



Community Voices, Community Connections



Tacoma's Special Energy Makes It A Great Place For Impact Investing

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

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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 led to Craft3's Clean Water Loans, which cover the design, permitting and installation costs of residential septic systems. The innovative loan program neatly pairs 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-benefitting uses."
- + Craft3 details an inspiring lineup of Puget Sound impact investment success stories on its website, including that of a Pierce County Clean Water Loan recipient, and of a pair of combat-veteran entrepreneurs making flip flops at combat boot factories.

The panelists at GTCF's May 7 Professional Advisor Breakfast offered impact investment tips and trends for professional advisors and investors:

- + **Do your homework:** "Ask questions of yourself about what you want to solve and how you plan to do that." "Ask a lot of questions of the organizations in which you're investing too, including, 'Are you representative of the change you want to see?'"
- + **Build trust:** Advisors are "in a position to bridge the trust gap, find matches between investors and investees, and craft deals beneficial to each party, strengthening community in the process."
- + **Tap into your creative side:** Tacoma's creativity sets it apart: "There's a gritty innovation in everything from software to manufacturing, there are deep pockets in the form of several wealthy investment funds and you have that Tacoma spirit."
- + **Consider the source:** "More women and younger 'Next Gen' investors want to be more involved in their investments. Impact investment excites them."
- + **You can't change what you don't measure:** There is a need for clear metrics. "Much work is being done to identify accountability and comparability, but it is a work in progress."

Toby Levey points out Tacoma's "enlightened leadership, political will, and an innovative mindset" are the "three things that create the type of environment you need for social capital. Leadership in social impact capital is there for the taking. If Tacoma wants to be that, there's nothing stopping it."



GTCF Youth Philanthropy Board Takes The Lead In Improving Community Connections For Justice-Involved Youth

Since 2011, GTCF's Youth Philanthropy Board (YPB) has provided young people in Pierce County an opportunity to identify, explore, and address their concerns for their community by using philanthropic resources to support change.

In preparation for the convening, Youth Philanthropy Board members took the lead in making decisions about who should attend, how the dialogue would be formatted, and what questions they wanted to ask.

"These youth and young adults are the future leaders of Pierce County..." said Janece Levien, GTCF Program Officer, "so we have to start listening to them, understanding them, and giving them the space to have their voice heard and actions taken from it."

During the convening, YPB members posed questions to a panel of representatives from Pierce County Juvenile Court, Pierce County Executive's Office and Team Child to better understand causes and alternatives to justice-involvement for youth. Participants from 14 local organizations also discussed how youth voice could play a bigger role in their work.



This year, the YPB identified youth returning to community after justice-involvement as a major issue they wanted to address. The process they took in funding organizations to better serve those youth centered around a special convening with organizations who serve justice-involved youth. YPB members learned more about the work the organizations were doing and shared ideas from their lived experience about programs and policies.

"We decided to create a dialogue with organizations who are actually working with justice-involved youth so we have a better understanding of what is happening in our community and how we can make the biggest impact when we do give out grants."
– Emily Schell, Youth Philanthropy Board Member

Following the convening, participants from these Pierce County organizations received a total of \$72,500 in general operating grants:

- + Alchemy Skateboarding
- + Bold Solutions
- + Hilltop Artists
- + Oasis Youth Center
- + Opportunity Center of Orting – The Haven Teen Center
- + Safe Streets – Youth-Serving Agencies Network (YSAN)
- + Second Cycle
- + Tacoma Community Boat Builders
- + TeamChild
- + Write 253



Spark Grant Recipient Helps Provide ‘Showers Of Dignity’ For Homeless Neighbors

They say some of the best ideas come while you're in the shower, but for Spark Grant recipient Christine Dodson, the shower itself was her big idea. Her program, Showers of Dignity, aims to provide access to showers for people experiencing homelessness in the Tillicum and Woodbrook community.

“It’s definitely a dignity issue. Any one of us could be out on the street and I know I’d want a shower.”

While attending a convening on homelessness at the Tillicum Community Center, Christine heard her neighbors share their concerns about the safety and cleanliness of the Center’s bathrooms. “We were finding syringes in the bathroom, and there were also a lot of community members experiencing homelessness who were using the bathroom sinks to bathe, so many people who were using the facility for the clinic or the library didn’t want to use the bathrooms or even come in the building in some cases.”

Several homeless residents also attended the convening. They talked about the challenge of finding a place to get clean. Together, the convened group explored the idea of a separate shower facility on-site at the community center.

“I’m figuring we’re mostly targeting people that need to get washed and go to work because we do have several working homeless here. There are also several families who will want to get their kids washed up before school.”

“It’s definitely a dignity issue,” said Christine, “any one of us could be out on the street and I know I’d want a shower.”

After the meeting Christine said she immediately thought of applying for a Spark Grant. She got online and started to see what kind of sustainable solution she could work up for \$1,500.

She came up with a type of camp shower. A two-room tent houses a shower on one side with the other serving as a privacy room for changing. There will also be shower chairs in each side for guests who need to sit down when showering or getting dressed.

Since the community center is already stretched thin with their own resources, the shower will use water from rain barrels, heated by a portable water heater that runs on propane. A non-toxic castile soap and clean towels will be provided for each guest. Volunteers will be on hand to sterilize the showers after each use to ensure cleanliness.

“It’s beneficial to everyone in our community because we’re all neighbors here and we all share this facility so we want it to be safe for everyone who uses it.”

The plan is to have the showers up and running two days a

week by September, and Christine estimates they will be able to serve about 20 guests each day. "I'm figuring we're mostly targeting people that need to get washed and go to work because we do have several working homeless here. There are also several families who will want to get their kids washed up before school."

Christine recognizes that access to showers is just one aspect of numerous factors that surround the issue of homelessness in her community and beyond. However,



she hopes Showers of Dignity can spark others to come together to create solutions, "It's beneficial to everyone in our community because we're all neighbors here and we all share this facility so we want it to be safe for everyone who uses it."

Christine was one of 9 Spark Grant recipients for the Spring 2019 cycle. The next Spark Grant review cycle will be in Fall 2019. Applications are due by **OCTOBER 31, 2019**

Spring 2019 Spark Grant Recipients

Black & Indigenous Organizing – Miriam McBride & Horacio Perez-Morales

B.I.O is a program led by young folks with the aim to build solidarity and connectivity between Black, Brown, and Indigenous youth through the lens of the land, history, and art.

Buckley Community Mural – David Wells

An inter-generational project will create a mural highlighting local produce in the new Buckley Public Market; participants will include White River High School students, members of local non-profit and public organizations and community members.

Charlotte's Blueberry Park Nature Walk – Charles Christian Jr.

A plan to reclaim an overgrown trail, plant indigenous Washington flora, and install educational signs about native plants

Cookin' it Up! – Brendan Nelson

A program that educates kids about food insecurity in our community and the many organizations that are taking action to address the issue.

Gardens for the People – David Thompson

Building vegetable gardens for Tacoma residents and bringing neighbors together at the table to share the harvest.

Kain Tayo! (Let's eat!): A Filipino Fiesta – Clarissa Gines

Uniting the Filipino community through food, camaraderie, art, games, music, and Filipino traditions, while simultaneously educating the Tacoma community at-large about Filipino culture

Project Lit – Kristin Sierra

Teen literacy project at Lincoln High School focusing on group connection and discussion on culturally relevant, young adult literature that models leadership and diversity, culminating in a community author event.

Showers of Dignity – Christine Dodson

Providing a safe space, on a regular basis, for our houseless neighbors to shower.

Back to School Health Fair – Cynthia Ricks-Maccotan

A free event for families and students on the Key Peninsula to obtain backpacks, meet school counselors, students can obtain free sports physicals and state ID cards, and other services.

Local Boys Help Each Other Grow In “The Gent Way” Through Tacoma Gents

With a stack of pepperoni pizzas sitting on the cafeteria table in front of them, a group of boys from Tacoma's Birney Elementary School waited patiently while two other boys meticulously counted out the number of pieces available. Then, the young men of the Tacoma Gents after school program worked together to evenly distribute the slices to one another, and also to students and adults from another group who shares their meeting room.



Jahmad Canley watched the boys with pride, “Normally 8-10 boys around pizza isn't an orderly conversation, but they've learned to listen and trust each other. They started taking turns on who gets to decide because they know that whoever decides is going to be looking out for everyone's best interest.”

The lessons they learned from sharing pizza is just a slice of what these boys have experienced through Tacoma Gents this year. The program is designed to teach young men the skills they need to thrive “from the classroom to the boardroom” with weekly sessions focusing on topics such as leadership, accountability, image, financial literacy, conflict management, vulnerability, and respecting women.

“We understand that all of this is already in them,” says Jahmad, “but if adults don't take the time to help prime it and bring it to the surface, we may not see it.”

Birney Elementary Principal, Ronel Balatbat, who also serves as one of the Tacoma Gents mentors alongside Canley and Brandon Ervin, says he has seen tremendous growth in all the boys. “It started off with surface-level things like wearing the shirts and ties and then it transferred into behaviors and the way they carry themselves.”

From being more engaged leaders in the classroom to breaking up fights on the playground, making lunches for the local homeless shelter, and putting up signs around the building reminding their fellow students to keep the school clean, Ronel says the Gents have built on the positive changes they've made for themselves by helping make positive changes in their school and community as well.

When asked what being a “Gent” means to them, true to form, the boys took turns sharing their thoughts:

“It means being responsible, respectful, neat, thoughtful, a leader, encouraging.”

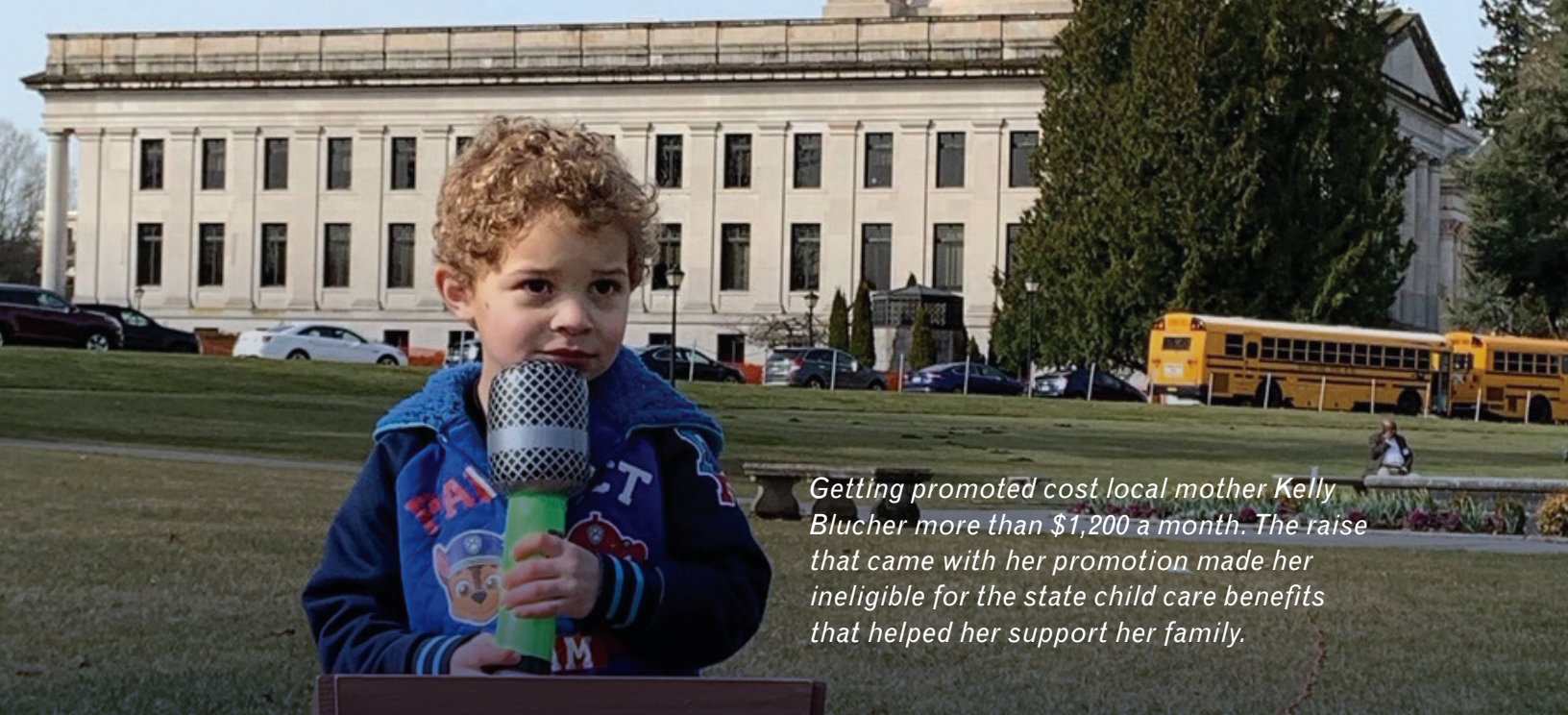
“It's not only just being a leader in school; but being a leader wherever you go so people know they can trust you.”

“I think it's also about taking a stand and standing up to bullies. Gents helps us have more courage to stand up for what's right.”

“We are our brother's keeper and that means we look out for each other and help people when they need it.”

Tacoma Gents is one of 24 organizations currently offering Expanded Learning Opportunities through the Tacoma Whole Child partnership. Students at 12 Elementary Schools in Tacoma now have access to Expanded Learning Opportunities like Tacoma Gents through this community-wide effort to ensure every child is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged.

Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, Tacoma Public Schools, and numerous community partners are working together to expand this partnership by providing aligned, equitable, high quality social, emotional, and academic development opportunities to students in and out of school.



Getting promoted cost local mother Kelly Blucher more than \$1,200 a month. The raise that came with her promotion made her ineligible for the state child care benefits that helped her support her family.

Child Care Costs In Pierce County Threaten Families' Financial Security

"I didn't just fall off the benefits cliff, I jumped off," Blucher said. "I lost food benefits, WIC, and the child care subsidy, all for making two dollars more an hour." Kelly and her partner will soon pay the full cost of child care—\$1,800 a month for their two youngest children. Previously, their monthly payment was \$570.

Kelly's story isn't rare. "Child care costs are unsustainable for many families," said Susan Barbeau. Susan is Executive Director of First 5 Fundamentals, a Tacoma-based nonprofit at the lead of the 140-organization coalition, Project Child Success. "Families hit the benefits cliff, where they make too much money to qualify for state assistance, but not enough to support their families."

Project Child Success authored "The State of Child Care in Pierce County," a recent report commissioned by Greater Tacoma Community Foundation as part of the Women's Economic Opportunity Initiative. "We have a child care crisis in Pierce County," said Barbeau, "not unlike the rest of the state and the country. It particularly affects families, mostly women, struggling to get out of poverty."

Key findings from the report include:

- + The state of licensed child care in Pierce County for children ages 0-5 is "very unstable and very unhealthy" financially for providers and families.

- + Washington State ranks high in terms of quality of child care but has some of the highest costs in the nation.
- + Parents, mostly women, are leaving the workforce, which affects their ability to support their families and their potential earning capacity over their lifetimes.
- + Between 2013 and 2018, the number of licensed child care providers in Pierce County declined by 18.5 percent, from 551 to 449.

After the challenges she faced, Kelly Blucher learned more about the state of child care through her job. She has become a passionate advocate for solving the child care crisis, "I thought, 'Oh my gosh, this isn't just my story. It's everyone's story.'"

Recently, Kelly joined Susan Barbeau and Project Child Success in Olympia to share her story with state legislators. "There was movement in 2019 by the state Legislature, but not enough," Susan noted. Small increases in the child care subsidy program and capital funding for child care facilities were passed. A new statewide task force was also created under Bill 1344 Child Care Access Now to "think about the business plan for child care over time."

Susan Barbeau doesn't think issues with child care have to wait for solutions from the state legislature, though. "We need to begin discussing what we could do locally," she said. "Pierce County can be a leader. Our community comes together to solve problems. I'm proud of that."



2018 Giving Numbers Point To The Importance Of Donor Relationships

Charitable giving in 2018 set another overall record, reaching \$427.71 billion nationally. Although that is an increase of nearly \$3 billion in current dollars from 2017, adjusting for inflation, total giving decreased by \$7.4 billion. Those numbers came from Giving USA's annual report on philanthropy, offering research into the who, what, and where of giving in 2018.

A few key takeaways emerged from the report which can help nonprofits focus on themes and practices to sustain fundraising, even during volatile times.

Relationships Matter.

Relationships are not reflected in the Giving USA data. At GTCF, we know that building authentic relationships helps donors stay connected to causes that matter to them. When that happens, giving grows.

People Propel Philanthropy.

Though giving by individuals continues to decline as a percentage of total giving, giving through Donor Advised Funds and family foundations likely accounts for most, or all of this change.

In 2018 Individuals made up 68% of total giving. When you include bequests and family foundations with individuals, the shared philanthropy powered by people rises to 85.7%.

The Fundraising Landscape is changing.

Philanthropy responds to current events. Impact investing as well as the role of political giving are important emerging forces in fundraising.

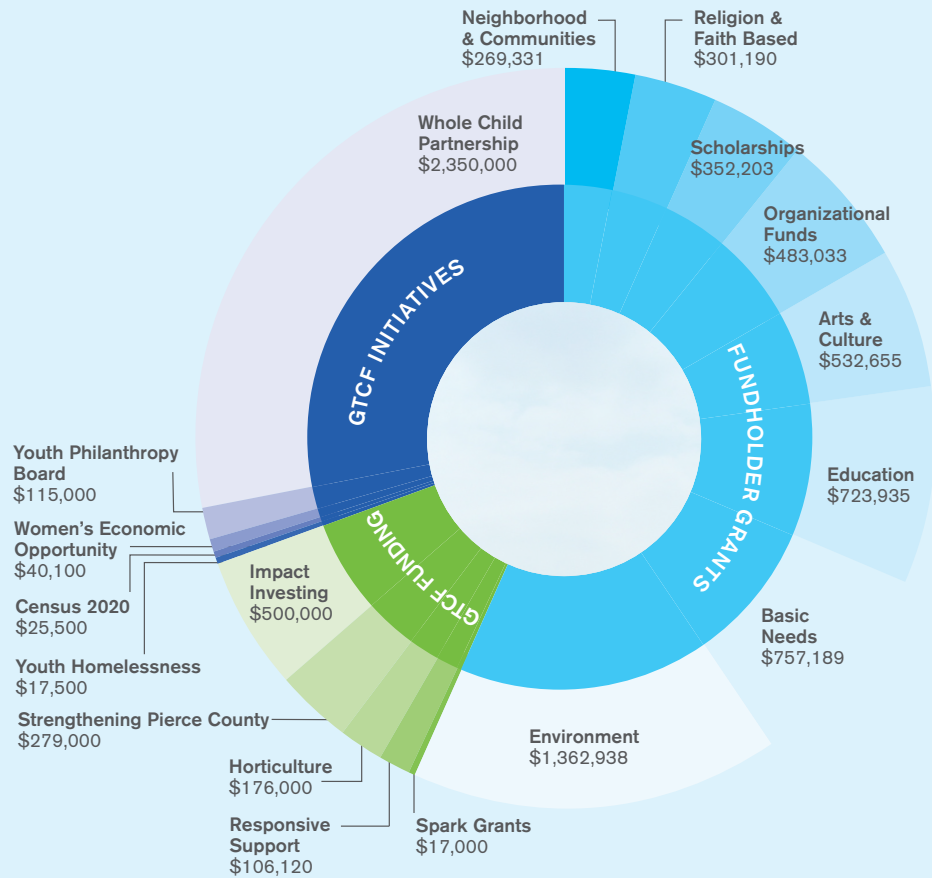
Plan for Planned Giving.

As Baby Boomers age, the anticipated uptick in planned giving is an important trend for nonprofits to consider.

Pierce County is in the middle of a generational transfer of wealth. In 2010, Pierce County had an estimated net worth of \$62.3 billion. By 2020, \$13.7 billion will have transferred from one generation to the next. By 2060, an estimated \$164 billion will be transferred.

2018 GTCF Funding \$8,408,694

1,168
GRANTS
480
GRANTEES



Upcoming Fundraisers

Aug 22, Barley Bash – Downtown On the Go

Aug 24, Courage – Mary Bridge Children's Hospital

Sep 19, Flavor – Stand Up for Immigrants, Sit Down for a Meal – Tacoma Community House

Sep 21, Support the Trails 5K & 1 Mile Walk/Run – Chambers Creek Foundation

Oct 17, Excellence in Affordable Housing Award Ceremony & Fundraiser – Tacoma/Pierce County Affordable Housing Consortium