other “non-community-benefiting uses.”

The other panelists included Kathleen Simpson of the The Russell Family Foundation, Saif Hakim of community development financial institution Craft3, and Teresa Wells of Tiedemann Advisors. Each of their organizations has made a commitment to impact investment in our region. Their work relies on partnership for innovation as they align financial investments with community-focused values.

Impact investment in Tacoma and Pierce County is already creating tangible returns and mutual opportunities for communities and individuals:

+ Craft3 and The Russell Family Foundation launched a joint project on Hood Canal that directly improves water quality in Pierce County. The deal also creates what Simpson calls “an investable product” tied to Russell’s clean water grantmaking initiative and Craft3’s financial commitment to Washington’s economy, families and environment.

+ Forterra is currently “under contract” for a city block in Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood to provide nonprofit community space and opportunities for workforce and affordable housing. The trust’s ongoing work to buy undeveloped land in communities of color and hold or develop it in partnership with those communities prevents it from reverting to luxury condos or other “non-community-benefiting uses.”

The other panelists included Kathleen Simpson of the The Russell Family Foundation, Saif Hakim of community development financial institution Craft3, and Teresa Wells of Tiedemann Advisors. Each of their organizations has made a commitment to impact investment in our region. Their work relies on partnership for innovation as they align financial investments with community-focused values.

Impact investment in Tacoma and Pierce County is already creating tangible returns and mutual opportunities for communities and individuals:

+ Craft3 and The Russell Family Foundation launched a joint project on Hood Canal that directly improves water quality in Pierce County. The deal also creates what Simpson calls “an investable product” tied to Russell’s clean water grantmaking initiative and Craft3’s financial commitment to Washington’s economy, families and environment.

+ Forterra is currently “under contract” for a city block in Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood to provide nonprofit community space and opportunities for workforce and affordable housing. The trust’s ongoing work to buy undeveloped land in communities of color and hold or develop it in partnership with those communities prevents it from reverting to luxury condos or other “non-community-benefiting uses.”

The other panelists included Kathleen Simpson of the The Russell Family Foundation, Saif Hakim of community development financial institution Craft3, and Teresa Wells of Tiedemann Advisors. Each of their organizations has made a commitment to impact investment in our region. Their work relies on partnership for innovation as they align financial investments with community-focused values.
The James Henriot & Father James Boyle Endowment Funds Among GTCF Funds Supporting Nonprofits for the Long-Term

L’Arche Tahama Hope is a familiar sight at local farmers markets, offering flower baskets, plants, and vegetables. That produce is grown on six acres in rural Pierce County by members of the L’Arche community, people with and without developmental disabilities.

This year, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation distributed $1.3 million in annual grants to 120 organizations, including L’Arche Tahama Hope. Endowed funds at GTCF, established by individuals, families, and agencies, yield these annual grants based on earnings of charitable contributions that are invested as part of GTCF’s pooled endowment.

For L’Arche, endowed funds are part of the organization’s sustainability plan. L’Arche has two endowment funds at GTCF: The James Henriot Endowment for L’Arche Tahama Hope Fund honors the late Eisenhower Carlson attorney. The Father James Boyle Endowment Fund for L’Arche Tahama Hope honors the Rainier Community School chaplain who was central to the founding of L’Arche.

L’Arche Executive Director Laura Giddings has seen, “many organizations with 40-year histories that are struggling and going out of business. With the lives of people that we are responsible for 24/7, having some place that money comes from that it just comes, is huge. It’s something donors committed to our future that we can count on, and that’s just pretty rare in the fundraising world.”

To learn more about how endowments can provide long-term, sustainable financial support for the organizations and causes your clients care about, contact Evelyn Ryberg, CAP®, GTCF Director of Philanthropic Services, at 253.345.4172 or eryberg@gtcf.org to learn more.

Partnering to Leave a Legacy, Elaine Stafford & Shelby Clayson

Elaine and Shelby share a deep value for giving back to the community. It’s something Elaine has been doing since she was a child, “taking a dime tied up in a hanky to church for my offering.” In addition to supporting arts organizations, GTCF’s Fund for Women and Girls, and Type I diabetes research, among many other causes, they’ve been active at Christ Episcopal Church for twenty years, connecting with local people and issues. For Elaine, supporting community starts with listening to people’s stories, “even if it is fragments of a story, you start to build a larger story. It is the people connection that keeps me motivated to be a compassionate person; I have many people tell me their stories and I try to live from what I hear. That’s how we decided some of our legacy planning.” Through their legacy planning, Elaine and Shelby will continue to support the causes and organizations that have mattered to them for a long time.

Greater Tacoma Community Foundation can assist your clients in establishing their legacy in the community. Contact Evelyn Ryberg, CAP®, GTCF Director of Philanthropic Services, at 253.345.4172 or eryberg@gtcf.org to learn more.