



Community Navigators in Mill City

Though DLF's relational approach to community engagement has taken us far, there are still many members of the communities we serve that we have yet to reach. In an effort to further provide resources, we established the Community Navigators program. For the past year, this program has been piloted in Mill City where our team works to train three community leaders in the areas of health, employment, and education. Through regular trainings, they are equipped to act as DLF ambassadors who provide a more direct line of contact to the resources low-income communities need in each of those areas.

Dr. Theresa L. Jackson, our health navigator, describes her process of getting the community involved and aware of all the health-related resources as organic. Her results have come from meeting the community where they are at neighborhood meetings, National Night Out events, and having her contact information relayed to others through friends and family in the neighborhood. This neighborly approach is exactly the impact DLF is seeking to have with this outreach program.

Most recently, Dr. Jackson, in conjunction with our staff, initiated a partnership with St. Vincent de Paul and their free pharmacy program. Many of the residents in Mill City lack adequate insurance coverage for their prescriptions or simply can't afford them. Through this endeavor, DLF will provide monthly transportation to the pharmacy to encourage Mill City residents to follow their treatment plans without the concern of cost or transportation. Without the work of Dr. Jackson and her fellow navigators, DLF would not be aware of such a resource that helps so many of the residents in Mill City.

DLF is actively seeking community resources. If you are interested connecting a resource to the Community Navigator Program please contact Dr. Jamee Rodgers at jrodgers@dlftx.org



Pictured: Members of the first cohort of the Workforce Development Program

Emerging Workforce Development Program

Since 2001, Dallas Leadership Foundation has worked to reduce the rate of recidivism and develop a path for healthy reintegration into society for incarcerated individuals. Our two-pronged approach includes pre-release and post-release leadership and life skills training for men involved in our Faith Based Dorm at the Hutchins Unit. Earlier this year, in an effort to better meet the needs of our post-release programming, DLF added a Workforce Development department which currently provides recently released men the opportunity to develop soft and hard skills in the field of construction.

The National Skills Coalition states that while 56% of Texas' labor market is made up of middle-skill jobs, only 42% of the state's workers are trained to fill them. As the construction industry is trending for growth, we believed training as many men as possible to fill the middle-skill roles in this industry would provide them with greater economic mobility. Earlier this year, DLF re-purposed a Fair Park gym into an on-site training facility where men practice plumbing, carpentry, and more. Bernard Clement a sub-contractor with Kattera and owner of B&H Contractors Plus, LLC was brought in to serve as the first instructor for the first cohort. His years of expertise in the industry and passion for working with formerly incarcerated men has made him uniquely qualified to guide the each individual in the program.

Each day for a month, men work under Mr. Bernard's supervision to explore real world scenarios that prepares them for their work on construction sites. At the end of their four week training, participants are guaranteed living-wage employment. In August, with all their training completed, the first cohort is now on their way to filling roles on various job sites in the DFW area.

As the Workforce Development department continues to grow, DLF will develop employment plans for our Neighborhood and Youth departments. For now, the team will continue its focus on Reentry and aid their department in lowering the recidivism rate and increasing the economic mobility of our Faith Based Dorm program participants.

Young Leader Spotlight: Nick Terry

When Nick began his first year at Richardson High School, he noticed a DLF youth coordinator offering free pizza in exchange for his attendance at Power Lunch.

"I came for the pizza, but the personalities of the staff kept me coming back"

Throughout the next four years, Nick continued to attend Power Lunch. He states "it was a time to relax and speak [his] mind." The emphasis on healthy relationships, relating to authority, and financial literacy have helped enforce the strong values his parents instilled in him early on. During his senior year, Nick realized he would still need to find a summer job. After connecting with the youth team, he was accepted into our summer internship program. Nick would now be serving as a leader alongside many of the staff he'd come to know during his high school years.

As an intern, Nick saw a very different side of the staff and DLF. He worked with our Youth Team to plan and execute Power Camp, a free summer camp offered through DLF's partnership with Christ Community Church. No longer a student, but an equal, Nick was able to take on additional responsibility, leading small groups and working the team to create lesson plans. He notes the whole experience as positive. "I've worked [for other summer camps] where they charge and kids don't get half the education and spiritual education they get at Power Camp." With his internship behind him, Nick is looking forward to his freshman year at the University of North Texas where he plans to study Mechanical Engineering and Technology.



Nick Terry on the final day of the DLF Internship Program

Due to the work of the DLF Youth Team, stories of long lasting impact and leadership development are not uncommon amongst students. There are hundreds of students like Nick who are eager to learn, grow, and prepare for life after high school. If you or someone you know is interested in connecting with our Power Programs, please contact Robert Triggs at rtriggs@dlftx.org

A Message from Wil



Wil McCall, Dallas Leadership Foundation President & CEO

As our August Match has come to an end, I would like to thank each and every one of you for supporting the mission of Dallas Leadership Foundation. Together, we have exceeded our \$200,000 goal.

From the stories above, it is evident that DLF has been blessed with the opportunity to grow our work in new and exciting ways. We are eager for what this season will bring for the organization and for the communities we serve.

Best,

FOLLOW US

ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



Wil's Twitter
[@dlfwilmccall](https://twitter.com/dlfwilmccall)



Twitter
[@dlftx](https://twitter.com/dlftx)



Facebook
[@DallasLeadershipFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/DallasLeadershipFoundation)



Google+
[+DLFHopeTexas](https://plus.google.com/+DLFHopeTexas)



Pinterest
[@dlftx](https://www.pinterest.com/dlftx)



LinkedIn
Dallas Leadership Foundation



YouTube
[dlfr2010](https://www.youtube.com/dlfr2010)





SAVE THE DATE: NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

On September 19th, Dallas Leadership Foundation alongside thousands of other nonprofit organizations will participate in North Texas Giving Day. This one day on-line giving extravaganza brings together over 2,700 organizations to raise more than \$40 million annually! **This year, each gift of \$100 of more will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$25,000.** DLF invites you to support us on this day. From 6 am - midnight on September 19th,

Schedule Your Donation: www.dlftx.org/northtexas

Dallas Leadership Foundation, 3101 Greenwood Street, Dallas, TX 75204 For more information, call 214.777.5520

3101 Greenwood, Dallas, Texas 75204 | DLFTX.org 214.777.5520

DALLAS LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

