



# RESILIENCE

2019 - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

METANOIA





## **MISSION**

Metanoia is a movement of people rooted in faith. We invest in neighborhood assets to build leaders, establish quality housing, and generate economic development. We are pushing forward into new relationships with God and one another to create strong communities.

## **VISION**

Metanoia envisions a diverse community of people that are inspired and empowered to make the community better for generations to come: where quality housing and livable wage jobs are accessible to all; where there are academically achieving schools; where businesses and faith communities benefit the community; where the quality of life includes green space and recreational opportunities; and, where Reynolds Avenue is a hub of economic and social activities. We recognize the people of our community are essential to the accomplishment of this vision.



# OPENING LETTER

The Live Oak Tree has become a lovely symbol of the South Carolina Lowcountry. These trees have a remarkable ability to be resilient through multiple stresses over their lifespan. As beautiful as they are above ground, a primary determinant of a tree's ability to survive stress is the strength and nourishment of its root system.

Welcome to Metanoia's Annual Report, covering our work from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. What a year! A year filled with huge obstacles and significant victories. We confess that we did not foresee the obstacles that would come our way in 2020, but as we look back over this period we want to testify that maybe one of our greatest victories of the past year is the resiliency we've demonstrated in the face of a vastly changing environment.

From a major fire at our largest project to a global pandemic, we've had our share of challenges. However, the tree of Metanoia remains strong precisely because of our deep roots in the community and the nourishment around our root system. Our tree is fertilized by a focus on **faith, listening, relationships, adaptability** and **grit**. These help us to keep going and growing in this remarkable season and we invite you to look for these values within this year's report. As always, YOU are the ones that make our work possible so we extend our sincerest thanks to you for taking the time to review the work we do together.

Rev. Bill Stanfield  
On Behalf of Metanoia's Board of Directors and Staff

# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**MONIFA ELLINGTON**

Ingevity



**ANTON GUNN**

MUSC



**FREDERICK HUDSON\***

Fred's Music



**ALEX JACKSON**

NIWC Atlantic



**REV. DR. JAY KIEVE**

Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship of South  
Carolina



**CHARLES LARSEN**

Retired



**KELLY LUCAS\***

Food Service



**PENELOPE MIDDLETON\***

Naval Facilities  
Engineering Command



**SHAWN SAULSBERRY**

EY



**JEFF STANTON**

Cummins Turbo  
Technologies



**DEBRA STEWART**

First Citizens Bank



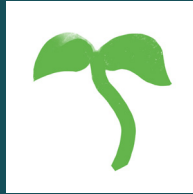
**IDA S. TAYLOR\***

Gethsemani  
Recreation Center

**\*NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT BOARD MEMBER**



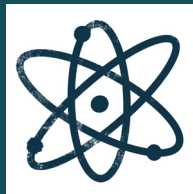
# RESILIENCE



**Faith** – Our focus on faithfulness rather than either failures or successes makes our work sustainable because we can be faithful even in the face of challenges. Read about how Metanoia worked with faith alongside our neighbors to make our community safer (page 5).



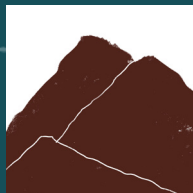
**Listening** – We believe that an ongoing process of listening is a critical component to our strength. You can read about how a listening process with our community and board resulted in a clear statement in response to the police brutality and subsequent protests we witnessed this year (page 6).



**Relationships** – Like a tree is strengthened when other trees are nearby, our organization is strengthened through a focus on long term relationships. Learn how our relationship with a family in our youth program led to a home for the holidays (page 6).



**Adaptability** – Through out 18 years of community development, Metanoia has adapted to build on the strengths of our neighbors. Explore how we adapted our youth programming to a virtual platform when the COVID-19 pandemic struck (page 7).



**Grit** – It is the ability to persist in pursuing a goal that we are passionate about. Metanoia's grit has never been more useful than in our ongoing attempts to renovate the historic Chicora Elementary School (page 8).



# VALUES

## ASSET-BASED

"We see our neighborhood as a 'glass half-full' rather than a 'glass half-empty,' and we work to discover and grow community assets through investing in those assets.

## COMMUNITY-DRIVEN

We are committed to active listening and collaboration that includes citizen participation and buy-in for positive change. The community residents on our staff and Board of Directors are essential to our decision making.

## ROOTED IN FAITH

We believe in a bright future for our community in spite of circumstances, then we watch circumstances change. We provide good ground for people to nurture and grow their faith.

# INITIATIVES

## QUALITY HOUSING

We renovate and build new housing in our community for affordable homeownership and rental. We also repair homes for neighborhood homeowners on a fixed income.

## BUILDING LEADERS

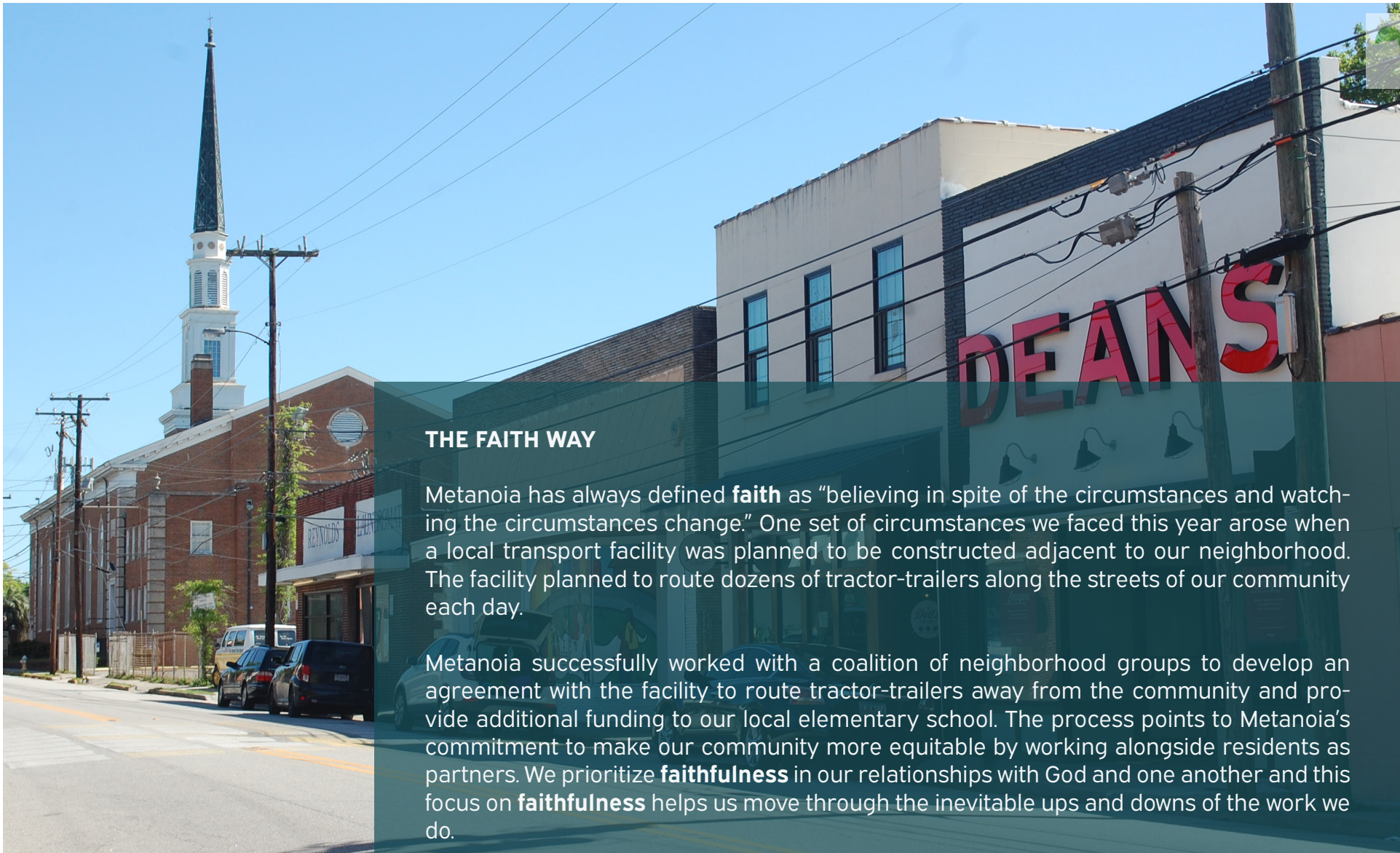
Metanoia's Youth Leadership Academy (MYLA) invests in leaders grades 1-12 through programming that operates year-round. Metanoia seeks to build leaders of character, excellence and presence.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We focus community investment to support entrepreneurship, generate employment opportunities and improve residents financial power, enhancing quality of life.







### THE FAITH WAY

Metanoia has always defined **faith** as “believing in spite of the circumstances and watching the circumstances change.” One set of circumstances we faced this year arose when a local transport facility was planned to be constructed adjacent to our neighborhood. The facility planned to route dozens of tractor-trailers along the streets of our community each day.

Metanoia successfully worked with a coalition of neighborhood groups to develop an agreement with the facility to route tractor-trailers away from the community and provide additional funding to our local elementary school. The process points to Metanoia’s commitment to make our community more equitable by working alongside residents as partners. We prioritize **faithfulness** in our relationships with God and one another and this focus on **faithfulness** helps us move through the inevitable ups and downs of the work we do.

**“Let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good.” - Maya Angelou**





## LISTENING TO HEAL

Metanoia began with a year of **listening** to our community before forming programs. One of the secrets to our resilience is a focus on listening first before taking action on behalf of our community. As the nation awakened to violence towards Black people at the hands of police, Metanoia again returned to **listening**. We **listened** to neighbors and gather community voices on the events of police violence, and the social justice protest that followed.

Metanoia brought together board and staff to discuss how Black community residents, staff, and board members perceived events in the news and the systemic racism that those events represented. Through this process, white staff and board members listened. The result of this listening is Metanoia's social justice statement found on the final page of this report. We believe it is more critical than ever that work alongside our community as learners. **Listening** is essential to building a resilience with neighborhood residents at the center.



## COMMUNITY IN RELATIONSHIPS

Since our earliest days, a key to Metanoia's resilience has been our focus on **relationships**. Raynique Syas already had a **relationship** with Metanoia as two of her children attended the Metanoia Youth Leadership Academy (MYLA). We believe that authentic relationships mean we are concerned about families far beyond just the time they spend in our programs.

MYLA Director of Operations, Stacy Brown, learned of Raynique's housing needs and suggested she apply for one of the new quality residential rental homes Metanoia built this year. Previously, Ms. Syas spent hours each day commuting with her three children to school. Raynique and her family moved into a new home just in time for the holidays. According to Raynique, "it's important to know someone in the community and essential to have the ability to communicate your needs." **Relationships** stand at the foundation of our work here. Connection to our community and neighbors is what fuels this movement and makes us strong.





## MYLA ADAPTABILITY

2020 tested Metanoia's capacity for **adaptability**, the secret to our resilience. Due to COVID, school closed on March 16th and within two weeks we pivoted to offer virtual programming to students. We partnered with The Urban Electric Company to provide laptops to students with technology needs and continued virtual learning through the summer.

In partnership with The Boeing Company, MYLA delivered STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) curriculum to students through the summer. MYLA students took time each week to process the racial injustices that rocked our nation in 2020. We do not know what circumstances hold for the future, but we do know our commitment to **adaptability** is a key indicator of our ability to successfully work with our community.



## PRINCESS' RESILIENCE

Like many MYLA students, Princess Fisher demonstrates remarkable **resilience**. She started with us in elementary school and is now a senior at North Charleston High School. In fact, Princess is among the top 10 students in her class!

Princess does a remarkable job of **listening** to MYLA instructors. She learned **adaptability** through internships arranged by MYLA at Gibbes Museum of Art and Medical University of South Carolina. Princess is being raised by her wonderful grandmother, whose **faith** in Princess empowers her to achieve. She radiates a confidence, joy, and **grit** that infects each of her **relationships**. Thank you for inspiring us with your resilience Princess!



## OLD CHICORA GRIT

In growing from a small afterschool program to a holistic community development movement, Metanoia has had to learn and demonstrate **grit**. And **grit** is exactly what it has taken to move our Old Chicora Reuse Project forward this year – a project which will provide an arts and education hub that is of and for the community. As 2020 began, we were set to close on financing for this \$24 million project when a major fire broke out in the building and stalled the start of construction. COVID-19 concerns then caused an anchor tenant to pull out of the project. **Grit** is defined as the pursuit of a goal in the face of obstacles and we have certainly experienced obstacles this year. But we are no stranger to challenge. Already, we are finding new possibilities and a new way forward. Expect to be hearing more very soon. Hope is the fuel for **grit** and we have lots of reasons to have hope for Old Chicora. We are also grateful for so many of you, who continue to demonstrate **grit** and hope by maintaining your commitments to this project as well!



**"Sometimes an idea is just too powerful to go away. The renovation at Old Chicora is one of those ideas." - Brady Anderson**

*Former American Ambassador to Tanzania and Administrator of USAID and an Old Chicora investor*





100% OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ATTENDING OUR PROGRAMS IN 2020 WENT ON TO PURSUE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

**98%**

OF STUDENTS EITHER MAINTAIN OR INCREASE READING LEVELS DURING FREEDOM SCHOOL

PERCENTAGE OF ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ACHIEVING PROFICIENCY IN MATH, READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS

**<9%**



THIS PAST YEAR WE COMPLETED SIX UNITS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES WITH ANOTHER TWELVE UNITS IN DEVELOPMENT

**38%**

OF COMMUNITY RESIDENTS LIVE IN POVERTY

**50%**  
OF FAMILIES ARE SPENDING

OVER 30%  
OF THEIR INCOME ON HOUSING

OUR OUTCOMES

COMMUNITY PROFILE

## COVID IN OUR COMMUNITY

MYLA families completed a COVID-19 related survey in May which indicated the following:

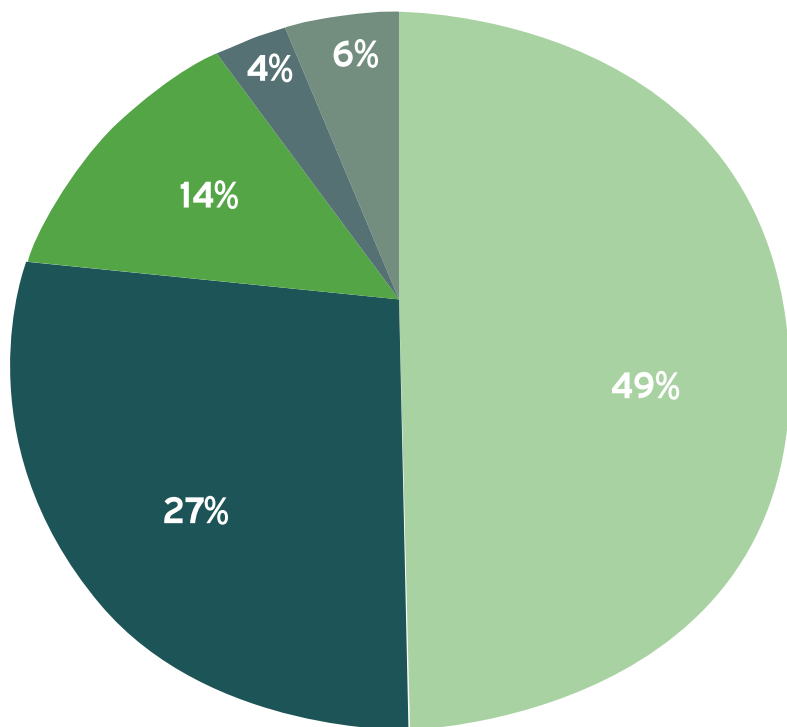
- 62% experienced a decrease in income
- 56% had someone in the household deemed an essential worker
- 36% had someone in the household who lost a job
- 49% requested access to mental health resources
- 74% requested access to financial resources
- The number one concern amongst caregivers regarded loss of learning during time children were not attending school



# FINANCES



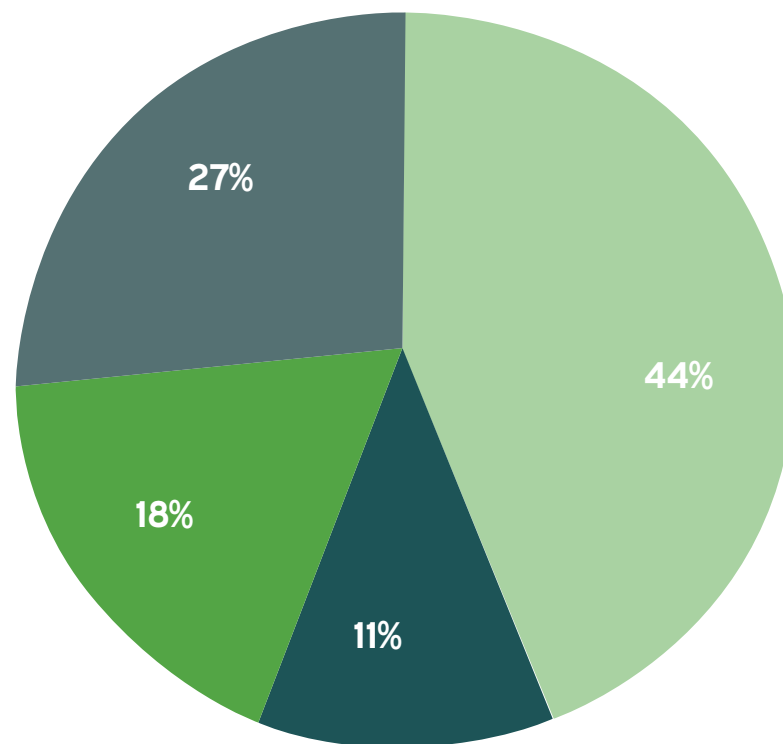
**TOTAL REVENUE**



\$5,369,528

- 49% INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE GIFTS
- 14% NON-GOVERNMENTAL GRANT REVENUE
- 27% GOVERNMENT GRANTS
- 6% EARNED REVENUE
- 4% IN-KIND REVENUE

**TOTAL EXPENSE**



\$2,304,662

- 44% ESTABLISHING QUALITY HOUSING
- 27% BUILDING LEADERS
- 18% MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL
- 11% GENERATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**82¢**  
OF EVERY DOLLAR  
INVESTED  
WENT TO  
PROGRAMS

For 15 consecutive years, Metanoia achieved a best case "unqualified audit" of our audited financial the statements for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019.

**SURPLUS OF \$2,790,711= RESTRICTED CAPITAL FUNDS RAISED FOR THE RENOVATION OF OLD CHICORA SCHOOL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVES**

# INVESTORS

## VISIONARIES - \$100,000 AND UP

**The Boeing Company**  
**Charleston County**  
**Joye Family Fund**  
**Brenda and Charles Larsen**

**Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Inc.**  
**St. Matthew Baptist Church**  
**South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority**  
**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

### **Dreamers - \$50,000 - \$99,999**

**Betty and Brady Anderson**  
**Mary and Bill Buckley**  
**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina**  
**The Cummins Foundation**  
**Encouragement Foundation Trust**  
**Sisters of Charity Foundation of SC**  
**Suntrust Foundation**

### **Believers - \$25,000 - \$49,999**

**1012 East Montague LLC**  
**Landmark Construction Company, Inc.**  
**W.C. English Foundation**  
**Sharon and David Ward**  
**Wells Fargo Foundation**

### **Investors - \$10,000 - \$24,999**

**Elhapa Foundation**  
**Carol H. Fishman**  
**Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation**  
**Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church**  
**North Charleston Breakfast Rotary Club**  
**Origin SC**  
**Pathfinder Foundation, Inc.**  
**Kelly and Ed Rose**  
**Trident United Way**  
**Wings for Kids**

### **Leaders - \$5,000 - \$9,999**

**Barter Family Fund of CCF of SC**  
**Dr. Bud and Mrs. Anne Cofer**  
**Commonhouse Aleworks**

**Cummins**  
**First (Scots) Presbyterian Church - Meeting Street**  
**Pringle and Sam Franklin**  
**Goldenrod Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham**  
**The Heffner Family Foundation**  
**Cyndy and Glenn Keyes**  
**Coleman and Chip Legerton**  
**Susan and David Miller**  
**PayPal Giving Fund**  
**Thomas O. Richardson**  
**State of South Carolina Office of State Treasurer**  
**TD Charitable Foundation**  
**Thiedke-Thompson Fund of CCF of SC**  
**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
**Yarrum Properties, LLC**

### **Ambassadors - \$2,500 - \$4,999**

**Bobbie and Nelson Bradshaw**  
**Church of Christ Our King**  
**Tom Daffron**  
**Bradley Davis**  
**Elise and Lester Detterbeck**  
**Fifth Avenue Baptist Church**  
**First Baptist Church - Orangeburg**  
**Ann Jane and Lee Higdon**  
**J. Marion Sims Foundation**  
**Sarah and Bruce Jayne**  
**Joan Coulter Pittman Fund**  
**Natural Investments/Money with a Mission**  
**Lee and Sean Picciuto**  
**The Princeton Club of Charleston**  
**Providence Baptist Church**  
**Erik Ripple**  
**The Reverends Evelyn Oliveira and Bill Stanfield**  
**Sean Sykes**

**Zucker Family Endowment Fund of CCF of SC**

### **Supporters - \$1,000 - \$2,499**

**Circular Congregational Church**  
**Sandi Clerici**  
**Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina**  
**Jeanette and John Cothran**  
**Debbie and Richard Dantzler**  
**David Bundy and Katherine Richardson Family Fund of CCF of SC**  
**The Degnan Family Foundation Inc.**  
**Corlys and Harry Devenny**  
**Denise Devenny**  
**Faith and Doug Dodge**  
**Laurie Berry-Dorroh and Dan Dorroh**  
**Carey Dunn**  
**Enterprise Holdings Foundation**  
**First Baptist Church - Greensboro**  
**Shannon and Daniel Gallagher**  
**Elizabeth and Samuel Goforth**  
**Carol and Ron Hacker**  
**Harbour Corporate & Private Wealth Management Group of Raymond James**  
**Marcia and Mason Harris**  
**Mary and John Hodgson**  
**Kate and John Huey**  
**Sue and Quentin Jackson**  
**The Jackson Companies**  
**James Fei and Christina Fei Memorial Fund of CCF of SC**  
**Jane and Larry Iwan Fund of CCF of SC**  
**Alice and Alfred Jenkins**  
**Linda Ketner**  
**Tricia and Ted Legasey**  
**Tony Levine**  
**Limehouse Produce**  
**Marshall Walker Real Estate**  
**Carole and Charles Mauldin**  
**Jo and Tom Nunnallee**



Margaret O'Brien  
Wayne Patterson  
Joanne Penman  
Raymond and Betty Minus Young  
Fund of CCF of SC  
Realtors Housing Opportunities Fund (RHOF)  
Royall Hardware, Inc.  
Valerie Scott  
Herk Sims  
Barbara and George Smyth  
Patricia and John Smyth  
Solo Capital Management LLC  
Theodore Solso  
Linda and Jeff Stanton  
John Swink  
Marcia Russell and Lee Tawes  
Dr. George and Mrs. Marilyn Taylor  
Trinity Baptist Church  
Cathy and Joe Turner  
Suzanne and James Williams  
Dr. Charles Stanfield and Mrs. Melanie Wood  
Woodforest National Bank

#### **Friends - \$500 - \$999**

Elizabeth Amory  
Charlotte Artus  
Jeffrey Baxter  
Marie and Fred Binder  
Blackbaud  
Sherry and Harold Bomar  
Paul Brady  
Alfina and Andrew Capelli  
Susan Cottenden  
Ellen and John Curlee  
Capt. James and Mrs. Nancy Doffin  
Monifa Ellington  
Julie and David Ellison  
Carolyn Evans  
Exponential Evaluation & Development Services  
EY  
First Baptist Church of Greenwood  
First Baptist Church of Pendleton  
Sara and Randy Gardner  
Deborah Williamson and David Garr  
Ornella and Bob Gebhardt  
Susan Gilliam  
Ann and Richard Gridley  
Martha and Mike Hammett  
HDR  
Richard Hendry

Home Team BBQ of West Ashley  
John T. Abbate Revocable Trust  
Betty and Mack Jones  
Magnolia Plantation Foundation  
James McMahan  
Linda Mills  
Lee Ann and Robert Nigro  
Victoria West and Richard Nunan  
Bob Nuttall  
Linda and Tom O'Donnell  
Ox Hill Baptist Church  
Hilda and Edward Rose  
Helen and Robert Siedell  
Susan and Kevin Verner  
Janice and Tom Walker  
Carolee Williams  
Deborah C. Williamson

#### **Neighbors - Up to \$499**

Karen Abrams  
Bryan Adams  
Cheryl Adamson  
Carrie Agnew  
Barbara and Herbert Ailes  
Sarah and Marion Aldridge  
Amanda and Steven Allen  
Suzanne Allen  
Jonathan Altman  
Amazon Smile Foundation  
Raymond H. Anderson  
George Arana  
Karla and Wayne Armstrong  
Carol and Edward Astle  
Marjorie Avent  
Rebecca Balitsaris  
Dawn Balsam  
Ginger Barfield  
Amy Barrett  
Virginia Bartel  
Berkeley Locksmith  
Sheryl Blackford  
Elizabeth Vander Haagen and James Blankespoor  
Mary and David Bonheimer  
Susan Bass and Thomas Bradford  
Caroline and Steven Braskamp  
Sandra Brett  
Erica Briggs  
Barbara H. Brock  
Daniel Brock  
Shirley Brown

Patricia and Willie Brown  
Rebecca Funderburk Brown  
Christine Smalls Brown  
Maggie Burghoff  
Faye and Thomas Burke  
Randy Busing  
Geneva Butz  
Carol and Mitch Carnell  
Sally A. Catlin  
Kelly Sharkey and Duncan Cheney  
Nancy and Stephen Cofer-Shabica  
Barbara Cole  
Sandra and Gary Cole  
Patricia and Michael Connor  
The Corinne V. Sade Living Trust  
Laura and Ed Cousineau  
Dr. William and Mrs. Erble Creasman  
The DeVille Foundation  
Alexandra Dixon  
Elizabeth Dolby  
Susan Kimble Duckworth  
Suzanne Duckworth  
Eileen Duffy  
Cynthia Ellermeyer  
Micah Feinstein  
First Baptist Church of Red Springs  
Hazel and John Fisher  
Heidi Fiske  
Bruce Freeman  
Gillian Fursdon  
Peggy Gainey  
Margaret and Richard Gee  
Gerald W. George  
Mary Ann and Gary Gilkeson  
Eric Goforth  
Carol Graf  
Meredith Graham  
Rebecca and Keith Grandy  
Vickie and Wendell Guerry  
Deborah Haag  
Nancy Hadley  
Ann Marie and Steve Halleck  
Jane Hamrick  
Stacy and Mel Hardy  
Cindy and George Hartley  
John Harvey  
Kay Haun  
Hendley & Company, Inc.  
Jason Hessberg  
Catherine Heston

Michelle and David Hiott  
Diana Hollingsworth  
Belinda and Ray Holloway  
Dr. Tony and Mrs. Carol Hopkins  
Amy Horwitz  
Michael Howard  
Carol Hubbard  
Andrew Huckey  
Deborah and George Hunsinger  
Krystle and Anthony Joyner  
Ted Keller  
Lucille and Bert Keller  
Sharon and Gerald Keown  
The Reverend Dr. Jay and  
Mrs. Melanie Kieve  
Barbara Kingsbury  
Julie and Lee King  
Rebecca Clark and Curnis King  
Ian Kohen  
Robert C. Krogh  
Mark Lattanzio  
Dr. Kirk and Mrs. Jane Lawton  
Carolyn E. Lecque  
Lara LeRoy  
Charles Lippy  
Diane and Steven Long  
Carolyn and Bill Matalene  
Eartha and John McClary  
Parker McDuffie  
Christine McGee  
Shawn McKay  
Karen and C. Vaden McMillin, Jr.  
Liz and Patrick McNulty  
Kelly and David McSweeney  
Nancy McWhorter  
Susan and Douglas Mellichamp  
Philip Meyer  
Penelope Middleton  
Rebecca and George Milam  
Joanne and John Milkereit  
Henry Mitchell  
Laura Morgan  
M. Margaret Morgan  
Omar Muhammad  
MYLA Student Fundraisers  
Dr. Mutindi Ndunda  
Dr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Kelly Neal  
Joyce Maybin Nesmith  
Nicholson Wealth Management Group  
David Northrup



Dr. Alan and Mrs. Neda Nussbaum  
 Lindsay Owens  
 Hazel Monteith and Burt Pardue  
 Robin and Ashley Pennington  
 Rose Ann Pistole  
 Adam Pomerantz  
 Carol Pooser  
 The Reverends Alicia and Eric Porterfield  
 Carol and Larry Putnam  
 Jeremy Revelise  
 Mary and James Reynolds  
 Robert B. Johnston and Nadine Deif Giving Fund  
 Julia and John Royall  
 Robert Royall  
 Ann Maletic and John Ruoff  
 Eunice Rusche  
 Joe Sampson  
 The Doctors Conway and C. Barton Saylor  
 Robert Scharstein  
 Debbie and Tommy Sessions  
 James Sheehan  
 Susan and Donald Shelley  
 Pamela Simons  
 Aisha and Orlando Singletary  
 Sisters In Action Mission Group, FBC Aiken  
 Sam Skardon  
 Sally and James Skidmore  
 Dorcas and John Slopey  
 Melvin Smalls  
 Summer Sneed  
 Dr. Patricia Snyder  
 Wade Spees  
 Kate Stanton  
 Nancy and Conrad Stender  
 Terri Suiter - Keller Williams Charleston  
 Sweet Pink Bakery  
 The Reverends Abigail Henrich and  
 Jon Paul Sydnor, Ph.D.  
 Louise and Harold Talbot  
 Charles D. Taylor  
 Robert Thomas  
 Eloise and Eric Thome  
 Tammy and Stephon Thompson  
 Carlin Timmons  
 Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative  
 Thomas Trouche  
 Blair Turner  
 Lindsey Vance  
 Patricia Vandegraaf  
 Carol and Clyde Waters

WePay  
 Judith White  
 G.M. and Joel Whitley  
 Janice Wilkins  
 Alice Williams  
 Treva Williams  
 Frances and Todd Wilson  
 Gretchen Wright  
 Jerry Young  
 Sara Zachman  
 John Zimmer

## THANK YOU

We are profoundly grateful to our investors who made gifts between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. As our opportunities continue growing, we reflect on the partners that help us increase access in our community through the Old Chicora Capital Campaign, annual giving, corporate and foundation support, and individual giving. You are part of the metanoia – the positive change – we see happening every day.

If, for any reason, you feel this list to be in error, please contact Bryan Adams, Director of Development, at (843) 529-3014 or email bryan@pushingforward.org so we can clear up any discrepancies.

# MEET THE TEAM

Our team is dedicated to investing in community resources that offer solution-based opportunities. We are appreciative of the contributions of our part time staff not listed here.



**REV. BILL STANFIELD**

CEO



**JAMILLA HARPER**

COO



**BRYAN ADAMS**

Director of  
Development



**STACY BROWN**

MYLA Director of  
Operations



**TONY JOYNER**

Director of Housing  
Development



**DUNCAN CHENEY**

Director of Physical  
Asset Development



**MARY HODGSON**

Organizational  
Resiliency Specialist



**WADE WHITE**

Business Office  
Coordinator & Housing  
Administrator



**LINDSEY MCLENDON**

MYLA Senior Coordi-  
nator



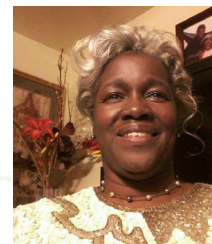
**ANGELA HENRY**

Grant Writer



**ALEXANDRIA SEARLES**

Marketing Specialist



**CONSTANCE MYERS**

MYLA Chef



## THANK YOU PAT BROWN!

Metanoia's Office Administrator for 13 years retired in August 2020. We are so grateful for her solid and consistent presence within our work.



*In the wake of the killing of George Floyd, Metanoia listened to our community. Black staff and Board Members developed the following statement, which was unanimously adopted by the Board of Directors.*

Like metanoia, *pandemic* is a Greek term. If we understand *pan* to mean "all" and *demos* to mean "people," then it is clear that a pandemic deeply wounding the Black community hit Charleston before 2020. As we lifted up the stories of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, this year, a sense of emotional exhaustion loomed. What became evident is that our generation's deepest wounds – of Walter Scott and of the Emanuel 9 – have yet to heal. The unmoved dialogue is starting yet again.

The unanswered questions from Black children from the community persist: "Will I live past 18? Will I make it to college? Will I die because I'm Black?" Some of us could say that we, too, recall asking the same questions growing up Black in Charleston and in America. We, too, recalled our parents or our younger selves being involved in the movement for Civil Rights and justice in some shape or form. We are disappointed that we are still pacifying systemic racism with #hashtags, social media and statements without substantive action. We desire the transformation of systems.

Hearing our stories of collective pain allows us to collectively grieve and acknowledge Truth. Not until we accept these painful realities will we be able to reflect change within ourselves, change within our systems and collective change within our communities. This transformation is called a metanoia and defines who we are as an organization as well as why we do what we do.

We have always believed that in order to achieve justice in our community and nation, we must recognize: people are essential. In fact, "people are essential" is at the center of Metanoia's vision statement and philosophy. Walter Scott, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks and the Emmanuel 9 are lifted up in this statement because they are more than essential. They are worthy of their breath, their right to life, and living to their fullest potential.

We remain faithful and committed to our original remit – utilizing tools of community organizing and community development for justice, equity and transformation. Black lives in our community matter and are WORTHY. Black lives are worthy of judicial equity and expediency. Black lives are worthy of housing equity. Black lives are worthy of educational equity. Black lives are worthy of employment equity. Black families are worthy of opportunity.

We understand that until all Black lives are understood as entirely worthy, none of us is able to experience true liberation and freedom. We invite you to see your essential role in achieving justice, establishing equity and dismantling racism every day. You are essential to the movement for social justice and human rights in our nation – starting in your community, in your religious and social spaces, and in your home.





**METANOIA**

*pushingforward.org*

2005 Reynolds Avenue  
North Charleston, SC 29405  
(843) 529-3014

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