

Foundry Forge

Project Transformation: A Win-Win-Win



BETH SCOTT

“That’s the princess, and she wears pretty dresses. See? There’s a red one and a purple one and there’s one with yellow bows,” she said.

“Wow, that’s really pretty. But why don’t we read the story of the princess instead of only looking at the pictures?” I asked. “I bet we learn lots of cool things about her and the dresses that way.”

She – a small seven-year-old with bright eyes and even brighter pink beads in her braids – thought about my question and nodded. “Okay, but we’re only going to read about princesses. And dresses.”

“Deal. Now, let’s see what it says on page one.”

This is just one of many conversations with children I had last summer while volunteering with Project Transformation, a nationwide program associated with The United Methodist Church. Foundry is participating again this summer, and you

can find specific information about their work in DC here and volunteer here.

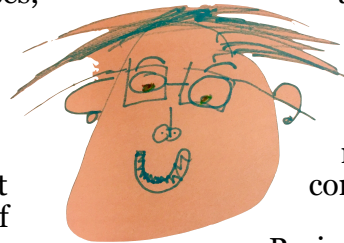
It is terrific fun! As a volunteer, your job is to be read to by children and support them during creative play. (One of them drew my portrait!) As a volunteer, I have had conversations about princesses, Shel Silverstein, why we should actually read the book about dogs instead of rolling around the floor like dogs (to be fair, that kiddo made a persuasive argument), and many other topics. Other volunteers signed up to bring dinner to the college interns running the program, so your service can feed children’s minds and adults’ bodies.

Project Transformation is a win-win-win. It helps children improve their literacy, social-emotional, and spiritual development through high-quality, out-of-

school programs; equips college students to invest in the lives of underserved children; and empowers churches to host these programs and build relationships with their neighbors. In laymen’s terms, children receive services that help stop the “summer slide” of losing academic accomplishments, college students learn to serve others, and urban churches strengthen relationships with their community.

Project Transformation is a terrific cause to support and a great place to volunteer. You work with kids to help them discover and keep a love of reading and learning, and you’re also helping students discover their calling and you’re supporting churches in their community. I can’t recommend it enough.

Beth Scott moved to DC from Texas by way of Wisconsin and joined Foundry in 2007. Through Foundry, she has served at S.O.M.E, Christ House, and Sandwich 1000 as well as Project Transformation and has been a member of Foundry’s Management Board.



Helping Our Neighbors One at a Time



REV. GINGER E. GAINES-CIRELLI

'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

- Jesus (Matthew 25:34-36)

Over the past months, we have been focused on the big picture in the UMC, seeking to understand and respond to the 2019 General Conference. Our commitment to eliminate the discriminatory language and punitive practices against LGBTQ persons remains steadfast.

Our Foundry family is consistently engaged in issues that tear at the fabric of our nation and world: climate change, migration, systemic racism and more. Some of us are engaging with the upcoming 2020 presidential election and all that hangs in the balance.

But in the midst of these broader currents, Foundry

continues to serve individuals in a very personal way. Just this year, Foundry has provided funds to keep six individuals and families from being evicted. With staff and lay servant leaders working together, Foundry helped a member get both a green card and a work permit.

When a Foundry neighbor who is unhoused, undocumented and needed support from another country's consulate, Ben Roberts, our Social Justice pastor, went along to that appointment. Since January our ID Ministry has served 950 persons and our free English as a Second Language classes are serving 80 persons.

These are only a few examples from our Social Justice ministries of how the day-in, day-out ministry of Foundry is changing the world for real people, our actual neighbors.

As we move into summer, I pray that you will remember these ministries of Foundry in your prayers and support them with your gifts.

While ID Ministry and ESL receive funding from your pledges, our ability to respond to emergency needs do not. To contribute to Foundry's designated fund for emergency needs, note on your check that the gift is for the "Greatest Need" fund or choose that option when you give online.

A hurting world doesn't take a summer break. Together we live our mission both in broad advocacy and direct care. Love God. Love each other. Change the world. Thank you for helping make it happen.

In service,

*Ginger E. Gaines-Cirelli,
Senior Pastor*



Foundry Forward

JUNE ACTION ITEMS

TUESDAYS, JULY 2, 9, 16 AND 23

Seniors: Get Fit at Foundry

Come to Foundry from 1 – 2 pm, if you are a DC resident aged 60 +/- and join a Fountain of Youth Group Fitness class with national certified instructor NiClaire Jones. You will be guided through a full-body workout in which persons of all fitness levels can participate. Bring your own water bottle and come early. Class is limited to 20 participants.

WEDNESDAYS, JULY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, AUGUST 7, 14

Give A Child A Morning of Reading

Spend a few hours one or more of these Wednesday mornings reading to (or being read to by) an elementary school student at Brighter Day UMC. You will be fighting the “summer slide” when too many children fall back in their reading skills over the summer. Sign up [here](#) to help!



SUNDAY, JULY 7

A Disciple's Path

Today we begin a six-Sunday class examining the vows of membership in The United Methodist Church and the spiritual disciplines that undergird them. To register, click [here](#).

FRIDAY, JULY 12

Parents' Night Out

Bring your children, babies through rising 5th graders, to Foundry for an evening of crazy fun. From 5:30 until 8 p.m. we'll eat, play, sign, do crafts and have a great time while you have time to yourself or a date with your spouse. Cost is \$5 per child and registration [here](#) is required.





SUNDAY, JULY 14

Cooking for Project Transformation

Join us at Catholic University this evening and help us prepare dinner for the Project Transformation summer interns. For more information and to sign up, click [here](#).

THURSDAY, JULY 18

Come Throw (Tell Us) Your Story

Drop by Foundry at 6:30 for an hour of sharing stories with other Foundry folk. Come ready to listen – and to speak. Don't know about Foundry's Story Throw? Click [here](#) and learn more.

THURSDAY - SUNDAY, JULY 25-28

Middle School Mission Trip

Our Middle Schoolers will be learning more about local justice issues as well as advocacy. As a part of their trip, they will be holding a donation drive for school supplies, partnering with Friendship Place to ensure all DC kids have the supplies they need to go back to school this fall.

SUNDAY, JULY 21

The Door Is Open

...today and every third Sunday of the month at 10:20, for you to come talk with one of Foundry's pastors about what's happening at Foundry. Bring your questions and ask them here. Just check the wayfinding screen or the welcome desk for session location.

TUESDAY, JULY 23

Management Board Meeting

Foundry's Management Board will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 101. All members of Foundry are welcome to attend.



To register or find more information on these events, go to <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations>.

Share your thoughts about the Foundry Forge with ForgeNewsletter@foundryumc.org.