

Imagine what is possible when each person has what they need to prosper. Individuals, families, and neighborhoods thrive. At the Greater Washington Community Foundation, we're working every day to make that vision a reality.

In June 2022, The Community Foundation held its first Faith and Philanthropy Breakfast. The breakfast was inspired by the Prince George's County Advisory Board, a group of key leaders representing the county who advise The Community Foundation on its work. Their early insight led to an event that proved to be a seminal moment in the organization's history. We convened houses of worship, from throughout the county, to celebrate our shared history and discuss a new partnership focused on creating a brighter future. Among event participants, there was overwhelming agreement on the need for greater collaboration. The conversations that took place also served as a reminder not about what sets us apart, but about just how much we have in common. The Faith and Philanthropy Project (FAPP) was born out of this historic meeting.

WHY THE FAITH AND PHILANTHROPY PROJECT?

The faith community has been at the forefront in the fight for social and economic justice. Historically, houses of worship served as key stops on the underground railroad and through mutual aid societies, they provided support for the economic, educational, social, and spiritual needs of the community. They have raised critically needed funds in support of the civil rights movement and advocated for the passage of critical legislation. Faith organizations have also given back to church members and the broader community through the creation of schools, businesses, and scholarship programs. The Faith and Philanthropy Project was founded in recognition of this rich history and our understanding of the critical role that both the faith and philanthropic sectors play in community transformation.



WHAT IS THE FAITH AND PHILANTHROPY PROJECT?

The Faith and Philanthropy Project is a new initiative of the Greater Washington Community Foundation that is focused on Prince George's County. It brings together two of our communities leading sectors - faith and philanthropy - to work collaboratively to improve the quality of life for Prince George's County residents. In the weeks and months ahead, we will work collaboratively to define our work together - the issues we'll address and the approaches we'll take.

WHY PARTNER WITH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?

In many respects, The Community Foundation is simply a modern twist on the age-old concept of mutual aid societies which have long been at the heart of many faith traditions. Partnering with The Community Foundation enables faith organizations to:

- Increase and leverage their resources to strengthen programs and achieve long-term sustainability and greater community impact.
- Close the racial wealth gap by improving the prospects for wealth building.
- Amplify the voices of community residents to affect change.

THE GOOD NEWS.

The faith and philanthropic sectors have achieved a great deal since their early and humble beginnings. Yet, we know that there is so much more for us to do both individually and collectively. The Faith and Philanthropy Project provides a framework for us to work more collaboratively to develop strategies and initiatives to help ensure that all Prince Georgians have what they need to prosper and thrive.

If you are interested in learning more and getting involved, please contact Darcelle Wilson at dwilson@thecommunityfoundation.org or 301.918.8480 ext. 163