History of the Jenkins Foundation

The Jenkins Foundation was born out of a courageous and caring spirit that pervades the leadership today. The Foundation’s namesake, Annabella Ravenscroft Jenkins, first opened her doors to patients of all races and abilities to pay after the Civil War. Her charitable work evolved into a modern medical center in the heart of the city—the nonprofit Retreat Hospital. When Retreat Hospital was sold in 1995, the Annabella R. Jenkins Foundation was created to carry on the mission of the Hospital’s all-women auxiliary board.

The Jenkins Foundation quickly became a pacesetter in local health philanthropy, the providing early and catalytic funding to some of Richmond’s most impactful institutions providing care and support to vulnerable populations.

Purpose of the Plan

In 2017, the Board of Trustees of the Jenkins Foundation embarked upon a strategic planning process, building on the Foundation’s strengths as a major health care funder in the region. Recognizing the increasingly complex mental and primary health care needs among residents, the Board sought to be even more strategic and focused in their efforts to improve health outcomes.

At its retreat in April 2018, Jenkins board members articulated their vision for the next phase of courageous leadership. Looking to the future, the Jenkins Foundation will be a collaborative, strategic, and targeted funder working in close partnership with its grantees and philanthropic partners to further increase access to quality health care and to promote greater health equity in the region.

“If we can empower people in the community to make the changes needed, that will have a longer lasting impact.”

~ Board member
Mission, Vision and Values

The Jenkins Foundation seeks to emulate the values of equity, stewardship, and access. These values reflect an ethic that pervades all of Jenkins Foundation’s efforts and represents what partners and the community can expect from its work, board members, and staff.

MISSION

Improving the health of Greater Richmond through strategic and impactful philanthropy.

VISION

A community in which all residents lead healthy, stable, and productive lives.

VALUES

Equity
We believe all members of our community should have the opportunity to be healthy.

Access
We believe that quality, affordable, care should be available to all members of the community.

Stewardship
We honor our legacy with investments that have impact.
Strategic Goals

During 2019-2021, the Jenkins Foundation will focus on improving access to primary health care, access to mental health care, and prevention and treatment of substance use disorders. The Board will address these priorities through three strategic goals.

GOAL ONE: Education and Collaboration

Increase attention to health and wellness through community education and collaboration.

The Jenkins Foundation is committed to working collaboratively with philanthropic partners and learning with grantees. Board members will lead and convene conversations on their priority issues, engage in joint planning and education efforts, and develop benchmarks for capturing and evaluating progress.

GOAL TWO: Strategic and Proactive Grantmaking

Make strategic and targeted investments to improve health and wellness in Greater Richmond

The Jenkins Foundation will strategically address its top priorities for action in the Greater Richmond region—access to primary and mental health care and treatment of substance use disorders—through targeted funding. The Board will collect and review data on community needs in these areas and measure its efforts to support continuous improvement.
By targeting funding toward priority areas and focusing on the systemic causes for poor health outcomes, the Foundation strives to create more positive, cumulative change with and for the community. The Foundation also will become a more effective grantmaker as the board and its support staff increases the depth and rigor of its approach to improving community health.

**GOAL THREE: Staffing and Governance**

**Increase board knowledge and capacity to accelerate community improvements**

Strategic priorities will be further enhanced by leveraging the Foundation’s human capital and organizational capacity. With a more defined committee structure, staffing responsibilities, and point of contact for internal and external work, board members will be better positioned to support collaborative and community efforts.

Board members will invest their time to become more deeply informed about priority issues. They will align board committees to support the implementation of the strategic plan and develop a communications plan to increase visibility and invite more interaction with the community.

To learn more about the Jenkins Foundation and its work to build a healthier Richmond region, please visit our website:

www.jenkinsfoundation-va.org