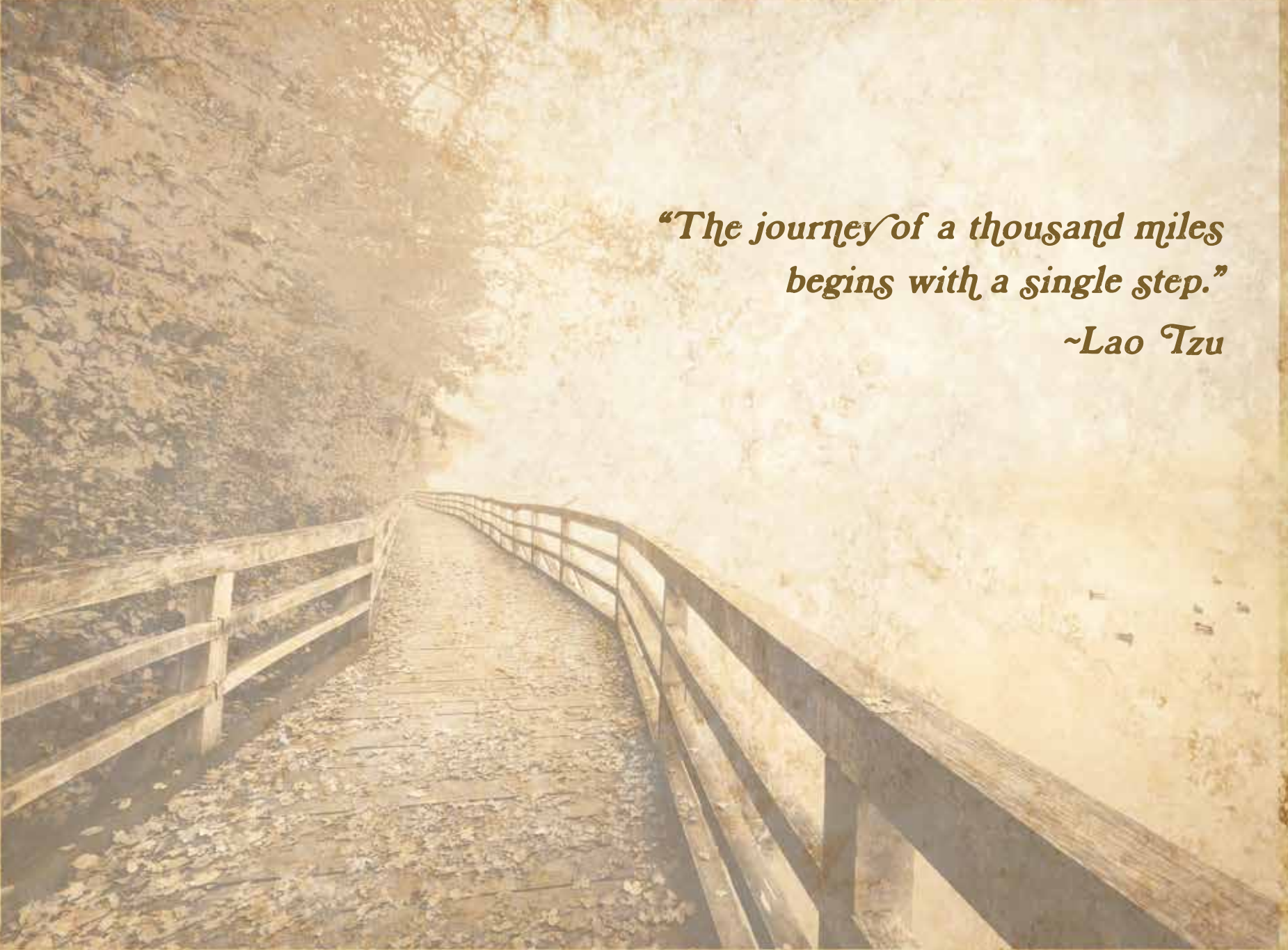


Journey to Impact

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



**THE MILES
FOUNDATION**
Investments in Education

A photograph of a wooden boardwalk with railings, leading through a misty forest. The path is covered in fallen leaves and leads towards a bright, hazy light in the distance. The image is framed by a textured, golden-brown border.

*“The journey of a thousand miles
begins with a single step.”*

~Lao Tzu

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Letter from the Board

If we have learned anything this year, it is that learning is a journey unto itself. As supporters of education, and as investors in those leaders and institutions moving the needle for our next generation of citizens, we value the concept of developing lifelong learners. Those who are not willing to accept the status quo, who seek to challenge themselves and others, who strive to deepen their knowledge and understanding so they can contribute more meaningfully to their families, communities, and professions. We believe, philosophically and practically, in the lifelong pursuit of self-discovery as a vehicle to unlocking purpose and impact.

But how often has The Miles Foundation stopped to ensure that we are still on our traveler's journey? Are we intentional about engaging in a learning mindset, listening and absorbing, and making course corrections based on new information we've gleaned? This year, we looked down the long road toward impact with fresh appreciation for the enormity of this challenge. And we are engaged in an intentional three-pronged discovery – of **who we are** as an organization, **what we do** to help effect change within our funding focus areas, and **how we partner** with other organizations to move toward shared goals.

In the continued discovery of **who we are** as an organization, we declared core values that embody the principles of our founder, Ellison Miles, and that reflect behaviors our team members must engender today. We refined our mission and vision as we move toward a clearer focus, a brighter guiding light to shine down the corridor toward positive change.

In researching **what we do** to take steps toward impact, we have gleaned best practices from foundations and other organizations across the country, and asked our grantees for both qualitative and quantitative feedback on what is working (and not working) in their areas of practice. We have committed to supporting our grantees and partners through their successes, as well as their failures, in fidelity to the learning process. Finally, we've created research briefs highlighting key findings that drive our strategies in each of our respective funding areas.

In understanding **how we partner** with grantees who align with us, can help us work toward our goals, and push us to improve as an organization, we are strategically investing more resources in those efforts where we see the greatest synergies and opportunity for collaboration.

In our ongoing journey of discovery, there is one constant truth: we are one very small piece of the impact ecosystem. Demonstrating value in our collaborations, maintaining fidelity to shared objectives, and facilitating real-time, authentic communication will continue to undergird our success. Thank you to all of our partners who work together with us to develop a vision for expansive opportunity, as well as the practical pathways to get there. On this thousand-mile journey toward impact, we know that the first meaningful step forward must be together.

- The Board of Directors

Who We Are

.....

Mission

The Miles Foundation honors the legacy of its founder, Ellison Miles, through investments in education that promote the next generation's success.

Vision

We envision a future in which children are given the foundation they need to lead a healthy, hopeful, and productive life.

**Healthy = socially, physically, & cognitively; Hopeful = optimistic, perseverant, joyful; Productive = self-sufficient, fulfilled*

Core Values

- **Gratitude:** We don't take for granted the opportunity and responsibility we've been given, so we consistently pursue avenues to deepen our knowledge and maximize our impact.
- **Agility:** We are nimble and adaptable on our path to seeking and implementing practical solutions.
- **Trust:** We build long-term relationships based on shared values, we deeply engage in our partnerships, and we treat our team like family.
- **Collaboration:** We believe in the power of working together to innovate and effect lasting change.

Our Funding

2011	=	\$987,782
2012	=	\$1,013,190
2013	=	\$1,413,890
2014	=	\$1,910,103
2015	=	\$2,085,275
2016	=	\$1,929,702

Funding Focus Areas

Early Childhood Education

Parent Engagement

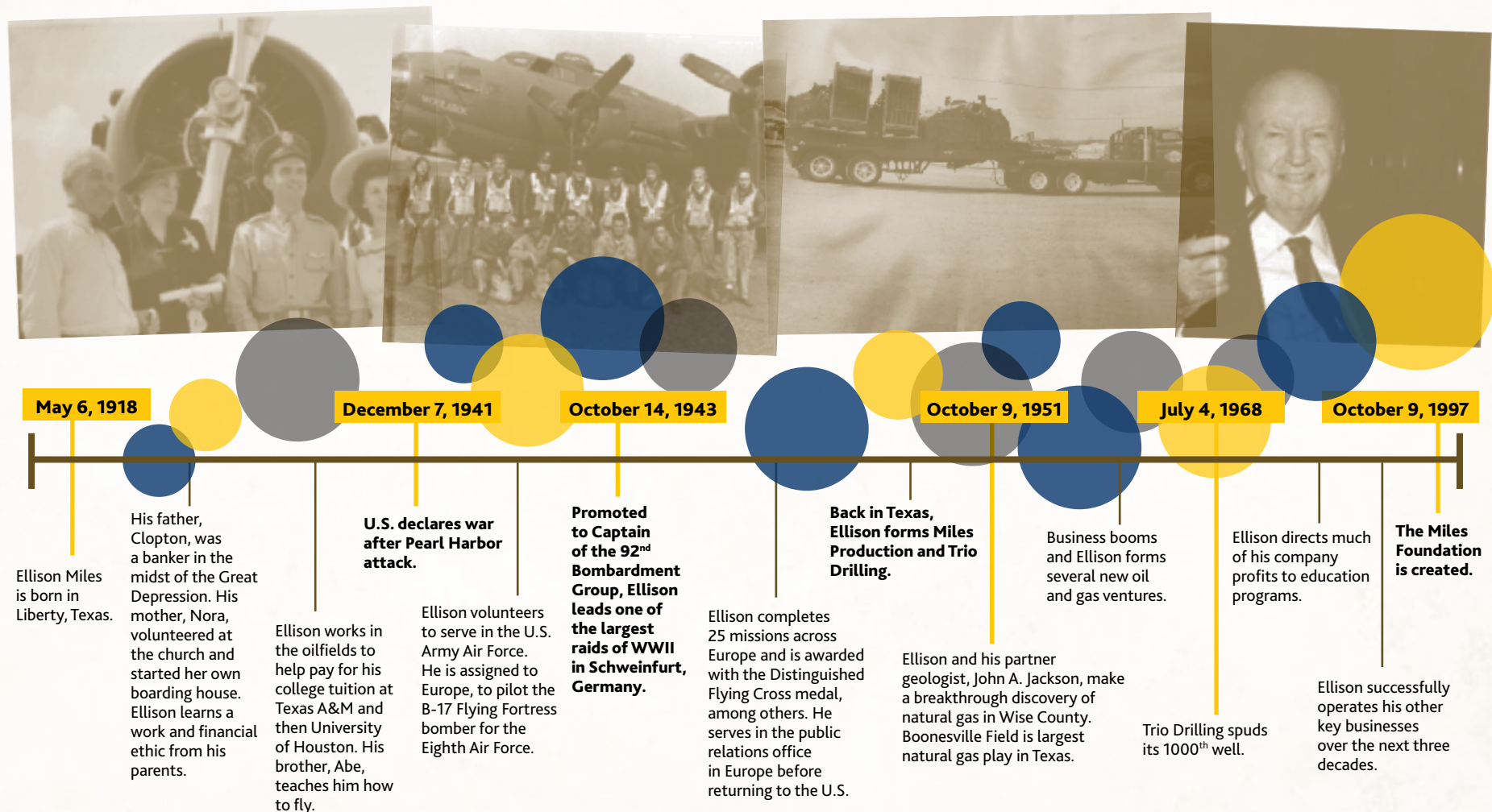
3rd Grade Literacy

Character Development

Leadership Development

Our History

We are proud of the principles and precedents set by our founder, Ellison Miles, that laid the groundwork for the future of The Miles Foundation. Today, The Miles Foundation continues to follow in Mr. Miles' footsteps. Particularly, we remain inspired by three themes that permeated Mr. Miles' life story, and that we hope to consistently incorporate in our journey to carry out his legacy: **Leadership**, **Innovation**, and **Philanthropy**.





What We Do

Within each of The Miles Foundation's key funding focus areas, we strive to continually learn about best practices and research that impact our approach and partnerships. Below is a highlight of key statistics that guide our work in the area of **Parent Engagement**.

FUNDING AREA SPOTLIGHT: PARENT ENGAGEMENT

WHY IT MATTERS






Family involvement =  **academic achievement** for students of **ALL AGES**.

Family involvement =  **academic achievement** for families of **ALL BACKGROUNDS**, including:

 Economic Racial/ethnic  Educational



IMPACT ON STUDENT OUTCOMES

Students with involved parents, no matter their income or background, are more likely to:

-  Earn **HIGHER GRADES AND TEST SCORES**, and enroll in higher-level programs
-  Be **PROMOTED**, pass their classes, and earn credits
-  **ATTEND SCHOOL** regularly
-  Have better **SOCIAL SKILLS**, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school
-  **GRADUATE** and go on to **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

FATHER INVOLVEMENT

Children who grow up with involved **FATHERS** are:

-  **80% LESS LIKELY** to spend time in **JAIL**
-  **2X MORE LIKELY** to go to **COLLEGE** and find stable **EMPLOYMENT** after high school

EARLY YEARS

In the first five years, a family's **PARENTING STYLE** and **HOME LEARNING ENVIRONMENT** are two of the most critical factors that contribute to cognitive performance and explaining income-related gaps in school readiness.



(Sources: A New Wave of Evidence, Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (2002). NEA Research Spotlight on parental involvement: <http://www.nea.org/tools/17360.htm>. The Relationship Between Parental Involvement and Urban Secondary School Student Academic Achievement: A Meta-Analysis, William H. Jaynes, California State University, Long Beach. Published in Urban Education. University of Oregon study, January 10, 2008. Child and Family Research Partnership at The University of Texas at Austin. "Fathers' Involvement in Their Children's Schools", http://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=parental-involvement-in-schools#_edn1, National Center for Education Statistics' 1996 National Household Education - Survey of the parents of 16,910 kindergartners through 12th-graders) Jane Waldfogel and Elizabeth Washbrook, "Early Years Policy," Child Development Research, vol. 2011, Article ID 343016, 12 pages, 2011. doi:10.1155/2011/343016.)

How We Partner

We are proud of our community partnerships with outstanding grantee organizations, all working to build a brighter future for our next generation of leaders. As we continue on our philanthropic journey, we strive to create deeper relationships with our grantee partners so that we can maximize our value as partners, maintain a clear focus on shared goals, and efficiently leverage our collective resources.



- [Academy 4](#)
- [AVANCE](#)
- [Big Brothers Big Sisters](#)
- [Bridgeport ISD](#)
- [Communities in Schools](#)
- [Bush Institute](#)
- [Camp Fire First Texas](#)
- [Cassata High School](#)
- [Catholic Charities / Cassata](#)
- [Catholic Charities](#)
- [Center for Transforming Lives](#)
- [Child Care Associates](#)
- [CNM Connect](#)
- [Communities Foundation of Texas](#)
- [Communities in Schools of Greater Tarrant County](#)
- [Decatur ISD Future Ready Project](#)
- [Dream Outside the Box](#)
- [Educational First Steps](#)
- [First3Years](#)
- [Fort Worth Museum of Science and History](#)
- [Fortress Youth Development Center](#)
- [George C. Clarke Elementary](#)
- [Great Hearts Charter](#)
- [Hope Farm](#)
- [Impossible Possibilities](#)
- [Kids Hope USA](#)
- [Kids Who Care Inc.](#)
- [Lena Pope Home](#)
- [Morningside Parent Engagement Collaborative \(PEC\)](#)

- [New Day Services for Children](#)
- [North Texas Community Foundation](#)
- [Northside Inter-Community Agency](#)
- [Reading Partners](#)
- [REAL School Gardens](#)
- [Rivertree Academy](#)
- [Tarrant County College Foundation](#)
- [Teach For America](#)
- [Texas Public Policy Foundation](#)
- [The Concilio](#)
- [The Gatehouse](#)
- [The Parenting Center](#)
- [United Community Centers](#)
- [United Way Tarrant County](#)
- [University of Texas at Dallas Geosciences Department](#)
- [Uplift Charter](#)
- [Wise County Collaborative](#)

An Honor: Outstanding Philanthropic Foundation 2016

At the National Philanthropy Day 2016 luncheon, The Miles Foundation was honored to be recognized as “Outstanding Philanthropic Foundation” of the year. The Miles Foundation was nominated by Junior Achievement (JA), a grantee partner of the Foundation since 2006. JA cited the foundation’s innovative use of grantmaking technology, hands-on volunteer efforts, and collaborative approach to philanthropy as key reasons for the nomination. A significant portion of The Miles Foundation’s involvement with JA has been dedicated to multi-year capacity-building grants. These funds have enabled JA to focus its efforts on critical organizational development areas, such as technology, staff training, strategic planning, marketing, volunteer recruitment, and fundraising.

WHERE:

Cendera Center, Fort Worth, TX

WHEN:

November 17, 2016

WHO:

Hosted by:
Association of Fundraising Professionals FW Metro Chapter

Sponsored by:

Frost Bank, Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Hurst-Euless-Bedford, M. Gale & Associates, Partnership for Philanthropic Planning – Lone Star Council, Star-Telegram, Indulge Luxury Magazine.

Nominated by:

Junior Achievement of the Chisolm Trail (JA)

“The Miles Foundation is honored to receive this distinction. We consider it a privilege to be able to do this work together with our grantee and community partners, and we are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such exceptional organizations dedicated to making a difference.”

Grant Coates
President & CEO of The Miles Foundation

“The Miles Foundation has always taken an active role in JA’s growth and success, supporting not only our educational programs, but the development of our organization as a whole. We greatly appreciate The Miles Foundation’s personal approach to its grantee relationships, and are thrilled the Foundation has been recognized for its efforts.”

Randal Mays
President of Junior Achievement of the Chisolm Trail



The Parenting Center

For 40 years, The Parenting Center has been a critical community resource helping to build successful families through counseling and education.

The Parenting Center was originally founded by the Junior League of Fort Worth and the Sid W. Richardson Foundation in 1974 as a response to the growing problem of child abuse and neglect in Tarrant County. It has remained focused on equipping parents and families with the tools they need to establish healthy relationships, grounded in the belief that strong families are at the center of a strong community.

In 2015, The Parenting Center served over 3,000 parents through its parenting education classes. 77% of those parents showed an increase in their parenting knowledge or skills following the parenting education course. Over 13,000 individuals were served through all the services available at The Parenting Center.

The Parenting Center achieves these types of gains across all of their programs by adhering to three distinctive principles:

- **An evidence-based, dual-generational curriculum.** Each of The Parenting Center's services features an approach backed by research.
- **A high standard for staff.** All Parenting Center staff must have a bachelor's degree in one of the human service fields.
- **Deep community ties.** The Parenting Center regularly partners with other organizations to help bring education and best practices to the local community.

With nearly 50% of its clients making less than \$20,750 annually, The Parenting Center strives to keep fees as low as possible in order to make

its services accessible to all families. Once families attend one class with The Parenting Center, more than half return for additional education or other services.

"With all of the local efforts underway related to quality early learning and development, our community is ripe for supporting the important work of parents. We are well positioned to help meet that need and assist in building a strong community where children thrive."

Suzanne Stevenson
Family Life Education Program Director
The Parenting Center



Decatur ISD

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Located 40 miles northwest of Fort Worth, the Decatur Independent School District (Decatur ISD) comprises six campuses spanning grades K-12. Of the roughly 3,000 students enrolled in Decatur ISD schools, half come from economically disadvantaged homes.

Decatur ISD is dedicated to helping all of its students excel, which includes finding creative ways to support its students and teachers outside of the scope of the traditional school day. In 2012, Decatur ISD and The Miles Foundation teamed up to develop a “Future Ready” curriculum coaching program, with a particular focus on math and science.

The Future Ready program helped to significantly improve Decatur ISD’s science and math testing scores over a three-year period. In 2015, the District’s Algebra I state assessment scores increased by a total of 20 percentage points.

The second program Decatur ISD implemented in partnership with The Miles Foundation is AVID

(an acronym for “Advancement Via Individual Determination”).

Established in 1980, AVID brings teachers research-based strategies that help strengthen students’ critical thinking, literacy, and math skills. The AVID program specifically targets underserved and at-risk student populations in the schools it serves, including those students who would be the first generation in their family to go to college.

Through advanced placement classes, study skills tutoring, and other mentoring opportunities, many of the at-risk students that have participated in Decatur ISD’s AVID program have excelled. In the 2015-2016 school year, the AVID freshman students outperformed their Decatur ISD freshman peers in the English, Biology, and Algebra I EOC exams.

“The Miles Foundation’s partnership has helped Decatur ISD students and teachers realize their potential through innovative and effective programs. We are grateful for The Miles Foundation team’s shared passion for helping teachers and students thrive.”

Judi Bell
Assistant Superintendent
Decatur ISD



Fortress Early Learning Center

Fortress Youth Development Center is located in a highly impoverished area in southeast Fort Worth. Nearly a decade ago, Fortress Executive Director Terri Henson began envisioning a way to support working moms in this community by providing a learning-rich environment for their young children to grow and develop.

Fortress Ministries began in 1998 as a suburban church's inner-city outreach offering summer and afterschool programs, and in 2005 was incorporated as Fortress Youth Development Center (YDC) as an independent 501(c)(3). Today, it provides five core programs to Fort Worth's Near Southeast community: [Fortress Early Learning Center](#)

(preschool for age 18 months to 4 years), [Fortress After-School](#) (afternoon learning for pre-K through 8th grade), [Summer Jam](#) (summer learning and camp), [Ignite](#) (mentoring for children ages 5-12), and [Equip](#) (parent engagement program).

The Fortress Early Learning Center originally started in 2008 as a “mother’s day out” program on Monday and Wednesday mornings, provided free-of-charge to the young mothers in the community. It soon became evident to the Fortress staff that the children enrolled needed more than just playtime and a nurturing environment.

Officially launched in September 2016, Fortress Early Learning Center now provides full-day preschool – along with breakfast, lunch, and snacks – to 60 children between the ages of 18 months and four years. The Center is working in alignment across all of its program areas to help augment early academic outcomes, enhance the social and emotional growth of its students, and strengthen the families that it serves.

“We are so thankful to The Miles Foundation for helping us realize this dream. Fortress is about so much more than just academics. We want our children to know from the start that they can do and be anything – and that we will help them get there.”

Stacy Agee
Director of Communications & Development
Fortress Early Learning Center



Reading Partners

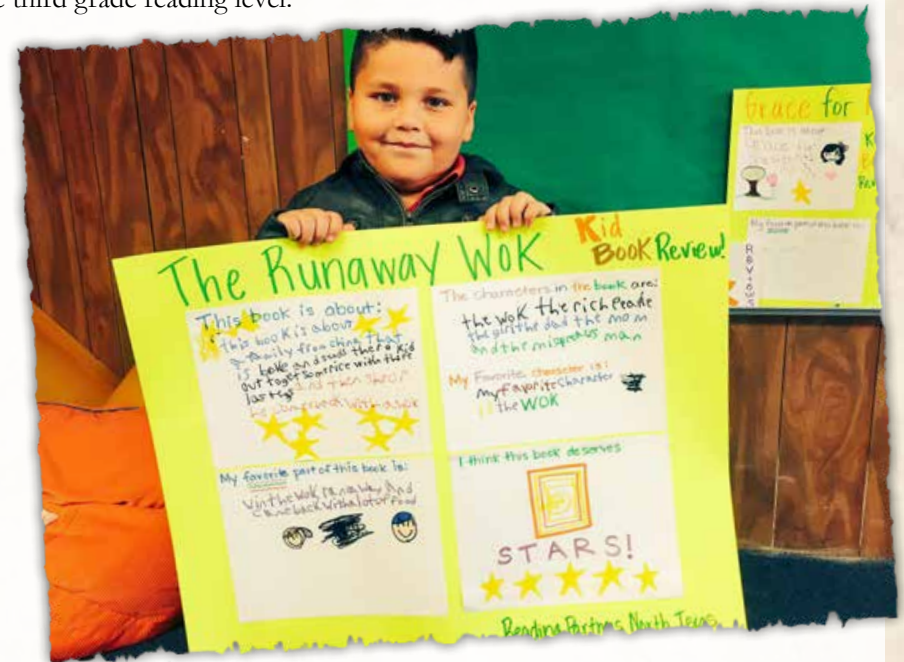
In the Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD), only 30% of third graders currently can read on grade level. With third grade literacy as a known predictor of a student's future academic and life success, this fact points to a critical need in our community – and a call to action for all citizens invested in Fort Worth's future.

Reading Partners is addressing this issue through a literacy intervention program that is gaining traction in Fort Worth and demonstrating real results within its target low-income student population. Through a scalable, one-to-one mentoring model, Reading Partners is ideally poised to partner with local schools and volunteers to unlock potential for our city's most at-risk students.

Reading Partners is the only national nonprofit organization with a comprehensive, evidence-based program model that features in-school, one-on-one literacy instruction by volunteers who are trained and supported by staff. The organization improves student achievement by focusing on the following key elements:

- **Engaging the community in the work by leveraging community volunteers.** Reading Partners' success depends on the recruitment and training of community volunteer mentors. Each volunteer is given personalized training and on-site support to ensure they are prepared and comfortable using the Reading Partners instruction techniques and curriculum.
- **Using a proven program model with fidelity.** Reading Partners provides volunteer tutors research-based, structured lesson plans supplemented by strategies that allow for customization to each student.
- **Individualizing the program to meet students' unique needs.** Ongoing assessments (three times per year) and one-on-one engagement with tutors help tailor the curriculum to address each student's strengths and areas for improvement.

In the 2015-2016 school year, 96% of Reading Partners students in FWISD met or exceeded their end-of-year literacy growth goals, and 97% in the K-2 grades mastered the reading skills necessary to be on path for the third grade reading level.



"Reading Partners' success truly hinges on the quality of our partnerships – from school leaders and volunteers who help ensure fidelity to the program, to foundation and business partners who help us reach (and stay accountable to) our goals. We are grateful for all of the support we've received in Fort Worth to date, and look forward to expanding our reach and deepening our impact going forward."

Mary Freeman
Development Director
Reading Partners North Texas

The Raising of Fort Worth

The Miles Foundation has been proud to sponsor The Raising of Fort Worth (ROFW) early learning community events since 2015. Another endeavor that is constantly iterating and shifting based on community feedback and sector developments, ROFW has been a valuable community engagement platform for quality early education in Fort Worth. Throughout its evolution, ROFW has been focused on convening a diverse community of stakeholders who believe that a strong beginning for our youngest children will help shape a brighter future for Fort Worth.

ROFW HISTORY

Raising of Fort Worth has hosted **5 community events** since May 2015.

Individual **sector advocates** were engaged from business, civic, philanthropy, education, faith, and health.

Sector advocates facilitated discussions to identify tangible steps and helped draft **sector action plans**.

Community leaders from various sectors are coming together to use **data to inform** quality early childhood strategies, **identify** what works, and **replicate** best practices across local high-need areas.



ROFW PARTNERS



The Early Learning Alliance

The Early Learning Alliance (ELA) is a community collaboration of more than 50 individuals and organizations focused on improving the health, education, and well being of children in North Texas. Started in 2013, the ELA is working together with its community partners to build a strong system of early learning and development for local children from birth through the third grade.

The ELA was formed in conjunction with technical assistance from the National League of Cities to help align local efforts aiming to improve early educational outcomes. The ELA's governance structure, strategic plan, and community partnerships have evolved over the last three years. The ELA is now under the leadership of Chair Kara Waddell (President & CEO of Child Care Associates) and Vice Chair Todd Landry (CEO of Lena Pope), with Sandra Lamm serving as ELA Coordinator. Some of the notable progress the ELA achieved this year has included:

- **Making widely available an online early learning teacher registry** that will help local early learning professionals store key credentials and development milestones, while also serving as a mechanism to bolster a much-needed central repository of early education teacher data. The ELA was able to leverage state funding in order to accomplish this work.

- **Establishing community-wide metrics for early learning outcomes** to help keep the early education community on track and accountable to common goals. Utilizing a nationally acclaimed approach, Results-Based Accountability™, the ELA is working to clearly define desired outcomes that will help drive effective, impactful community-wide strategies.
- **Increasing the visibility of early learning efforts** through the creation of a new website and ELA brand, partnership with Raising of Fort Worth, and collaboration with the newly launched Fort Worth literacy partnership. The ELA continues to align efforts with Mayor Betsy Price and FWISD Superintendent Dr. Kent Scribner in their joint pursuit of improving local third grade reading levels.
- **Building a data dashboard** that will help diverse early education partners garner a cohesive, real-time snapshot of key local early childhood statistics, progress against stated goals, and remaining gaps.
- **Modeling Transformational Family Engagement** in the Historic Stop Six community to support parents and community organizations to fully engage in co-creating the most effective early learning experiences for young children.

"The success of ELA is dependent upon the contributions and collaboration of each of its members. We are thankful for The Miles Foundation's fresh perspective, practical ideas, and roll-up-your-sleeves approach to finding and implementing solutions that will help local kids and families thrive."

Kara Waddell
Chair
The Early Learning Alliance



Morningside Parent Engagement Collaborative

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In its second year, the Morningside Parent Engagement Collaborative (PEC) continued its partnership with four agencies (United Community Centers in partnership with AVANCE, the Parenting Center, Concilio, and Camp Fire First Texas) to provide parent engagement services to families and their children age 0-5 in the Morningside neighborhood of Fort Worth.

The PEC was started in 2014 by The Morris Foundation, The Rainwater Charitable Foundation, and The Miles Foundation to help low-income families develop critical skills, enhance their knowledge, and build confidence in parent engagement strategies during children's developmentally critical years from birth to age 5.

Each agency designed and implemented unique programs focusing on different parent

populations. While each developed their own implementation strategies and program activities, they all shared the common goal of bolstering the quality of parenting skills and parent-child interactions.

In 2016, the PEC served 198 parents and over 350 children. This year, PEC parents demonstrated higher attendance rates (67% regular attendance) than last year (57% regular attendance). Parents also reported increased levels of confidence in their parenting abilities and a greater connection to their community following participation in PEC programming.

In addition, the PEC conducted two mid-year parent focus groups (one in English and one in Spanish) designed to garner parent feedback about the implementation of the parenting programs. The parents' candid feedback highlighted areas of success (e.g., parents enjoyed participating in learning activities together with their children), as well as ideas for enhancing programming and participation (e.g., attracting more parents by expanding PEC outreach to recreation centers, churches, and shopping centers).

"In year two, our parent focus groups gave us helpful insights that will guide this work as we move into our third year. We're extremely thankful for our PEC agencies who are dedicated to maintaining high-quality programming while adapting their approach and strategies as needed based on consistent family feedback."

Jay McCall
Director of Programs
The Miles Foundation



Excerpts From The Miles Foundation

Notable Stats, Quotes and Insights

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"Participating in full-day, high-quality pre-kindergarten helps low-income students perform better on reading tests in third grade."

- Pre-K in Texas: A Critical Component for Academic Success, Children at Risk study produced by The Meadows Foundation and The Miles Foundation

"Education is economic development."

- **Mayor Betsy Price**, Mayor's Fifth State of the City Address

"These family engagement models put parents and families at the center of their work, which drives the effectiveness of their programs."

- Three Models of Parent Engagement, One Philosophy for Success

"Parents noted the benefits of 'lectures' from guest speakers on certain topics, including child development, anger management and discipline, personal finances, and healthy relationship building."

- Parent Focus Group Takeaways: Morningside PEC

"Parents raise children, not schools."

- **Mike Morath**, Dallas ISD Trustee, Five Insights from SXSWEdu Conference

"It's all about trust. If we can create a school environment where everyone's excited to be there, real change can happen."

- **Ron Schultze**, Principal at MH Moore Elementary (Awarded 1st Blue Zones School in Texas), #BrightSpotsFW: A Whole School Approach

"Rural education superstars use data to track and follow individual students, rather than assessing trends across broad categories."

- Common Characteristics of Rural Education Superstars

"As foundations increasingly move towards 'beyond-the-dollar' impact, many are seeing the value of integrating communications as a central component of the foundation's overall strategy and mission work."

- Ready to Act? 3 Steps to Effective Foundation Communications, by Sara J. Redington and Danielle M. Reyes

"[We applaud] nonprofit organizations that present honest data for the purpose of improving their approach, iterating theories of what works, and finding the best solutions going forward."

- **Jeremy Smith**, The Rainwater Charitable Foundation, 'Data Driving Change' Showcases Local Innovation in Early Childhood

Our Team

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Grant Coates
Chief Executive Officer & President



Sherry Wilson
Board Member



Jack Burdett
Board Member



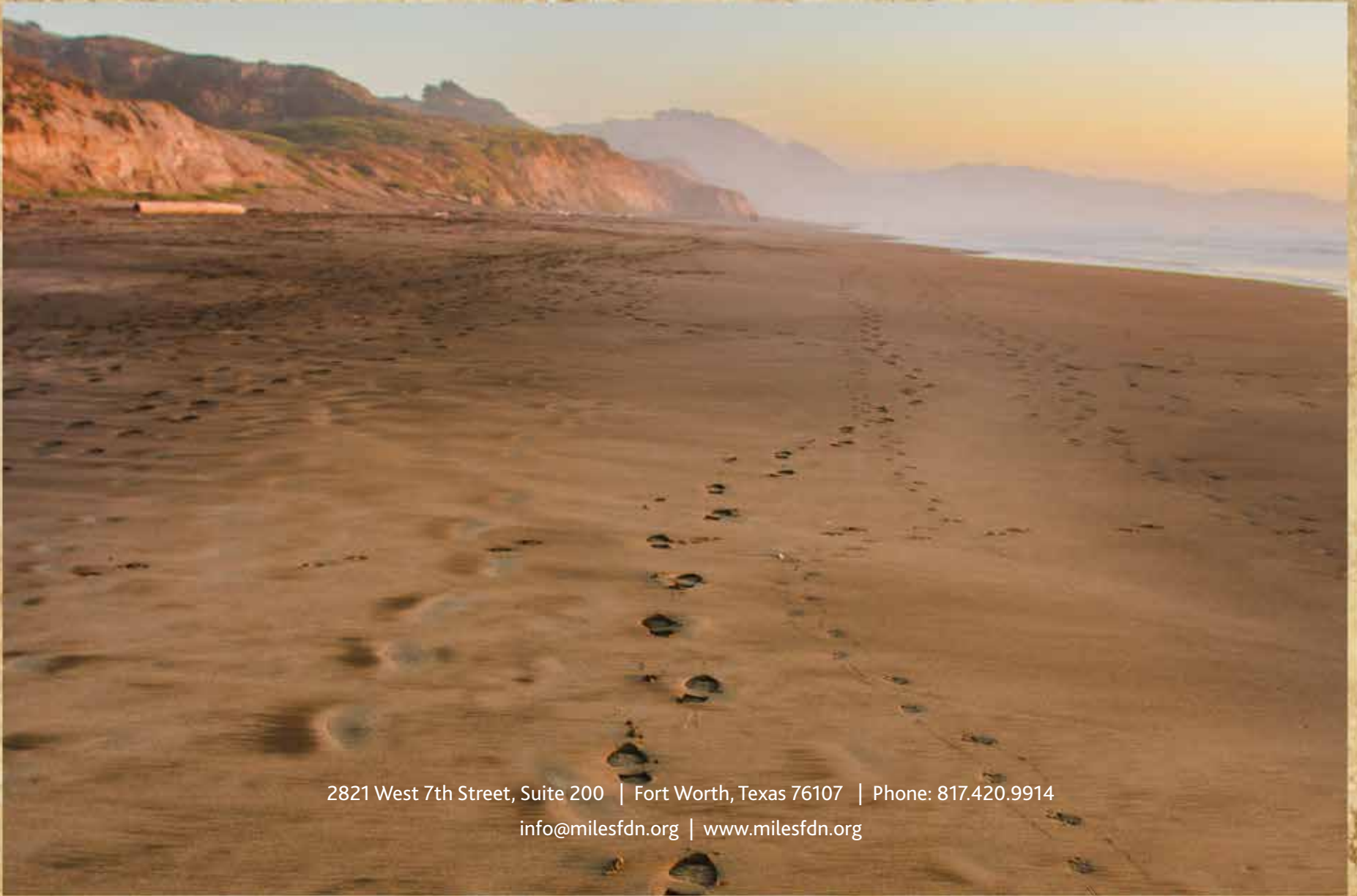
Jay McCall
Director of Programs



Sara Redington
Director of Communications



Fernanda Bigham
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