

# thanks

Thanks-Giving Foundation

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ANNUAL REPORT 2018



“THANKS-GIVING  
SQUARE IS MEANT  
TO BE A POWERFUL  
FORCE FOR THE  
RECOGNITION OF  
OUR MUTUAL  
DEPENDENCY ON  
EACH OTHER.”

Louise Cowan



**WE ARE THE THANKS-GIVING FOUNDATION** and our founders have imagined and constructed Thanks-Giving Square in the heart of downtown Dallas, the architecturally significant and spiritually important soul of the community. Anchored in The Square, we (TTGF) make North Texas a better place to live, work and play by educating, inspiring and moving its people towards becoming the City of Thanks-Giving. We are advocates and facilitators of personal transformation by means of individuals embracing gratitude, virtue and goodwill. Those transformed people form our transformed community.

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## BRINGING DIVERSE PEOPLES TOGETHER ON THE COMMON GROUND OF GRATITUDE.

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**WE BELIEVE** that by increasing the presence of gratitude in people's daily lives, we can promote understanding and create a common ground for harmony...a harmony that resonates on multiple dimensions including being at harmony with others, with our community, and with ourselves. Gratitude can guide us to that place of harmony.

**WE BELIEVE** that an individual that strives to live a life of virtue will find happiness and contentment in their virtuous journey. Furthermore, virtuous people will necessarily advocate for public and civic virtue within the body politic, and will consequently improve the communities in which they live. Living within this framework, citizens will willingly exercise reasoned self-restraint, compassion, and decency, will find political compromise, and will set aside private interest for the good of society.

**WE BELIEVE** that people of differences that reason together in a spirit of goodwill will resolve to a reasonable compromise. Goodwill is the basic component of "good people"...those with clean motives, and those who possess a lack of prejudice, cruelty and viciousness. Our neighbors and neighborhoods flourish in the presence of people of goodwill.



## Thanks-Giving Square has been a magnificent and important part of downtown Dallas for over 40 years.

The Square was conceived of by Peter Stewart and three other forward thinking business men, and was ultimately supported and financed by a virtual "who's who" of Dallas. Centered around the virtue of gratitude, the men employed one of the most influential architects/designers of the day, Philip Johnson, and set out to create a monument that would be to gratitude what the Statue of Liberty is to freedom. Johnson designed the sunken Thanks-Giving Garden as a place of escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life, with extensive use of flowing waters to muffle city noise and facilitate an atmosphere ripe for contemplation, and then punctuated the site with a bell tower at the western entrance.

A beautiful mosaic of Norman Rockwell's famous "Golden Rule" painting, crafted in Italy by world class artists, was added nearby. To the east, a spiraling structure was constructed of an innovative blend of marble and cement, with the Hall of Thanks-Giving accessed from the Garden level. In the Hall, a display that tells the story of Thanksgiving gives way to event and meeting space. On the upper level, and accessed by a bridge spanning the width of the grounds, is the star attraction...the Thanks-Giving Chapel. Inside, passing beneath the etched glass dove provided by English artist John Hutton, one finds the Glory Window...French artisan Gabriel Loire's masterpiece stained glass window that transports the soul from earth upwards to the heavens. In May 2015, The Huffington Post identified the Thanks-Giving Square chapel as having one of the most stunning stained glass windows in the world. We share this great honor with, among others, Notre Dame Cathedral/Paris, Kings Chapel Cambridge/England, Grace Cathedral/San Francisco, The Blue Mosque/Istanbul and Siena Cathedral/Italy. The June 2018 issue of Southern Living listed the Thanks-Giving Chapel, along with three others, as the "South's Most Beautiful Chapels".



## CHRIS TROWBRIDGE

### Chairman of the Board

Christopher Trowbridge is a Partner and the Chairman of the Litigation Section at Dallas based law firm Bell Nunnally where he focuses on helping clients with complex business disputes. Chris was named Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Thanks-Giving Foundation on January 1, 2018. He and his wife Rachel have been involved with The Thanks-Giving Foundation for several years and are prior co-chairs of the National Day of Prayer Luncheon. Rachel's grand-father Frank Heller was a founding board member and worked with founder Peter Stewart to

help acquire the land where Thanksgiving Square sits today. Chris is the former Chairman of the Board of Directors of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas, and is currently a member of the Dallas Regional Chamber's Southern Dallas Task Force. Chris received his J.D. from Baylor Law School and his B.B.A. in Economics and International Business from Baylor University.



## KYLE OGDEN

### President & CEO

Kyle Ogden joined The Thanks-Giving Foundation as President and Chief Executive Officer on January 1, 2018. Kyle sees The Square as an important spiritual and architectural treasure, and The Foundation as a perfectly positioned platform for doing good in the community. Previously, Kyle had led the family's manufacturing business as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer for over 30 years before the business was sold in 2016. He started his career as a CPA at Deloitte.

Kyle is the former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Sanitary Supply Association (ISSA), and former Chairman of the ISSA's Charitable Foundation. Kyle received his M.B.A from the University of Texas at Austin, and his B.B.A. in Honors Business from The University of Texas at Austin. Kyle and his wife Cathy have four grown children.

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### Board of Directors

- JENNIFER ALTABEF • JON ALTSCHULER • JOHN CUELLAR • MARK DENESUK •
- STEVEN DURHAM • RON GAFFORD • JAMAL GHARBIH • DAN JEAKINS •
- AMY LEWIS HOFLAND • NOAH JEPSON • ROBERT KENT • JACK LOWE •
- CAROL SEAY • HARRIET MIERS • ALMAS MUSCATWALLA • JUD PANKEY •
- MARK SHANK • DAVID STEWART • STAN LEVENSON •

# CHARTING THE COURSE AHEAD

As an important first step in charting the course ahead, the board of directors took on the task of updating the Foundation's Strategic Plan in the spring of 2018. We engaged a facilitator to lead the process, and received participation and input from virtually the entire Board of Directors. Goals and objectives were set for year one, year two, and beyond. The strategic priorities were organized in three primary areas:



## GREEN & CLEAN

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Thanks-Giving Square, our place of Thanks-Giving and gratitude, will be green and clean.



## PROGRAMS

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The Thanks-Giving Foundation programs and events will be strengthened and aligned with gratitude based ideas and actions.



## SUPPORTER COMMUNITY

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The Thanks-Giving Foundation will establish a vastly expanded group of gratitude enthusiasts that will provide for ongoing financial and support needs.

## GREEN & CLEAN

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# OUR PLACE OF THANKSGIVING AND GRATITUDE WILL BE GREEN AND CLEAN.



Our efforts to rebuild the baseline dignity of the grounds had us also specially fabricate new drainage grates to replace unsightly temporary wooden boards, and meticulously power-wash our walkways, walls, and courtyard.



We leveraged a grant from Downtown Dallas, Inc. to refresh the western tip of our triangular Square with new plantings, to invite unfamiliar passers-by to take the first steps through our “front door”.



We restored another vital aspect of the aesthetic experience of the Square by diligently repairing our water features—the waterfalls, fountains, & streams that bring life to architect Philip Johnson’s aesthetic vision.



We replaced the rocky, stinky pet relief area we had previously provided with fresh, green grass



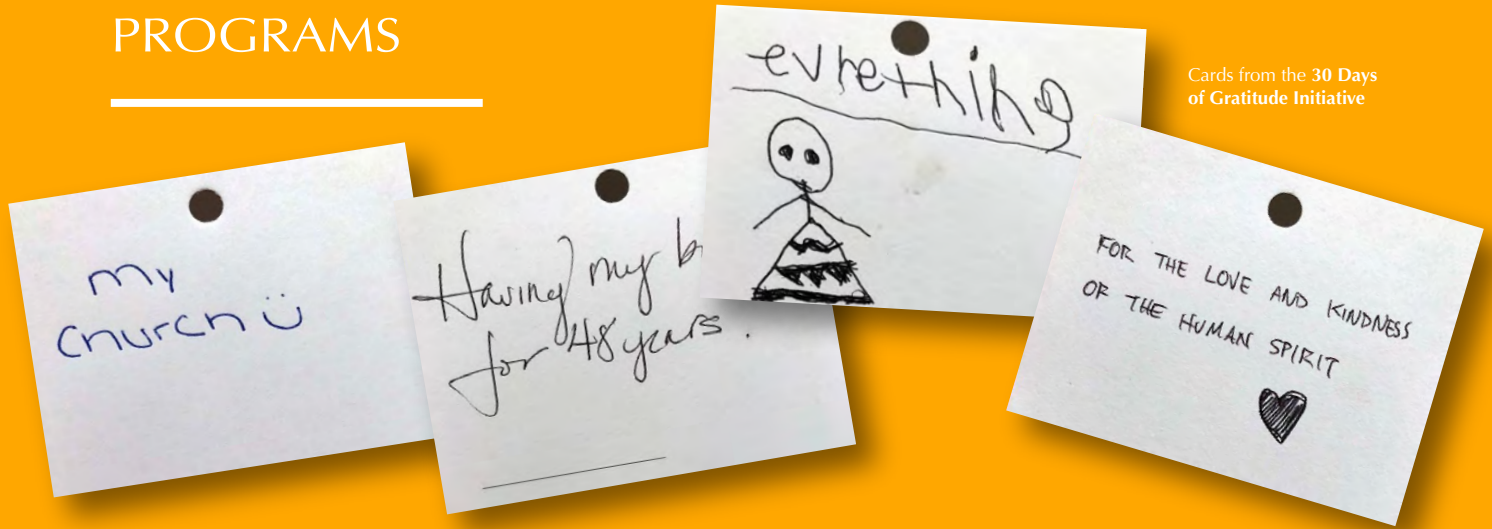
New flags hanging between the columns of our bell tower similarly signal a change.



We tackled a key element souring visitors’ experience of the Square head-on when we decided to no longer permit dogs to do their business on our grounds.



## PROGRAMS



Cards from the 30 Days of Gratitude Initiative

### Gratitude

In November, we launched our “30 Days of Gratitude” initiative to bring to life and showcase the growth in our gratitude based programming. Key elements include the re-launch of our website, a new Gratitude-in-Action e-magazine, and daily posts of sentiments of gratitude from visitors to the Chapel of Thanks-Giving.

On November 8, we co-hosted a Mindfulness and Gratitude program featuring Ambassador Narjess Saidane, Permanent Observer for the International Organization of La Francophonie to the United Nations. For this event we worked alongside The Stewart Speakers and The University of North Texas at Dallas.

Author Diana Butler Bass discussed her new book, “Grateful...The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks”, with the faith community, The Thanks-Giving Foundation Board of Directors, and with other friends of The Square in a series of lunch meetings.

### Public Virtue

Over the summer, Faith Forward Dallas at Thanks-Giving Square was reorganized and rededicated to Justice and Compassion. A fifteen person Leadership Council consisting of many of the city’s most well respected clergy began to forge a vision for the future.

Faith Forward Dallas at Thanks-Giving Square’s Civic Engagement committee got down to work on making Dallas a better place. The group decided to focus initially on housing solutions, equal justice, migrant status and gun sense.

Almas Muscatwalla led Faith Forward Dallas at Thanks-Giving Square’s participation in the efforts to reform and create the city’s Independent Community Police Oversight Board. The group expects a continuing role in the process as the parties work to find a best practices approach to unbiased and compassionate policing.

### Goodwill

On May 4th, the Interfaith Council at Thanks-Giving Square hosted the thirty-seventh annual National Day of Prayer Luncheon for 320 attendees from all faith traditions. Mayor Mike Rawlings and Bishop Edward Burns were featured speakers at this important event for downtown business leaders and area faith groups alike.

In mid-April and in mid-December, the Interfaith Council at Thanks-Giving Square hosted area faith and cultural organizations as they performed traditional song and dance as part of the Festival of Faiths.

On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, The Thanks-Giving Foundation joined several local congregations as a co-host of the first annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Congregation Shearith Israel.

In cooperation with The World Affairs Council, the foundation hosted dozens of international visitors from all over the world who had indicated interest in dialog and engagement with the local faith community.

The Square was the finishing point of the annual Compassion Walk on Peace Day Dallas.





## SUPPORTER COMMUNITY

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# “THANKS-GIVING SQUARE HAS PLAYED SUCH A CRITICAL ROLE IN OUR CITY.”

Mayor Mike Rawlings, Mayor of Dallas

### Mayor Mike Rawlings

Mayor Mike Rawlings speaks often of his commitment to the future of Thanks-Giving Square. In his State of Downtown Dallas address, he said; “Thanksgiving Square – a place that has played such a critical role in our city, including serving as a place for prayer the day after the 7/7 attacks .... The new leadership at The Thanks-Giving Foundation, Board Chairman Chris Trowbridge and CEO Kyle Ogden, have shared with me some ambitious plans to update and rejuvenate Thanks-Giving Square. For those of you that don’t know, the garden and interfaith chapel at The Square were designed in the 1970s by Pritzker Architecture Prize winner Phillip Johnson.

It is a special “gem” located in the geographic and spiritual center of Dallas, and I am a huge supporter of both The Square, and of The Foundation and their programming focused on gratitude, public virtue and goodwill among people of differences. I urge you to get involved and support their efforts.”

### Appreciation Event

The Foundation hosted a celebration of supporters at a November 4th Friends and Supporters Appreciation Event. The evening began with a tour of the “clean and green” Square, and finished with dinner and entertainment across the street at Café Momentum. With one hundred plus in attendance, The Square displayed it’s unique beauty.

### New Technology

Behind the scenes, we made an important transition in our technology infrastructure to support enhanced supporter engagement capabilities in the future. With the help from an expert that generously donated a large portion of his time, we moved our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system to the state of the art Salesforce.org. We have already realized big improvements in access to information that will assist us for years to come.



## ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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We strengthened our Board of Directors, adding Jon Altschuler, founder of Altschuler and Company, a leading real estate advisory firm, and Amy Lewis Hofland, Executive Director of The Crow Museum of Asian Art, and an acclaimed author, speaker and community leader.



We were fortunate to be selected to receive the Business Council for the Arts' 2018 Obelisk Award in the category of Distinctive Cultural Organizations. We are so very grateful to be recognized for our efforts to do increasingly important work in the community at large, including specifically the arts community. We value our role as a member of the Art District, and plan to add additional programming to advance our profile in the arts.



Thanks-Giving Square hosted an art exhibit featuring Enoc Perez in combination with Dallas Contemporary. One piece was exhibited in the Chapel of Thanks-Giving, and another in the Hall of Thanks-Giving. Mr Perez's work is inspired by the architecture of Philip Johnson.



The Foundation leadership joined certain leaders in the local faith community on an eye-opening civil rights pilgrimage through the south. Stops included the Lorraine Motel in Memphis on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr King, as well as several civil rights museums in Birmingham and Selma. The final stop was for Sunday services at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

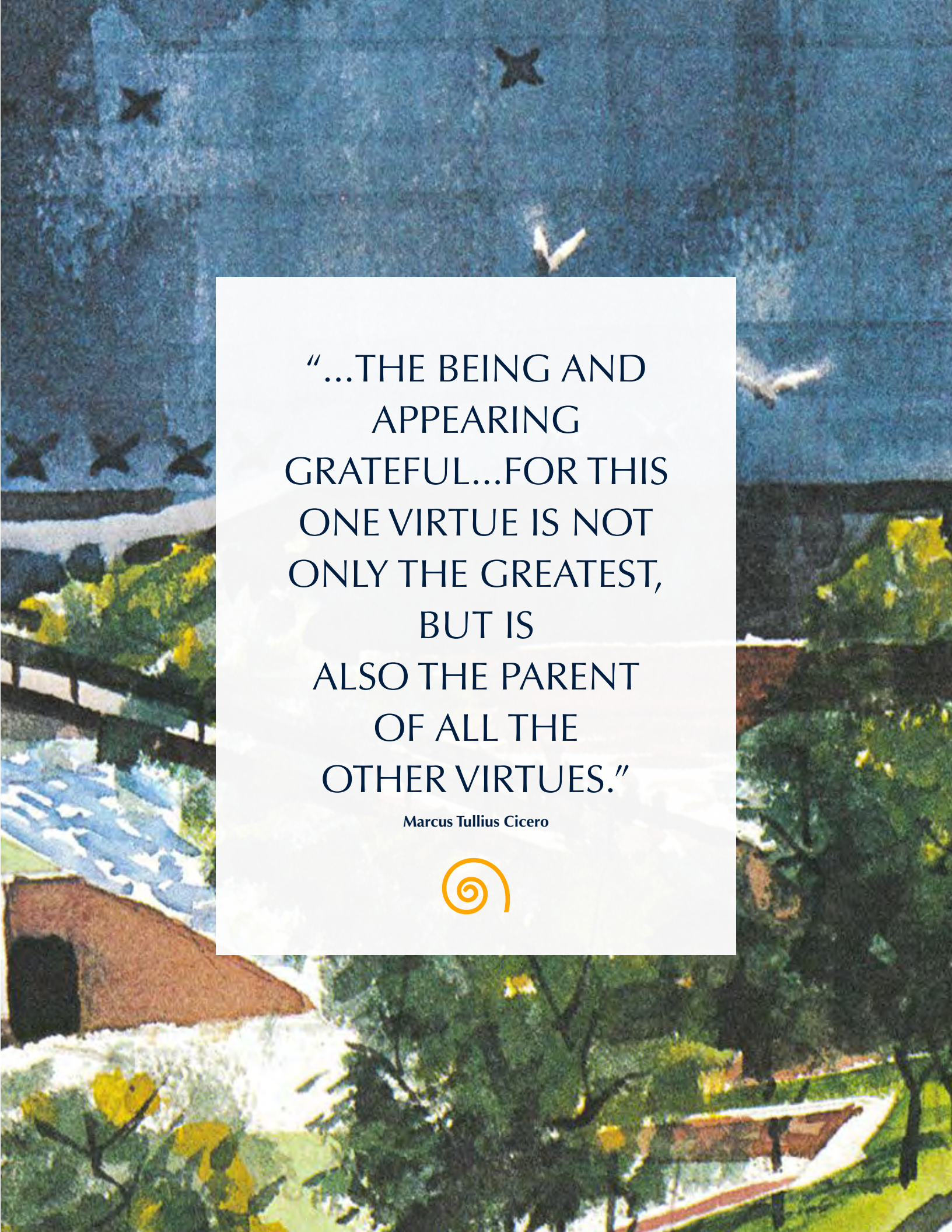


We encountered some unanticipated bad fortune when our chiller failed in May as we were entering the summer months. We learned that we had a \$150,000 problem on our hands, and we moved quickly to rally our friends to help. The Hoblitzelle Foundation responded with a much needed donation that helped us build momentum. We sent a broad appeal to our supporters and they responded by putting a substantial dent in the remainder. We continue to reach out to a number of area Foundations, and hope to raise the remaining funds in the coming months. Meanwhile, we engaged TDIndustries, and the chiller has been replaced.



We have constituted a Rejuvenation Task Force and held a series of meetings to begin to envision the future for The Square. At just over forty years old, we acknowledge that a "face lift" is in order as a minimum, and other improvements in the areas of engagement and accessibility might be desirable as well. We plan to take our completed findings to the donor community in 2019.



A painting of a landscape. The sky is a deep, textured blue with several dark, star-shaped marks. Below the sky, there are green trees and a brown building with a dark doorway. The overall style is impressionistic with visible brushstrokes.

“...THE BEING AND  
APPEARING  
GRATEFUL...FOR THIS  
ONE VIRTUE IS NOT  
ONLY THE GREATEST,  
BUT IS  
ALSO THE PARENT  
OF ALL THE  
OTHER VIRTUES.”

Marcus Tullius Cicero





We were blessed to receive generous gifts from many members of the community.

#### Key Supporters

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE THANKS-GIVING FOUNDATION • THE HOBLITZELLE FOUNDATION • LOCKE LORD • THE THOMAS W. AND LILLIAN KANGERGA SOWELL CHARITABLE TRUST • DOWNTOWN DALLAS INC. • DURHAM FAMILY FOUNDATION • ROSS AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH FOUNDATION • TDINDUSTRIES • CORGAN • CALLISONRTKL • HALL FOUNDATION • SLANT PARTNERS • DON & CAROL GLENDENNING • RON & REBECCA GAFFORD • CHRIS & RACHEL TROWBRIDGE • JENNIFER & PETER ALTABEF • HARRIET MIERS • JUD & JULIE PANKEY • HAL & DIANE BRIERLEY • CHRIS & LINDA SLAUGHTER • KYLE & JIMMY GALBRAITH • CATHY & JESS MOORE • MANY OTHERS

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