



Annual Report 2024

HIGH POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



MISSION

The High Point Community Foundation is a catalyst for positive change that promotes philanthropy, administers an expanding grants program and serves as a trustworthy partner in responding to community needs.

GIVING & PLANNING

We are dedicated to strengthening our community to create a better High Point for present and future generations. Without the tireless efforts and humbling generosity of our donors, we would be unable to fulfill this mission.

GRANTS

The Annual Grants Program will always be the flagship of the Foundation because from the beginning our mission is “meeting the unmet needs” in High Point.



*“Never doubt
that a small
group of
thoughtful
committed
citizens can
change the
world: indeed, it's
the only thing
that ever has.”*

-Margaret Mead

Celebrating 27 Years Serving High Point

High Point and have seen our town go through its various stages of growth and evolution over the years. During the golden years of the furniture and textile industries I watched how local furniture companies like Ladd Industries, Henredon, Davis Furniture, Inc as well as Culp, Inc, Covington, Slane, Millis, and Amos hosiery mills and so many others have brought prosperity and opportunities to High Point. These were/are families and companies who cared deeply about our community and are here to provide a safety net for needs that arise through the years. I learned so much about power of corporate stewardship from them and believe these are the shoulders we all stand upon today as we enter what may be one of the most transformative periods in our town's history.

As President of the High Point Community Foundation, I want to say how grateful we are, as an organization, to play a significant role in the development of what we are now calling up our "Up-town" community. We believe in the vision of a pedestrian friendly uptown that has been championed by our local government, Dr. Qubein with High Point University, and a committed private sector led by the Congdon family and so many others. We have all learned how taking calculated chances and achieving success quickly builds momentum for positive change. Our community has a new vision, and it is so much brighter than any of us could have imaged ten years ago. We will see more innovation, development and incremental change in the next few years than we have experienced in the last thirty years. We'll have folks living downtown, new businesses to accommodate those who desire an urban lifestyle and this will bring excitement and opportunities that will attract new industries and young people into our community. We are indeed living in a remarkable season of High Point's history and there could not be a better time for all of us to become an active part of this season of change.

Perspective from Paul Lessard



The Foundation is bullish on High Point's future, and we want to encourage our donors, our extended Community Foundation family and the entire community join us in this critically important transformation. Change like this will require a corporate sector that is willing to invest, a private sector who is committed to give of its energy and resources and most of all, a community committed to the creation of environment in which all of our citizens have an equal opportunity to reach their fullest academic, economic and social success. We're proud to have served the High Point community for 27 years and we look forward with great expectation to the future.

Always faithful,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul".

Paul Lessard, President, HPCF

IMPACT



\$5 million
in Annual Grants



\$78 million
from Donor
Advised Funds



170+
Organizations
Assisted

Community Catalyst for 27 Years

Serving High Point through initiatives:

Heart of High Point | Housing Impact Fund |
Students First | Women's Fund

Offers Well-Diversified Fund Management

Extensive Oversight and Governance



GRANTS

Our Annual Grants Program supports local nonprofits who are positively impacting the greater High Point community and are based upon the ever-changing needs each year. Through the support of donors and the Foundation's strategic planning, grants serve as a catalyst so these local nonprofits can become stronger, more effective, and sustainable.

“As a community, we

are incredibly fortunate to have an array of nonprofits whose vital work addresses our city's most pressing needs and enriches the lives of our residents. These grants empower them to continue creating positive, lasting change in our communities.”

RAVEN JEFFERSON,
GRANTS CHAIR, HPCF

Granted in 2024

\$557,500 to 23 Nonprofits



INITIATIVES

Initiatives at the High Point Community Foundation serves basic needs, creating workforce housing solutions, supports local public schools, and helps women thrive successfully!

High Point Community Foundation Initiatives

Heart of High Point

Provides for the basic needs of the High Point community.

Housing Impact Fund

Focuses on convening, advocating and aggregating funds to address High Point's critical shortage of quality, affordable housing.

Students First

Support High Point public schools and impacts students while strengthening the educational system.

Women's Fund

Helps women thrive in their community and give them the opportunity for a bright future and success.



HIGH POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Staff

Paul Lessard
President

Amanda Bennett
Director of Donor Services, Grants & Initiatives

Jaymi LaGuardia
Director of Marketing & Communications

Karol Murks
Chief Financial Officer

Allison Seymour
Director of Donor Engagement

Board of Trustees

Barry Safrit, Chair

John Bencini, Past Chair

Mark Nelson, Vice Chair,
Treasurer

William Laney, Secretary

Zach Barnes

Joe Blosser

Rachel Collins

David Covington

Meredith Covington

Marc DeLille

Teresa Huffman

Tim Ilderton

Raven Jefferson

Angela Kreinbrink

Robin Lindsay

Tasha Logan Ford

Michael Qubein

Tom Smothers

John Thomas

Amber Williamson

Rufus Yates