



**THE MILES
FOUNDATION**

Investments in Education

**THE GIFT OF TOMORROW
ANNUAL REPORT**



2013

MISSION STATEMENT

The Miles Foundation endeavors to honor the legacy of its founder, Ellison Miles, through the support of institutions that offer innovative programs related to education, economic opportunity and leadership development. Mr. Miles demonstrated a passion for these subjects throughout his life, and The Miles Foundation remains solely focused on ensuring the next generation's success in these areas today. The Miles Foundation seeks to inspire individuals eager to learn, grow, and contribute to the betterment of their communities and country.



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ABOUT THE FOUNDER

“When you are over here fighting a war and fighting to save your very own life, the things you think of back home are not valued in terms of wealth.”

*~ Ellison Miles
November 20, 1943*

When 23-year-old Ellison Miles enlisted to serve as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II, the only thing he wished for more than his own safety was the safekeeping of his two brothers, who also served in the Air Force during the war. After 25 missions in Europe, Ellison returned home to Liberty, Texas as a war hero, decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, three Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal, and the Presidential Citation. But Ellison also returned home as part of an extended family: the crew members he'd fought to keep safe during their two years together.

Ellison's philosophy, which was undoubtedly crystallized during his wartime experience, was that it was not material items that brought his life meaning. Rather, it was the relationships that he formed – from his close-knit family in Liberty, to his Air Force crew overseas, and later, his employees at Miles Production Company – that inspired hope and courage in his daily life. These familial bonds enabled him to succeed in lofty endeavors, from creating a company that set precedents in the Texas oil and gas



Ellison Miles
May 6, 1918 – January 8, 2004

industry, to establishing a foundation that would continue his passion for investing in education.

And so, The Miles Foundation exists to enable our local community to thrive, in memory of a courageous founder, and in hopes of inspiring great leaders for the generations of the future. To eradicate “good enough” from our vocabulary is to measure success not by funds donated, but by impact achieved. We follow the example of Ellison Miles by building and nurturing our own extended family, one grant at a time.

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Each year, we collectively reflect on what we've accomplished, and what is still left to be done. We evaluate what The Miles Foundation can improve – from internal processes, to the way we interact with our grantees and other community partners. Although we are thankful for what we have been able to achieve, we are even more optimistic about what is to come.

At The Miles Foundation, we strive to honor the gift that our founder Ellison Miles gave to us by perpetuating his mission of investing in education. This year, with a dedicated team, fresh perspective and an innovative spirit, we are more focused than ever on executing a plan for lasting change. With our sights set on the positive impact of tomorrow, we can be intentional about our goals for today.

This year's theme speaks to our founding vision of ensuring the next generation's success. It also embodies our forward-thinking philosophy of aligning with organizations committed to bringing best practices in education to North Texas. In 2014, we will stay true to our core giving area of education, while also forging ahead with grants focused on economic opportunity and leadership development – areas where we see the most potential for powerful programming, and that in turn, will enable our local communities to thrive.

Following in the footsteps of our founder, we believe in taking strategic risks in order to achieve greater returns; therefore, it is our intention to create an environment of innovation in everything that we do. Similarly, we will seek to be entrepreneurial, not bureaucratic, in the way we work with each of our partners.

From cutting edge grantmaking to innovative community initiatives and strategic partnerships, The Miles Foundation is setting the bar this year for what we can accomplish going forward. In 2014, The Miles Foundation endeavors to make long-term strategic investments to facilitate the improvements our community needs. And without our partners – current, past and future – this is a resolution we could never attain.

So, thank you for your support of The Miles Foundation. Declaring our intention is easy, but it is our actions that will measure our success. As we embrace the possibility of the future, we hope that you will join us. The promise of change – the gift of tomorrow – is waiting.

**Board of Directors
The Miles Foundation**



GIVING HISTORY



The Miles Foundation is proud to have granted over \$5,600,000 in funding over the last five years. We strive to be good stewards of the Foundation's mission by partnering with like-minded organizations that offer innovative programming and a relationship-centered approach.

2009
\$1,102,944

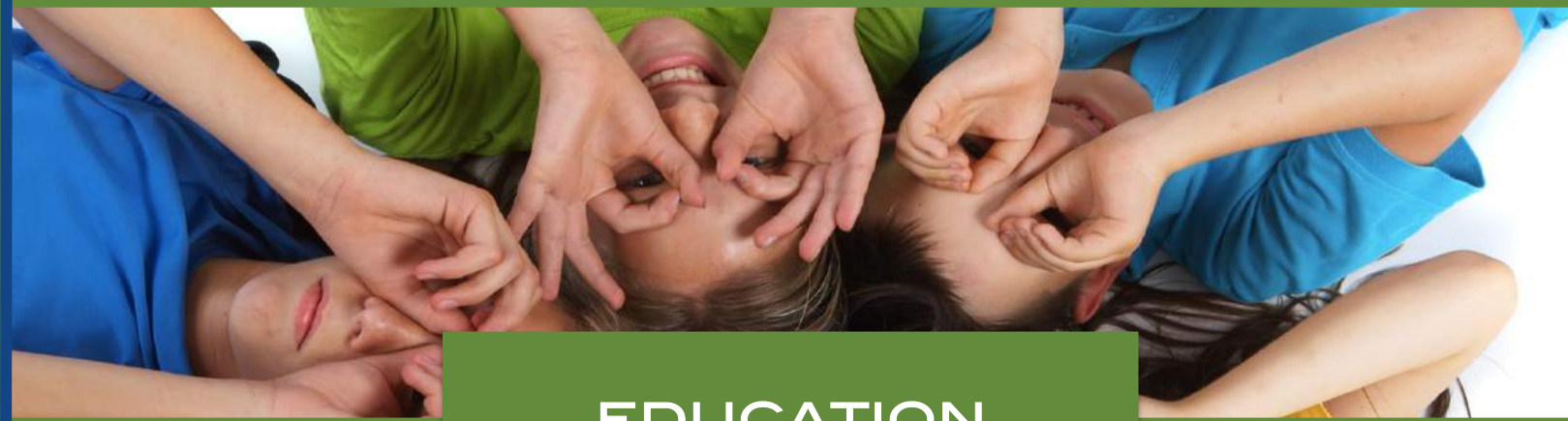
2010
\$1,083,339

2011
\$987,782

2012
\$1,013,190

2013
\$1,413,890

FUNDING PROFILES



EDUCATION



**ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY**



**LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT**



EDUCATION

Funding impactful education is a cornerstone of The Miles Foundation philosophy.

Our educational grants are awarded to innovative organizations and schools in North Texas focused on a myriad of initiatives, from pre-kindergarten readiness programs to developing effective curriculum, to character development and mentor programs that prepare students for a successful and positive life.

The Foundation believes these investments are essential to creating a thriving community.

NOTABLE FACTS

"Adults at age 40 who had a preschool program had higher earnings, were more likely to hold a job, had committed fewer crimes, and were more likely to have graduated from high school than adults who did not have preschool."

- *Lifetime Effects: The HighScope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40 (2005)*

"The average mathematics literacy score of U.S. 15-year olds...placed the United States below 17 of 33 other members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)."

- *National Science Foundation's 2012 Science and Engineering Indicators*

*"Education is the most powerful weapon
which you can use to change the world."*

- Nelson Mandela



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

The Ellison Miles Center for Geological Field Studies

Launching in the Fall of 2013, the **Ellison Miles Center for Geological Field Studies** at the University of Texas at Dallas will be the first program of its kind, pioneering a best-practices approach to educating future industry leaders. Through The Miles Foundation's grant, this forward-thinking, one-year program affords graduate students the rare opportunity to (i) apply a team approach to solving complicated geological problems, (ii) utilize a state-of-the-art mobile research laboratory to analyze and visualize data in the field, and (iii) complete a thesis and be eligible for a Masters of Science degree.

"The Miles Foundation helped us realize a vision for our geological program that now really differentiates UTD from other universities. By allowing us to bring the lab to the field, we are transforming the way students study and prepare for careers in geology."

DECATUR ISD

Future Ready Project

Decatur ISD's **Future Ready Project** is part of the district's strategic plan aimed at preparing students to be competitive in the global workforce. It reflects the district's mission to provide a quality education where students will learn digitally, think creatively and compete globally. The Miles Foundation's grant primarily provides funding for three personnel: a Future Ready coach, a Future Ready science specialist, and a Future Ready math specialist, all of whom will be utilized by the district's middle and high schools.

"The Future Ready Project is going to allow students to reach a new level in learning. We are so excited that The Miles Foundation has shared our vision for this initiative and is going to be our partner to ensure its success going forward."



ZERO TO FIVE FUNDERS' COLLABORATIVE

The Miles Foundation has joined the Zero to Five Funders' Collaborative (the "Collaborative"), a group of independent, Dallas-area organizations that have united to make a measurable impact on early childhood development within economically underprivileged communities. The Collaborative's mission is to ensure children are physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually ready for school by age five through measurable progress.

The Collaborative currently is focusing its efforts on Dallas' Bachman Lake neighborhood, and has selected to fund the following four agencies:

- AVANCE - Baby University Project,
- Catholic Charities - Together We Learn Project,
- The Concilio - Parents as Leaders Project, and
- East Dallas Community Schools - Bachman Lake Community School.

Each of the agencies have strategically designed high-quality programs to equip parents within the community with practical tools and techniques to stimulate their children's language, increase their vocabulary and help them recognize math, science and art concepts in everyday life. Over the course of five years, these programs will positively effect the lives of at least 4,200 parents and more than 5,000 children.



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The Miles Foundation understands that low-income families face significant challenges on the path to obtaining economic stability and security. By funding programs that provide personal savings strategies, asset development coaching and career advancement guidance, the Foundation aims to improve the economic security of working families.

NOTABLE FACTS

“44% of all families...do not have sufficient liquid financial assets to sustain their households at the poverty level for three months if they lose their income.”

- U.S. Census American Community Survey

In 2012, of those individuals who worked full-time, only 2.9% lived below the poverty level. By contrast, 33.1% of non-workers lived below the poverty level.

- U.S. Census Bureau

“The number one problem in today's generation and economy is the lack of financial literacy.”

- Alan Greenspan

A young man with short dark hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt and a dark tie, is smiling broadly. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is blurred, showing other people in a school setting.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

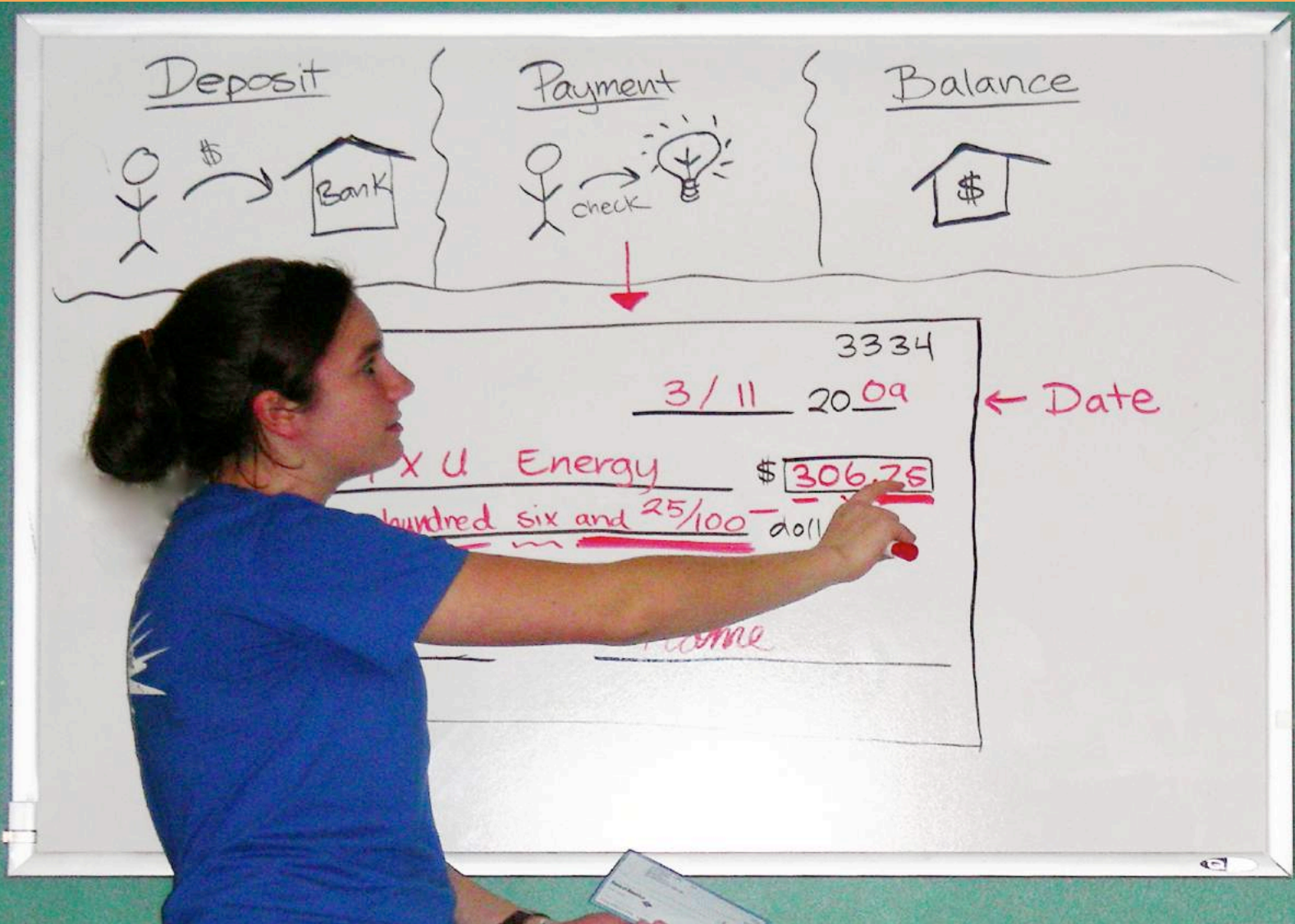
The Barrett Martin Havran Little Steps Big Futures Program

Through a partnership with The Miles Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters introduced a new program in the fall of 2013 that not only promises to help at-risk children beat the odds, but also perpetuates the memory of a late Big Brother. The Barrett Martin Havran Little Steps Big Futures program, Mentor 2.0, combines the best practices of both online and traditional mentoring. Following a college-focused curriculum, mentors and mentees correspond via email once a week to set college preparation goals and discuss progress toward achieving those goals. In addition, every four to six weeks, mentors meet their students in person at their respective schools to develop various academic, professional and social competencies.

Curriculum targets of the Little Steps Big Futures program include the following:

- Career exploration
- College admission process
- Interview skills
- Leadership
- Motivation
- Problem-solving skills

“The Miles Foundation didn’t just provide us with monetary support, they dedicated their personal time and energy to every aspect of our fundraising efforts. It is obvious they really care about making this program a success.”



CATHOLIC CHARITIES FORT WORTH Financial Education Program

Catholic Charities Fort Worth offers a comprehensive Financial Education Program to individuals or families in Fort Worth making \$50,000 or less. The program provides participants the opportunity to gain basic financial knowledge and skills in order to increase their savings, reduce their number of past-due bills and decrease their overall debt. Throughout the course of the program, participants have the option of attending three types of programming: (1) Money School Classes, (2) Financial Coaching Classes and (3) Credit Counseling Classes.

In the first nine months of 2013, the success of the program was exemplified through the following statistics:

- 1,499 individuals participated in Money School Classes
- 960 individuals participated in Financial Coaching classes
- 504 individuals improved two or more financial behaviors
- 620 individuals increased their savings by \$100 or more and maintained the savings for two consecutive months

"Our Financial Education Program has proven results. Thanks to The Miles Foundation, we have evolved and expanded the program to touch more people and change the financial trajectory for thousands of families within our community."

2013

JA Impact Award
Presented to:
The Miles
Foundation

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Junior Achievement (JA) empowers students in grades K-12 to own their economic success by offering real-world, hands-on curriculum focused on work-readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills. Through its partnership with The Miles Foundation, JA has been able to expand its programming into two new locations and schools throughout Texas. Recent successes of its programming include:

- Taught the basic concepts of business and economics to over 5,500 students in kindergarten through fifth grade;
- Positively impacted children's lives by helping them understand their role in our free market economy through the delivery of six different programs;
- Opened students' perspectives to the boundless career opportunities before them, while emphasizing the importance of education in attaining their career goals;
- Recruited new volunteers from local businesses and organizations to deliver the JA programming and serve as a role model for students;
- Trained many new volunteers to be able to effectively deliver JA programming, utilize interactive activities and materials, and interact with the specified grade level with which they will be working.

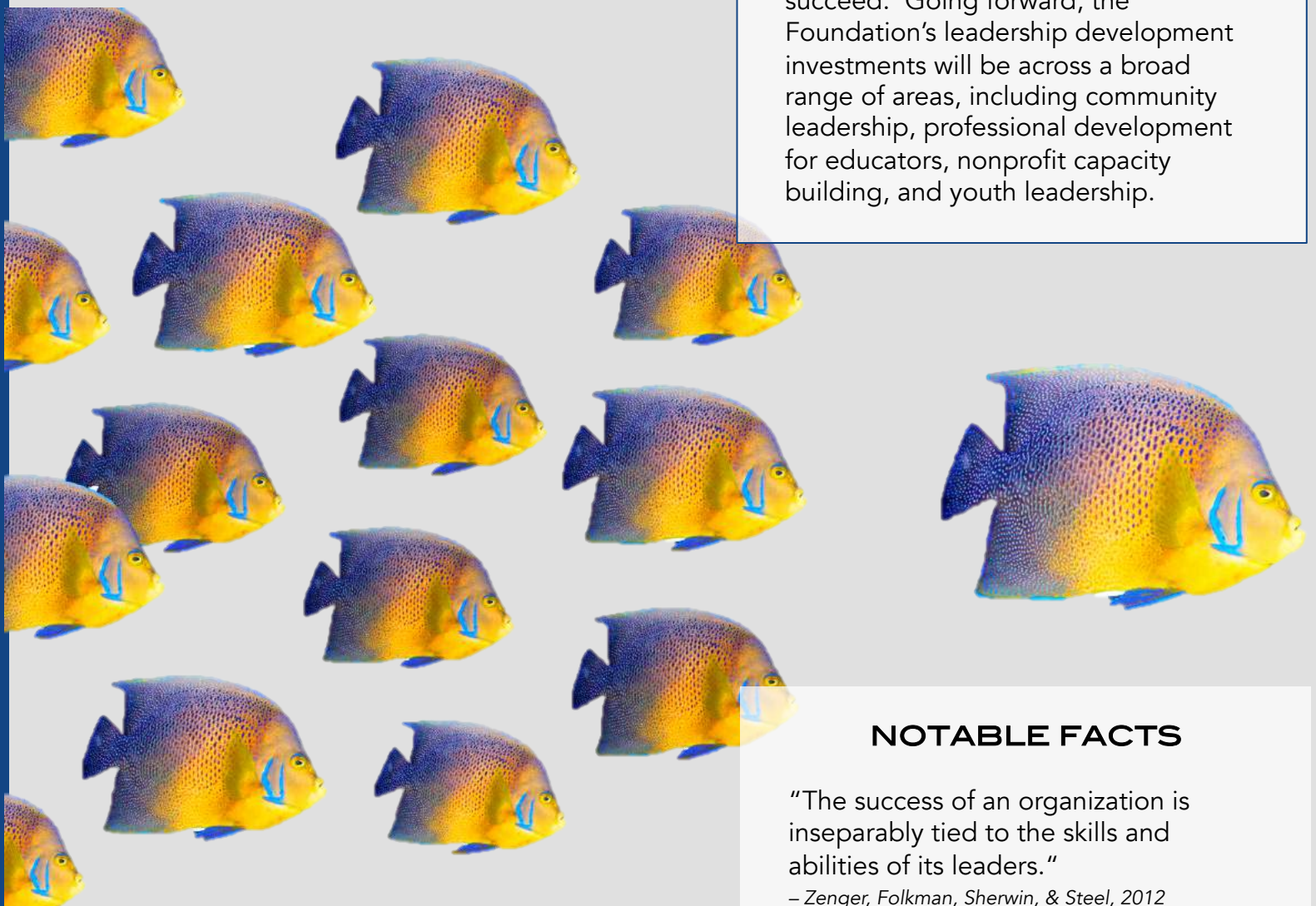
"The Miles Foundation really wants to get to know the organizations they're involved with - beyond just what's on paper. We have a very special relationship with The Miles Foundation because of their personal approach to grantee partnerships."

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

“Excellent schools must first have excellent leaders.”

~ President George W. Bush

The Miles Foundation is interested in supporting organizations that develop the leaders of today and tomorrow who will make an indelible impact on the community. We believe that leaders set our direction, enable us to grow, and provide us the confidence we need to succeed. Going forward, the Foundation’s leadership development investments will be across a broad range of areas, including community leadership, professional development for educators, nonprofit capacity building, and youth leadership.



NOTABLE FACTS

“The success of an organization is inseparably tied to the skills and abilities of its leaders.”

~ Zenger, Folkman, Sherwin, & Steel, 2012

“Leadership is second only to classroom instruction among all school-related factors that contribute to what students learn at school.”

~ Hallinger & Heck, 1996; Leithwood, Jantzi, 2000

GRANT SCHEDULE

April 1st
Begin accepting Letters of Inquiry (LOIs)

May 15th
Approved LOIs may begin submitting applications

July
Grant decisions made

May 1st
LOIs due

June 21st
Application deadline, due diligence begins

August
Funds distributed

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF



Grant Coates
President & CEO



Sherry Wilson
Director



Jack Burdett
Director



Jay McCall
Sr. Programs Officer



Laura McCoy
Executive Assistant



THE MILES FOUNDATION

Investments in Education
2821 West 7th Street, Suite 200
Fort Worth, Texas 76107
Phone: 817.420.9914
info@milesfdn.org
www.milesfdn.org