Beloved Community Dialogue

On May 2nd, 2019, JRF partnered with the Athens Regional Library System to host our first Beloved Community Dialogue as a complimentary follow-up to It’s Time to Talk: Forums on Race. We had 40 attendees representing many community stakeholders from Athens, GA. This was our first installment of dialogues to continue the work of advancing equity in Athens. Many thanks to Valerie Bell, Executive Director of the Athens Regional Library System for her excitement in planning this event and commitment to supporting the Athens community. We look forward to our next Beloved Community Dialogue this fall! Stay tuned for details on how to RSVP.

Do you want to transform lives through education?

Consider a gift to JRF to provide scholarships and support to low-income women. You can sponsor a one-year scholarship at $2,500, or one semester at $1,250. Donate online at rankinfoundation.org, send a check to our office, or contact Karen Sterk at Karen@rankinfoundation.org or 706.540.9154 to learn more.

Scholar Spotlight - Jennifer B., Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation

Jennifer is working toward her Bachelor’s in Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation with an emphasis on wildlife. Jennifer, a recipient of a biodiversity scholarship and a chancellor’s list scholar, wants to use her degree to conduct research to support conservation efforts of species like the Northern Spotted Owl and the Coastal Redwood. Though her academic record speaks for itself, she is most proud of her children and being a good mother to them. Her ultimate dream is for her work to benefit humanity through saving species that face the threat of extinction. Despite the hardships she has faced due to sickness, Jennifer continues to work hard to pursue her degree. She says “I hope that my research will benefit all of humanity and show my children that in pursuing your dreams you can make the world a better place.”

Scholar Spotlight - Dung N., Accounting

Dung received her Associate’s Degree in Business and is now working towards her Bachelor’s in Accounting. After moving to America with her family in 2015, Dung decided to go back to school to ensure her family’s financial security. Although it was difficult to go back to school after 31 years off, and learning a new language, Dung succeeded! After finishing her bachelor’s degree, Dung plans to obtain her CPA Certification and go to work for a professional accounting firm. It is a major priority for her to serve the community, and she volunteers every weekend. She says, “Life is a circle of giving and receiving. I have always tried to contribute to the communities around me whenever I can. After I graduate, I plan to continue doing this by giving back to JRF!”

Greetings Jeannette Rankin Foundation (JRF) Friends-

We are celebrating 43 years of graduates this semester! Congratulations to our Spring Semester Grads and Thank You to each and every one of our friends, supporters and volunteers. With you, we continue to move our mighty mission of empowering women through education forward.

One of the data points that we have been working on identifying for the past three years is our overall graduation rate. With our improved technology, we now know that at least 65% of our JRF Scholars have completed their degree, compared to the national average for this demographic which is 31%. And 17% of our Scholars have continued on to receive graduate degrees!

Our Scholar Alumnae are doing amazing things, including running their own nonprofits that support women, teaching the next generation, providing healthcare as doctors and nurses, leading life-saving research, and financial management. We are impressed with the accomplishments of our Alumnae and are excited to see where our Spring Grads go from here.

Again, Congrats to the Graduates and Thanks to our Supporters!

Karen Sterk, Executive Director
Donor Spotlight - Tiffany B., Early Childhood Education

Tiffany is a woman of persistence, passion, and dedication. She is working to earn her Bachelor’s of Science in Education Elementary and Early Childhood Education so she can channel her love of supporting young inquisitive minds each and every day. Tiffany believes in embracing the unique strengths of each child in a classroom, although she didn't experience that kind of childhood herself, as she endured homelessness, abuse, neglect, and hunger. One day, Tiffany had a realization about how to change her life for the better. ‘I decided I could no longer live as a victim of my childhood. I wanted to be FREE.’

In 2017 at age 35 I decided to step out how to change her life for the better. Tiffany’s gratitude is paramount in her work. She believes in embracing the unique strengths of each child in a classroom, and supporting young inquisitive minds each and every day. Tiffany early education.

Tiffany has been the easiest journey so far, it has definitely tugged on my heart. In 2017 at age 35 I decided to step out how to change her life for the better. I decided I could no longer live as a victim of my childhood. I wanted to be FREE. I decided I could no longer live as a victim of my childhood. I wanted to be FREE.

Racial Justice Facilitators

Amber Steward

Antler Philpot

Andrea Welz

Andrea McCarthy

Becki Nelson

Bobbie Ewing

Brendy Walker

Colissa Lankford


2018 Scholarship Application Readers

Afshan Ali

Alecia Bailey

Allison Kopp

Brynelle Lockhart

Cynthia Kamps

Eliza Craig

I’m going to school and getting my teaching degree had always tugged on my heart. In 2017 at age 35 I decided to step out on faith, leave my job, and go back to school. Even though it hasn’t been the easiest journey so far, it has definitely been the most rewarding decision of my life.

It’s Time to Talk: Forums on Race

On March 28th, 2019 JRF hosted the third annual ‘It’s Time to Talk: Forums on Race,’ presented by Piedmont Athens Regional, Public Education Matters Georgia, and Lorraine Hart. This year more than 230 community stakeholders were in attendance, including Mayor Kelley Griz, Chamber of Commerce President David Bradley, and Clarke County School District Superintendent Dr. Demond Means. We were proud to host a diverse group of attendees this year including UGA students and faculty, Clarke County School District students and faculty, local businesses, local faith group leaders, Piedmont Athens Regional Healthcare staff, the ACC Fire Department, and ACC Police Department.

Dr. Bettina Love gave a compelling keynote speech on the importance of White allies. Her inspiring speech launched deep and truthful Reflective Structured Dialogues at each table, led by facilitators trained by Raye Rawls of the Fannin Institute for Leadership Development at UGA. Thank you to our honorary co-chairs Dr. Charles Peck and Dr. Michelle Cook, co-chairs Dr. Dawn Meyers and Rose Dennis, our sponsors, steering committee, and attendees. Thank you to all who are committed to advancing equity in Athens in honor and memory of our namesake, Jeanette Rankin.

Volunteer Spotlight - Ashley K., Volunteer Coordinator

Ashley works at JRF as Volunteer Coordinator, helping to ensure that our volunteers are involved in every aspect of our mission. Thank you to each and every one of our Volunteers for giving of your time and talent to JRF. Your good work is what makes our mission of empowering women through education possible.

Volunteer Spotlight - Liz S., Volunteer Coordinator

Liz is our Volunteer Coordinator. Her dedication to our mission is matched only by her belief in the potential of every child to succeed. Together, we are working to make sure that every child in Athens has the opportunity to thrive.

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A special thanks to all volunteers serving in leadership positions, listed bold above, and thank you to all former JRF Scholarship Recipients who served as volunteer application readers, listed bolded, in the right.

2018 Scholarship Application Committee

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