

NEXUS

THE COLUMBUS
FOUNDATION

FALL
2019



NEX·US (něk'səs) N., **1.** A MEANS OF CONNECTION; A LINK OR TIE. **2.** A CONNECTED SERIES OR GROUP. **3.** THE CORE OR CENTER.



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excellence



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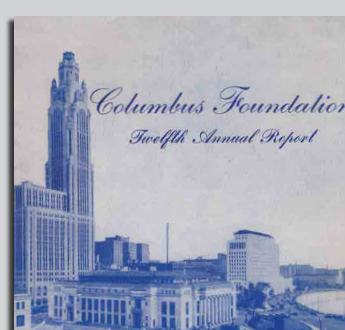
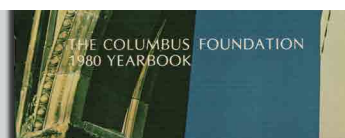
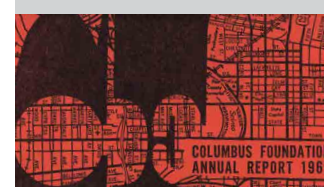
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A LOOK BACK

Publications weave similar themes
through the years





Douglas F. Kridler
President and CEO

DO YOU REMEMBER the publication *My Weekly Reader*? Written for school-aged children, it had over one million young readers at its peak.

What many don't know is that *My Weekly Reader* originated right here in Columbus, the product of American Education Press, which was founded in 1902 by Charles Palmer Davis. Preston Davis later became the majority owner of American Education Press, and, in 1928, created *My Weekly Reader* to expand news and curriculum-based storytelling to millions of schoolchildren across the country. The co-founder of *My Weekly Reader* was none other than the founder of The Columbus Foundation, Harrison Sayre.

Two reflections: first, what an extraordinary difference Harrison Sayre made in just those two acts—co-founding and being managing editor for the most widely read children's news and education source of his time, and leading the creation of one of the world's leading philanthropies, The Columbus Foundation. Harrison's is truly a remarkable community legacy.

The second reflection is how difficult it would be to publish such a newspaper for young people today. Imagine yourself as the editor of such a publication—how would you cover all that is going on in our country? How would you convey the nature of events and discourse and America's changing role in the world?

Of course, today, if you wanted the publication to be read by many, you wouldn't publish a newspaper at all—you would instead choose a digital platform, and try to create attention-grabbing copy. In media today, the saying goes, "it only soars if it roars." And, "If you make it a trend (on social media), you make it true," said Renee DiResta.

Today's media would no doubt be mystifying to Harrison Sayre. But, he of all people recognized the imperative of taking action, whether it be in educating our young people or building out an enduring commitment to generosity in the form of The Columbus Foundation. We do well to heed his commitment to action, perhaps stirred by something akin to Martin Luther King's "fierce urgency of now." Or, consider the words of Michelle Wu, who, when considering the huge issues of housing, transportation, and equity in neighborhoods and schools, stated, "We cannot afford not to act, and I also feel we can't afford to put civility and delay before progress."

Newspapers, whether *My Weekly Reader* for our country's children, or *The Columbus Dispatch* for our community, used to be our common ground. Times have changed, newspaper readership has fallen, and yet, we must build a kindred community spirit, a kindred nation, in order to truly flourish and prosper. The Columbus Foundation is fiercely committed to strengthening our common bonds, just as it was in its founding 75 years ago. We thank you for your kinship with us as we travel the many complex paths to progress, for all.

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OUR MISSION

To assist donors and others in strengthening and improving our community for the benefit of all its residents.

OUR PROMISE

To help you help others through the most effective philanthropy possible.

Want to share NEXUS with a friend? Find our digital version online at columbusfoundation.org/fall2019nexus

For more information, visit columbusfoundation.org or call 614/251-4000.



Confirmed in compliance with national standards for U.S. community foundations.



YEAR-END REMINDER

Please note that Donor Advised Fund grant suggestions received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3 will be mailed prior to yearend. Questions? Contact us at dsd@columbusfoundation.org.

Happy Holidays!

Leaving A Legacy

PATRICIA CUNNINGHAM, PH.D., was a fierce champion for the causes she cared about, especially social justice. But to her students and so many of those she had an impact on, she was simply Dr. Patty.

A native of Springfield, Ohio, Patty was a three-time graduate of The Ohio State University, earning her bachelor’s in women’s studies, master’s in higher education and student affairs, and Ph.D. in cultural foundations. As the Director of the Social Change Program at OSU, she taught leadership courses covering a vast array of topics, including poverty, race, gender, and civic engagement.

During her time at OSU, Patty led a number of organizations focused on social reform, including the Buckeye Civic Engagement program, which leads projects that benefit poverty-stricken Columbus neighborhoods. She was also a mentor for the Todd A. Bell National Resource Center.

“Patty was involved in every aspect of social justice: food insecurity, school-to-prison pipeline, health care inequities... you name it, she had plans to address it through a grant, a program she was going to start, or advocacy to other groups,” said her friend, Rachel Tjoeng. “She couldn’t choose just one thing because it all mattered.”

“My sister was one in a million and her passion to help make life better for others was strong.”

—KATHRYN SANDERS

Patty developed several award-winning civic engagement and service programs that, under her leadership, formed a new one-of-a-kind department in OSU’s Office of Student Life—the Department of Social Change. Her department empowered students to go back into their own communities or learn from a new one to become lifelong change agents.

Throughout her life, Patty had the drive to succeed and a heart to serve.

“She wouldn’t be still or quiet if she knew someone was being mistreated, getting a raw deal,” explained her friend, Jack Brandl. “She would help them speak up and stand up for themselves.”



Dr. Patty Cunningham
Photo courtesy of Kathryn Sanders

When Dr. Patty passed away in 2017 at the age of 37, it left a hole in the hearts of her family, friends, and the many students she had positively affected throughout her career. In 2018, her sister Kathryn, with the generous support of family and friends, established *Dr. Patty’s Legacy Fund* at The Columbus Foundation to continue her lifelong dedication for helping others.

“Patty’s legacy is so expansive that it is hard to put her life into words. The fund was established to support visionary servant leaders like Dr. Patty, who are working to build social change organizations and movements but may not have large-scale or institutional funding,” Sanders said. “It is our hope that this fund can become a sustainable source of funding for amazing social change leaders that incubates the next generation of social change organizations and leadership. We are hoping to consistently fund projects that would make Patty proud and would honor her vision for a more equitable city, state, and world by helping one person, one group, at a time.”

The fund made its first grant this year to support Wittenberg University’s Upward Bound, a “pre-college preparatory program that is designed to motivate and provide academic skills for students from first-generation college and low-income families who are interested in pursuing an educational program beyond high school.” This is in tune with Dr. Patty’s vision to give everyone a chance at success.

“Patty was always looking out for people on the margins and she believed education was the way to make a difference,” said her sister, Sachiko Burns.

COLUMBUS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$5 MILLION INVESTMENT IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING EFFORTS

IN JUNE, The Columbus Foundation joined with other private and public partners to announce an incredible collaborative effort that will help address critical affordable housing needs.

The Foundation’s \$5 million investment into the Housing Action Fund will help provide below-market rate loans to developers focused on creating new, long-term housing options for low- and moderate-income individuals and families who need the access and affordability the most. Over the past four years, the Foundation has committed \$11.5 million to support affordable housing efforts in neighborhoods across the community.

“This is an historic investment that will address a critical need today and pay dividends for generations to come,” said Doug Kridler, President and CEO of The Columbus Foundation. “Franklin County is projected to grow by another 200,000 people to a population of nearly 1.5 million by the year 2050. By collectively supporting housing affordability in this way now, our community is taking an innovative, proactive approach to ensure that we have the opportunity to grow in a more inclusive way throughout the rest of the twenty-first century.”



Columbus Foundation President and CEO Doug Kridler speaks at a June event outlining the Housing Action Fund. Photo by Lynsey Pipino

The Housing Action Fund is a collaborative effort between the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio (AHACO), of which The Columbus Foundation is a member, and the Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus & Franklin County. In 2017, research found that 54,000 Franklin County households at or near the poverty level pay more than half of their income for housing. With this knowledge, the AHACO, working with a strategic advisory council comprised of banks, corporations, and philanthropic organizations, developed a bold plan to cut the gap in half over 10 years with supply-side and demand-side solutions.

The Housing Action Fund enables financial institutions, corporations, foundations, and other investors to participate in implementing this plan to address the community’s pressing affordable housing needs.



THE BIG TABLE®

Thousands of individuals came together to engage in conversation during The Columbus Foundation’s fourth **Big Table** on August 28. More than 700 conversations took place throughout the city, centered around the Future of Columbus and pressing issues like gun violence and the opiate crisis, as well as ongoing community concerns around housing, employment, education, and more. It was an inspiring day that reminds us we are truly better together.

WHAT PEOPLE HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE BIG TABLE:

“We are inspired by the connections we made today and are committed to joining the central Ohio community (and beyond!) to work together to promote progress and authentic support for each and every person. #THEBIGTABLE”

“...thank you to The Columbus Foundation for encouraging a day of conversation that brings people together to find solutions for our fast-growing city.”

“One of the things I love about Columbus is the sense of compassion and awareness that I don’t see in other places I’ve lived.”

“Enormous thanks to the amazing folks at The Columbus Foundation for providing such an amazing resource and platform to foster honest, genuine, and organic connections. It is a true honor to share this community with so many incredible individuals.”

“Our conversation focused on the future of Columbus through the lens of poverty. There is so much to share, but here are a few of our takeaways: communication leads to connection—a vision for more public spaces in order to create opportunities to interact and reduce isolation—employment is key to addressing poverty—we are stronger together.”

Photos by Rick Buchanan Photography, Kathryn D Studios, and Lynsey Pipino, and courtesy of WOSU and The Ohio State University

<p>NICE TO MEET YOU.</p> <p>60%</p> <p>were first time participants in The Big Table.</p>	<p>WE’RE BETTER TOGETHER.</p> <p>85%</p> <p>felt their group developed an idea that could help strengthen/improve our community.</p>	<p>LET’S DO IT AGAIN.</p> <p>92%</p> <p>said they were likely or very likely to participate again.</p>
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“It was terrific to see the variety of conversations that were inspired by The Big Table. So many members of our community rallied around issues that are important to them, connecting across the lines of age and background to come together and speak their minds.”

—ALICIA SZEMPRUCH, MANAGER OF THE BIG TABLE



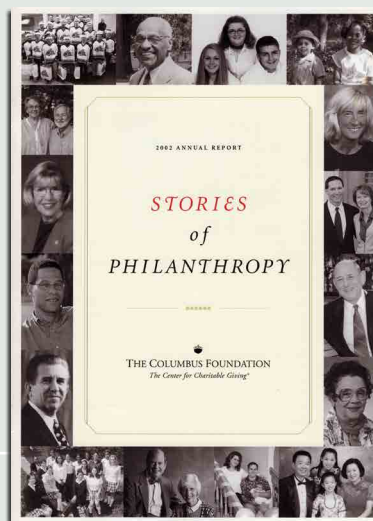
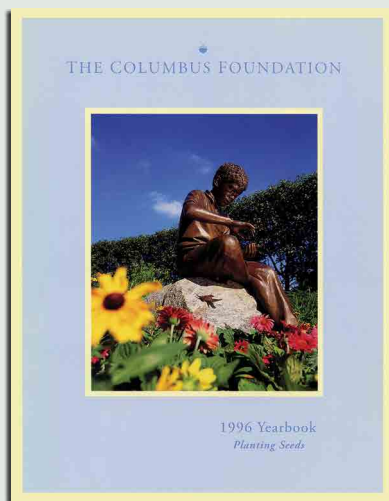
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A LOOK BACK

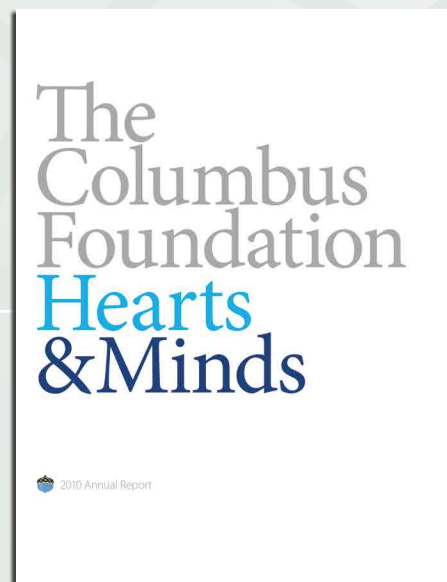
Since its founding in 1943, The Columbus Foundation has kept its donors and the public updated on its activities and finances through a wide range of publications, from newsletters and advertisements to special mailings and our signature annual report.

AS WE WRAP UP THE CELEBRATION of our 75th Anniversary year, we wanted to take a look back at some of our annual reports through the years. They illustrate how, despite decades of continual change, some themes have remained steadfast—trust, choice, stewardship, and the goal to help you help others. It's a promise we intend to keep as we usher in the fourth generation of donors to The Columbus Foundation family.

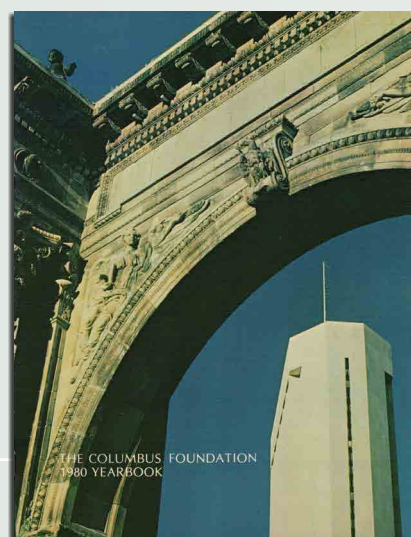
1996: "Donors make gifts that plant seeds for the future; those gifts enable the Foundation to seed new programs for a better tomorrow."



▲ 2002: "These have been tough and turbulent times in our nation and our community... Philanthropy has never been more crucial, given the role it can serve in building the resources of a community."

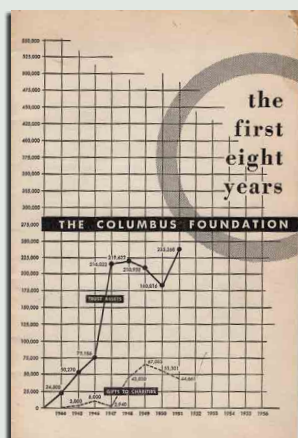
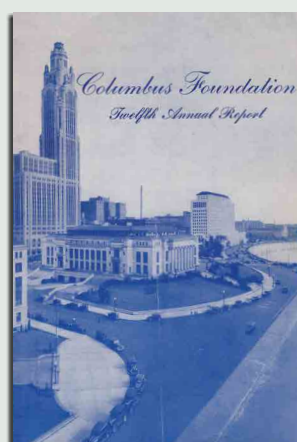


2010: "The power of hearts and minds is about connecting passionate individuals, families, and businesses with smart, effective philanthropy to make a difference in our community."

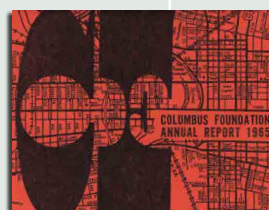


1980: "Columbus is a city with a remarkable desire and ability to achieve consensus in its decision-making processes. Since its creation 36 years ago, The Columbus Foundation has encouraged that process and benefited from it."

► 1955: "Who can doubt that in the years to come, this community trust will provide the seed for many other harvests and the 'water' to nourish the soil of a steadily better community?"

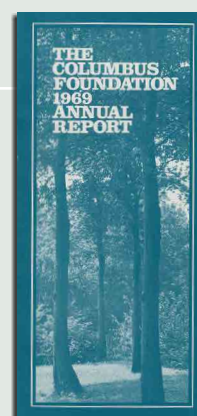


1952: "To most observers, the very name 'Foundation' implies wealth and affluence; but a true community trust is a popular institution, appealing as much to generous folk of small means as to men of wealth. We shall be proud to have The Columbus Foundation known as one established by modest gifts from many benefactors. We are glad to be well on our way toward that goal."

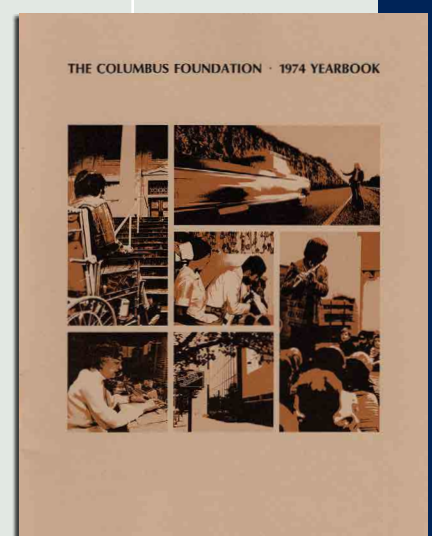


▲ 1965: "Most useful in these fast-changing times are unrestricted funds, from which resources may be found to give an effective impetus to meeting needs that change from year to year. Each of these funds has its own impressive story which is recorded, year by year, in the Foundation reports—the community's best medium for saying, 'thank you, your generosity is not forgotten.'"

► 1974: "As it has been said about Sir Christopher Wren in St. Paul's Cathedral: 'If you seek his monument, look around you.' The accomplishments of The Columbus Foundation are truly a monument to Harrison M. Sayre."



1969: "The most important purpose of the community foundation is to put resources into charitable, educational, and cultural organizations which are capable of making Columbus a great city by meeting today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities."



2019 Celebration of Philanthropy

During this year’s annual Celebration of Philanthropy, we highlighted 75 years of The Columbus Foundation and its donors strengthening and improving the community by recognizing outstanding examples of philanthropy. In addition to *The Harrison M. Sayre Award* and *The Columbus Foundation Award*, we introduced the *Acorn Award*, created to shine a spotlight on a Foundation fund that is doing remarkable things. **Congratulations to these honorees, and special thanks to all of the donors, nonprofit leaders, and friends who attended the September events!**



THE HARRISON M. SAYRE AWARD

Joe & Linda Chlapaty received *The Harrison M. Sayre Award* for the exceptional ways they champion causes that are important to them, such as childhood health and education, through their work with organizations like KIPP Columbus and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).



▲
“Childhood health and education are very important to us. Helping kids in underserved communities, that’s really what we are interested in doing.” —**JOE CHLAPATY**



Joe and Linda Chlapaty pictured with KIPP Columbus students (from left) Tyland Harris, Class of 2021; Thomas McDonald, Class of 2021; and Assiatou Diallo, Class of 2020.

Photos by Rick Buchanan Photography



THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION AWARD

The Columbus Foundation Award was presented to **Alvis, Inc.** In 2018, Alvis served nearly 10,000 individuals, helping them to rebuild their lives after substance abuse, involvement with the justice system, or other barriers to employment.

▲
“Today, Alvis serves more people and now has a range of evidence-informed and data-driven programs which address individual, family, and community challenges, yet at its heart, the purpose of Alvis has remained steadfast since 1967: we turn lives around.”
—**DENISE M. ROBINSON**



ACORN AWARD

The inaugural *Acorn Award* was presented to **Shirley Brooks-Jones** for her creation and involvement with the **Lewisporte Area Flight 15 Scholarship Fund**, which has awarded 291 scholarships to residents of Lewisporte, Newfoundland, following that community’s remarkable hospitality to rerouted flight passengers on September 11, 2001.

▲
“I’m delighted to accept this award on behalf of all of those who have helped me. The 291 kids from the Newfoundland area have gone on to do some really wonderful things. Each time I go back it’s like I’ve gone back home, it truly is. I love those people.”
—**SHIRLEY BROOKS-JONES**

Youth Sports Partnership Announced in Central Ohio

IN SEPTEMBER, the Aspen Institute announced a new partnership with The Columbus Foundation and others aimed at researching and recommending ways to increase access to sports opportunities for young people in Franklin County.

The State of Play Central Ohio will analyze the state of youth sports in Franklin County, and offer recommendations to grow access to quality sport options for all children. The 10-month analysis will examine how well adults in the region are serving youth through sports, regardless of ZIP code or ability.

“Ohio’s historic sports culture exemplifies the ‘Columbus Way,’ creating a foundation for community mobility, yet opportunities are greatly disparate,” said Tom Farrey, Sports & Society Program Executive Director at the Aspen Institute. “We are thrilled to be working with The Columbus Foundation, Lindy Infante Foundation, Columbus Youth Foundation, and other partners to better understand the opportunities available to youth in central Ohio and work with community leaders to develop recommendations for growing access to quality sport experiences for all youth.”

Guided by a task force of local leaders, the report will feature results from a survey of central Ohio youth, findings on strengths and gaps in providing access to sports, recommendations and big “Game Changer” opportunities, and sector-specific ideas that stakeholders could adopt. It will be released at the 2020 Project Play Summit and will be available in Fall 2020.

The report is commissioned by The Columbus Foundation, Lindy Infante Foundation, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, Columbus Youth Foundation, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and the Chris and Lori Holtmann Foundation Fund.

“Having a better understanding of youth sports and recreation in central Ohio will have an important impact on directing grantmaking, affecting collaboration among youth-serving organizations, and can even better inform civic priorities,” said Dan Sharpe, Vice President for Community Research and Grants Management at The Columbus Foundation. “Project Play has a reputation, nationally and internationally, of inciting change and catalyzing opportunity to better serve youth.”

In 2018, the Columbus-based Lindy Infante Foundation was one of a small cohort of organizations across the nation named as a Project Play Champion for taking new, meaningful actions consistent with the strategies of Project Play. In an exclusive partnership with ESPN, the #DontRetireKid campaign is a joint effort with Project Play to combat the declining youth participation rates in sports.

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. The mission of its Sports & Society Program is to convene leaders, foster dialogue, and inspire solutions that help sports serve the public interest, with a focus on the development of healthy children and communities.

Books that Inspired Me

with Shirley Brooks-Jones



Photo by Amy Vick

SHIRLEY BROOKS-JONES was returning from a trip overseas when the terror attacks started in New York City on 9/11. The events that unfolded as she and other passengers of Delta Flight 15 were diverted to Newfoundland were at the basis of her establishing a fund at The Columbus Foundation in 2002. The *Lewisporte Area Flight 15 Scholarship Fund* provides scholarships for young people in the town that welcomed Brooks-Jones and the other “plane people” for days before they could return to the United States. We caught up with Brooks-Jones, an avid reader, to ask about some of her favorite books.

Did you have a favorite book growing up? If so, what was it?
Actually there are two that I really loved:

- **The Secret Garden**
by Frances Hodgson Burnett
This was when I was a lonely, scared little girl who knew no one at my school and I really identified with the characters Mary and Colin in the book.
- **The Thread That Runs So True**
by Jesse Stuart
This was when I was about in the 9th grade and once again, was at a new school and, being from the foothills of the Appalachians in Southeastern Ohio, could really understand the struggles of people from Appalachia where the author was from.

What book has had the greatest impact on you, and why?
► **The Power of Positive Thinking**
by Norman Vincent Peale
Because I came from a family that struggled in many ways and I was very shy and insecure,

this book taught me to realize that everyone has talents and that each of us can make a difference in the lives of others. We just need to have courage to “open the door and walk through to see what’s on the other side” and then go for it!

Are there books about 9/11 or Newfoundland that you regularly recommend to others?

- **The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland**
by Jim DeFede
Jim DeFede interviewed me in January 2002 and we have kept in touch; I keep telling him he needs to write a sequel to this wonderful book. He tells me that that’s what his mother says, and I tell him that he needs to do what his mother says!
- **Where Eagles Lie Fallen: The Crash of Arrow Air Flight 1285, Gander, Newfoundland**
by Gary Collins
This book is a tribute to the servicemen and women known as the “Screaming Eagles” of the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Military who, on December 12, 1985, were returning home to the United States following a peace-keeping mission in the Middle East. The plane stopped at Gander for refueling and crashed shortly after takeoff on the final leg of the flight home. All aboard died and Newfoundlanders from near and far came to the site to help with locating the remains of those men and women. At the crash site is a memorial called The Silent Witness, which is just across the road from Gander International Airport. The place is so quiet and so peaceful. To me, it is another



reminder of the unconditional kindness of Newfoundlanders.

► **A Change of Heart**
by Alice Walsh and Art by Erin Bennett Banks
This is a children’s book which, in words and drawings, tells an amazing World War II story. On February 18, 1942 three U.S. naval ships were off the southeast coast of Newfoundland and were being battered by a severe winter storm. Two of the ships were forced against the jagged rocks of Newfoundland (Newfoundland is called THE ROCK) and hundreds of sailors perished as the USS Truxtun and USS Pollux went down in the icy waters of the North Atlantic Ocean. Survivors were in critical condition from nearly freezing in the water and being coated with and swallowing oil that had leaked from the ships.

Newfoundlanders rescued and saved the lives of many sailors, including Lanier Phillips, a native of Georgia who had joined the Navy to escape the racism and segregation of his native state. He was taken into a small home where a woman essentially nursed him back to health. In the years following his “stay” in Newfoundland, Lanier Phillips vowed to do whatever he could to repay the kindness he had experienced in 1942. For years, he returned and very quietly did just that. He was the only black survivor of the Truxton disaster.

In 2011, Lanier Phillips was made an honorary member of the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador (an honor I received on December 7, 2007), and in February 2012, he travelled to Newfoundland for the 70th anniversary of the disaster. I really love this little book!

Popular Neighborhood Resource Celebrates 25 Years

FOR HUNDREDS of young people in Franklinton, the Dowd Education Center has served as far more than an afterschool or summer program; it’s been a home away from home. As part of The Homeless Family Foundation (HFF), the center, named for HFF founders Joe and Teresa Dowd, opened its doors 25 years ago. It has grown from a homework help center into a pillar of support focused on the academic and social success of neighborhood kids.

“Our goal is to help empower youth to reach their full potential,” explained Beth Fetzer-Rice, Executive Director of HFF.

Each day after school, about 80 students in grades K-8 arrive at the HFF Dowd Center. Buses from neighboring schools bring them for



an afternoon of education and recreation, as well as a meal together, before transporting each child home between 6:30–7:00 p.m. During the summer months, the center operates from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., providing meals and snacks as well as off-site field trips and fun learning experiences.

“Support and enrichment are things we all need, no matter our background. Those attributes are even more important for families and children experiencing financial instability,” said Dan Sharpe, Vice President for Community Research and Grants Management at The Columbus Foundation.

The center, located just off West Broad Street, serves clients in the Franklinton neighborhood. The staff has seen firsthand how families living in crisis and poverty need to focus on today’s needs, making anything in the future feel out of reach.

“So much of the focus is on just making it through the day,” said Donna Powell, Director

of Donor Relations and Development for The Homeless Families Foundation. “That anxiety and mentality carries over from the parents to the children.”

“For us, this is a place to dream big,” Fetzer-Rice added. “It’s about learning new things, bettering themselves, gaining new skills, giving back to their community, and helping them prepare for whatever is next.”

The Columbus Foundation, its donors, and Supporting Foundations have financially supported the efforts of HFF and Dowd for many years, including \$125,000 in grants in recent years to support renovation of the on-site gymnasium and creation of a multi-purpose room at the center for program activities.

“The Homeless Families Foundation and its Dowd Education Center help some of the most vulnerable among us,” Sharpe said. “The caring, compassionate, and collaborative nature in which they deliver services makes the Dowd Center a very important asset to our community.”