

Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

At its Annual Meeting in October, the Woodard & Curran Foundation thanked outgoing Board member, Joe Geary



Michael Cherniak



Thomas Roche



Gillian Wood



Daniel Knise

(see Donor & Volunteer Spotlight) and welcomed four new members, Michael Cherniak, Thomas Roche, and Gillian Wood, all of Woodard & Curran. Dan Knise, President and CEO of Ames & Gough, an industry-focused specialty insurance brokerage serving clients internationally from offices in Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC, has also joined the Board.

Foundation President Thomas Francoeur said, "One of our goals has been to expand Board membership to individuals outside Woodard & Curran, and we were very pleased that Dan accepted our offer. Dan has led many nonprofit efforts, including those to bring the Olympics to Washington, DC, and he adds significant fundraising and development expertise that will help us grow our endowment, and increase our giving." 



Grant Winners Attend Rallies

Making an Impact

If you follow us on Facebook (and we hope you do), you know that in September, we announced the following 2014 recipients of Woodard & Curran Foundation grants.



- \$10,000 grant to Emory University's Urban Health Initiative (Atlanta, GA) for expansion of the existing education outreach program at the Super Giant Community Garden. The program promotes sustainable practices and provides lessons on rainwater capture, composting, litter clean-up, proper disposal of water, material
- reuse and repurpose, and organic and natural gardening techniques.
- \$5,000 grant to Pittsburgh Green Innovators (Pittsburgh, PA) toward a new rain garden in an urban neighborhood. The rain garden will enhance water quality, mitigate stormwater runoff, showcase a method for capturing rainwater, and educate the community and students about healthy watersheds, water quality, and the ecological and aesthetic benefits of green infrastructure.
- \$2,500 grant to the New York School for the Deaf (Westchester, NY) toward a new greenhouse to provide a year-round living classroom and expand the growing season in support of the Westchester Food Bank.
- \$2,500 grant to Recycle-A-Bike (Providence, RI) for Build-A-Bike class

WINNERS Continued on Page 3

Donor & Volunteer Spotlight: Joe Geary

The Woodard & Curran Foundation is honored to spotlight Joe Geary in this issue of our newsletter. Joe recently stepped down as a Foundation Board member and its Treasurer.

Joe is a Vice President and Area Manager in Woodard & Curran's Operations & Management group. When he's not at one of the water treatment facilities he oversees, Joe relaxes by entertaining. Both an accomplished comedian and

musician, he performs primarily around the Massachusetts town where he lives with and his wife, Laura, and their two children.



When it comes to the mission of the Foundation though, Joe is all business.

DONOR Continued on Page 2

Sponsor Spotlight: Borislow Insurance



Sharing a Commitment to Giving



Jennifer Borislow



Mark Gaunya

The Woodard & Curran Foundation is pleased to spotlight Borislow Insurance. Borislow is a leading employee benefits agency founded by Jennifer Borislow in 1982. The firm is dedicated to providing excellent client service with a personal touch. Borislow is a trusted advisor to Woodard & Curran and has been a valued supporter and sponsor since the Foundation was founded in 2010. When asked what motivated the company to donate to the Foundation, Mark Gaunya, a principal at Borislow, was quick to respond, “Charitable giv-

ing is consistent with our core values. Woodard & Curran is a valued client who shares our commitment to giving.”

Borislow’s passion for service extends beyond excellent client service. Borislow truly cultivates a culture with a strong focus on philanthropy and community service. They hold monthly community service events including providing Thanksgiving dinner for over 30 local families this year.

In keeping with their core values, Jennifer Borislow and Mark Gaunya have co-authored *Inspire to Act*, which explains the powerful impact of simple acts of kindness. The idea for this book began with Borislow’s 2008 holiday

party. Jennifer and Mark gave the Borislow staff \$100 each and charged them with using the money to perform a random act of kindness prior

to the holiday party. Their staff rose to the challenge and had many amazing stories to relay at the party. This inspired Jennifer and Mark to spread the word about random acts of kindness and the impact they can have.

The Foundation would like to give a special thanks to Borislow Insurance for their continued support and for their dedication to community service. 🍀

~ Jess Balesano



DONOR Continued from Page 1

He has supported the Foundation financially and by volunteering his time since its founding in 2010 and was a member of the Board of Directors from 2010 until October 2014. In 2011, Joe became the Foundation’s Treasurer and soon set the standard for those who would follow by researching and sharing what he learned on a broad range of topics, including charitable foundations, endowments, grant policies, and accounting procedures.

Fellow Board member Althea Master-son says, “It’s a challenge to fill a volunteer role as responsible as serving as Treasurer, particularly for someone with work responsibilities as demanding as Joe’s, keeping him on the road

a good part of the time handling situations where a quick response is needed. But Joe has always made time to carry out his duties as Treasurer and Board member, and we will miss him on the Board.”

Joe supports the Foundation and its mission because it’s a cause he really believes in. He was drawn to the Foundation when he learned of how many people were interested in the concept and because he knew it would involve a lot of effort. Speaking about how his role grew, Joe said, “I really loved listening to advice from others and from non-profits on how to develop and focus the mission. And taxes: I couldn’t believe how complicated they are considering that as a

nonprofit, you don’t have to pay any!”

Joe’s dedication is shown by the fact that he volunteered to assist its new Treasurer, Tom Roche, by serving as bookkeeper. When asked what he will remember best about his roles with the Foundation over its first five years, Joe said, “To see how much it has grown. From a couple contributions from Board members to the sizable amount of funds we have available now to use for grants. I can’t believe it! It’s like the saying, a thousand mile journey starts with a single step.”

Thank you, Joe, for your dedication, energy, insight, and hard work to advance the mission of the Foundation. 🍀 ~ Ken Carlson

scholarships, during which attendees divert non-working bikes from the waste stream by recycling as many parts as possible by building one bike for themselves and a second bike for donation to youth and adults in need.

There's nothing better than hearing about their projects first-hand, and we were fortunate to make that happen. Representatives from all four organizations recently attended rallies in Woodard & Curran offices, with additional offices participating by video conference. The rallies kicked off the Foundation's annual outreach to Woodard & Curran employees, who created the Foundation in 2010. Read on to learn a bit more about these great organizations.

Emory Health Initiative

Key volunteers for the Emory Health Initiative's Super Giant Community Garden, all graduates of Emory's Rollins School of Public Health, joined Woodard & Curran employees in the Atlanta office and proudly presented facts about the garden and plans for the future. Lara Martin, Garden Manager, Melissa Sizemore, Planting Manager, and Samantha Lie Tjauw, Program Development Manager explained that the garden is run entirely by volunteers and



From left, Samantha Lie Tjauw, Lara Martin, and Melissa Sizemore gratefully accept a check for \$10,000 for Emory University's Urban Health Initiative's Super Giant Community Garden from Foundation President Thomas Francoeur.

now has more than 400 community members of all ages using the garden. Lara said the garden is located in an area of the city where residents often run into tough times. The Emory Health Initiative works to offer programs and events that combine education and fun through activities like gardening classes, family movie nights, and Easter egg hunts in the garden. The grant will allow them to expand their education outreach program and increase the current 12 beds to 24. Their outreach addresses sustainable prac-

tices and provides lessons on rainwater capture, composting, litter cleanup, proper disposal of water, material reuse and repurpose, and organic natural gardening.

Pittsburgh Green Innovators

The mission of Pittsburgh Green Innovators is to bring a green economy to western Pennsylvania through energy alternatives, green infrastructure, adoptive reuse, and social responsibility. Tom Bortnik, Executive Director, joined the Pittsburgh office's rally, and spoke about the Hill District



Tom Bortnik of Pittsburgh Green Innovators, shown with Foundation Board member Duff Collins and Pat O'Hara of Woodard & Curran.

Greenprint Plan, which has included planting trees along streets to aid in managing storm water runoff. The Foundation grant will be used to construct a rain garden that will collect 10,000 – 25,000 gallons of rain water a year, keeping the rain water runoff out of the wastewater system and ultimately from overflowing into the rivers. Tom said that Pittsburgh Green Innovators collaborated with community partners including a local high school where the students participated in the design and location of the rain garden. These community collaborations," he said, "especially with the local schools, train and bring awareness to young people of environmental issues in the area and encourage them to become actively involved."

New York School for the Deaf

The New York School for the Deaf was founded in 1817, when a small group of deaf people and a minister met to discuss their dream of opening a school for deaf children. Today, the school is just a few years away from celebrating its 200th year. The dedication of this school to its students was clear in the presentation at Woodard & Curran's White Plains office by Executive Director Janet Dickenson, Ph.D.



The \$2,500 grant to the New York School for the Deaf will support a new greenhouse project.

and Director of Development Mary Rahe. One of the biggest ways that the school partners with the community is through its garden, which grows organic vegetables for the local food bank. Dr. Dickenson said that Woodard & Curran’s support for the new greenhouse project “will provide a year-round classroom and expand the growing season in support of the Westchester, NY Food Bank, and as a result of that, help to generate more support from other potential donors.”

Recycle-A-Bike

Patrick McEvoy, Program Director, speaking in Woodard & Curran’s Providence office, explained that Recycle-A-Bike connects people with refurbished bikes, providing practical bike knowledge and advocating safer bicycle use. He said Recycle-A-Bike is teaming with the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center School in Providence to provide students with training in mechanics and problem solving. Outreach programs include working with refugees and local veterans to provide them with mechanical skills and transportation. Patrick said they have received requests to expand their outreach to youth homes and

homeless shelters, and the Foundation’s grant will give them the opportunity to explore those programs. The grant will also allow them to expand their classes to reach more people, and possibly, to add a bilingual class.

Thank you to Chelsea Bierkan, Dee Wiederstein, Jen Manzo, Lisa Motta, and Tom Shay for contributing to this article. 🍃



Kelly Cowan, chair of the Foundation’s Giving Committee, presents Patrick McEvoy of Recycle-A-Bike with a check for \$2,500.

MISSION

The Woodard & Curran Foundation has been established to take Woodard & Curran’s vision of exemplary corporate citizenship further by allowing the Foundation to grow and invest financial resources in an endowment and make significant contributions to charitable organizations aligned with our values.

VISION

The Woodard & Curran Foundation is a public nonprofit organization dedicated to directing endowment resources to non-profits with environmental missions focused on creating a healthier world.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Thomas Francoeur, President
- Barry Sheff, Vice President
- Celeste LaBadie, Secretary
- Thomas Roche, Treasurer
- Kelly Camp
- Michael Cherniak
- Duff Collins
- Kelly Cowan
- Daniel Knise
- Althea Masterson
- Bruce Nicholson
- Gillian Wood



www.woodardcurranfoundation.org

