



2022

YEAR IN
REVIEW

VIRGINIA FUNDERS NETWORK

About VFN

VIRGINIA FUNDERS NETWORK

Launched in 2020, the Virginia Funders Network (VFN) is a statewide membership association comprising more than 115 philanthropic organizations dedicated to working together to build a connected, collaborative philanthropic community that advances opportunities for all who call Virginia home. Collectively, our members invest more than \$350 million each year to support a wide range of Virginia's community needs in areas such as education, health, housing, economic development, and social justice. Together with our members, we're working to ensure that all of Virginia's communities are valued and thriving and are empowered by a strong and vibrant philanthropic sector.



January 5, 2023

The Virginia Funders Network (VFN) was born from a belief in the power of collaboration. Our founders believed that Virginia's philanthropic community could reach an unprecedented level of effectiveness if funders worked together and with leaders across sectors to tackle the Commonwealth's most pressing challenges and advance key opportunities.

In 2022 – VFN's second year of operations – the Advisory Board established three priority areas for our work together:

1. Building a Vision for the Future
2. Fostering a Vibrant Network
3. Laying a Solid Foundation

As you will read in this Year in Review, in 2022, VFN:

- conducted our first-ever strategic planning process, garnering input from more than 80% of the membership.
- successfully grew the network to nearly 120 philanthropic institutions, representing nearly every type of grantmaking organization and every region across the Commonwealth.
- hosted dozens of learning and networking opportunities – including our inaugural conference - to help funders learn from experts and each other.
- leveraged members' collective knowledge to create and curate useful tools and resources to help philanthropy in Virginia maximize its impact.
- continued our important work of keeping funders informed on what's happening across the field of philanthropy, across Virginia, and across the issue areas philanthropy cares about.
- continued investing in our organizational growth and development.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Virginia Funders Network and for helping to make all the accomplishments outlined in this second-year progress report possible. We hope you'll join with us in celebrating another milestone year for our new statewide association!

In service,

Jill Coleman
Chair, VFN
VP for Programs, The Cameron
Foundation

Mark D. Constantine
Immediate Past Chair, VFN
President & CEO, Richmond Memorial
Health Foundation

Katy Moore
CEO, VFN

SECTION 1

Building a Vision for the Future



Strategic Planning

In 2022, VFN conducted its first-ever strategic planning process. This member-driven process was led by a ten-person Strategic Planning Committee which included members of VFN's Advisory Board and a diverse group of members representing a broad range of funder types, sizes, giving priorities, and geographies.

More than 80% of VFN's member organizations participated in the strategic planning process, providing their ideas and feedback to shape the organization's first-ever strategic framework.

According to survey results, the top three expectations members have for VFN and their involvement are:

1. opportunities to connect, learn, and network with fellow funders,
2. a laser focus on issues that are specific to the Commonwealth and relevant to Virginia's philanthropic community, and
3. timely updates on state and federal policies that impact Virginia's communities and the issue areas philanthropy cares about.

After reviewing themes and findings from the data-gathering phase, the committee drafted strategies and goals which were then tested with a diverse group of members. The resulting [2023-2025 Strategic Framework](#), approved by the Advisory Board in November 2022, will drive and shape VFN's work over the next three years. Specifically, we will work together to:

1. build and strengthen diverse, connected, trust-based networks of funders .
2. connect members to information and data that can inform effective philanthropic decision-making.
3. encourage and foster philanthropic collaborations and build relationships with national funders that bring increased awareness to the needs and opportunities in Virginia.
4. represent institutional philanthropy in the Commonwealth, collaborate with cross-sector leaders, and advocate on behalf of philanthropy whenever necessary.
5. ensure that VFN is a strong, stable organization ready to advance our mission and meet the challenges of the work for years to come.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic Planning Committee

Over the course of 2022, the Strategic Planning Committee designed and lead VFN's first-ever Strategic Planning process. Special thanks to this dedicated group of volunteers for giving generously of their time and for their thoughtfulness throughout the process.

MEMBERS

Jill Coleman | The Cameron Foundation (Chair)

Clark Casteel | Danville Regional Foundation

Mary Fant Donnan | The Alleghany Foundation

DeWitt House | The Harvest Foundation

Sherry Norquist | Sentara Healthcare

Stephanie Randolph | Cassiopeia Foundation

Brett Rees | Northern Trust

Courtney Rice | Sister Fund

Ricshawn Roane | Weissberg Foundation

Jessica Wirgau | Community Foundation of the New River Valley

Mission, Vision, and Values Refresh

Encouraged by the feedback and input of members throughout the strategic planning process, the VFN Executive Committee and Advisory Board revisited the language of the organization's original vision, mission, and values.

As a result of many thoughtful conversations and deliberations by VFN's

leadership, the newly revised vision, mission, and values clearly center the organization's commitment to inclusion, our belief in the power of collaboration, and our desire to ensure that ALL who call Virginia home – regardless of race, gender, age, ability, or geography – have the resources they need to thrive.

VISION

All Virginia communities are valued and thriving, and are empowered and supported by a strong and vibrant philanthropic sector.

MISSION

To build a connected, collaborative philanthropic community that advances opportunities for all who call Virginia home.

VALUES

Our organizational values guide our strategy, inform our work, and serve as a beacon as we continue to grow and learn as an organization.

Community

We value community, collegiality, and the transformative power of conversation. We intentionally foster a connected, collaborative, and respectful community where members feel comfortable supporting, encouraging, inspiring, and challenging each other.

Inclusion

We unapologetically value the diversity of our membership. From personal demographics to geographic location to organizational type to philanthropic philosophy, we intentionally seek diverse perspectives to inform, drive, and lead our work.

Curiosity

We value the creativity and inquisitive spirit of philanthropic leaders. Together, we are dedicated to listening, learning, growing, and evolving.

Collaboration

We believe in the power of collaboration and are dedicated to working together and with cross-sector leaders to advance opportunities for all who call Virginia home.

The Advisory Board and staff believe that this new language authentically reflects members' input and acknowledges where VFN is in its organizational development. We are committed to partnering with members across the Commonwealth as we live into our organizational values, advance our vision and mission, and implement our first-ever Strategic Framework.

SECTION 2

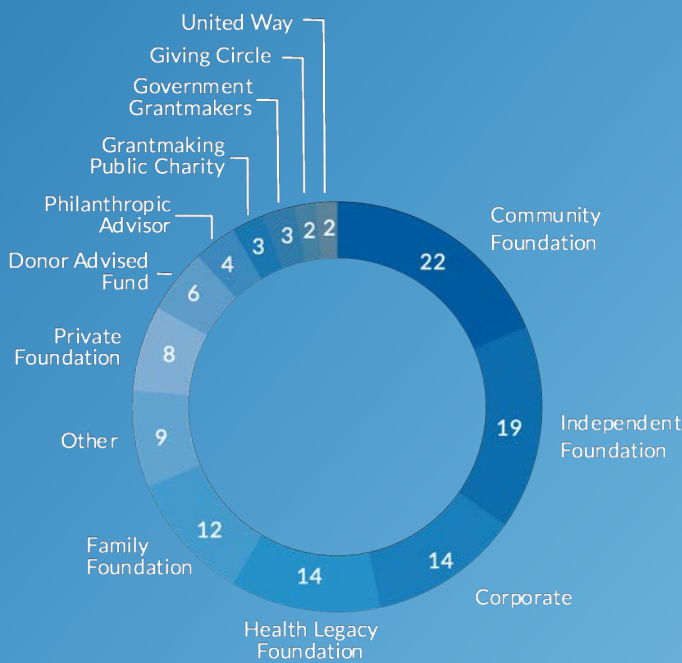
Fostering A Vibrant Network

In 2022, VFN continued its work building a connected, collaborative philanthropic community that advances opportunities for all who call Virginia home. Throughout the year, we focused our efforts in the following ways:

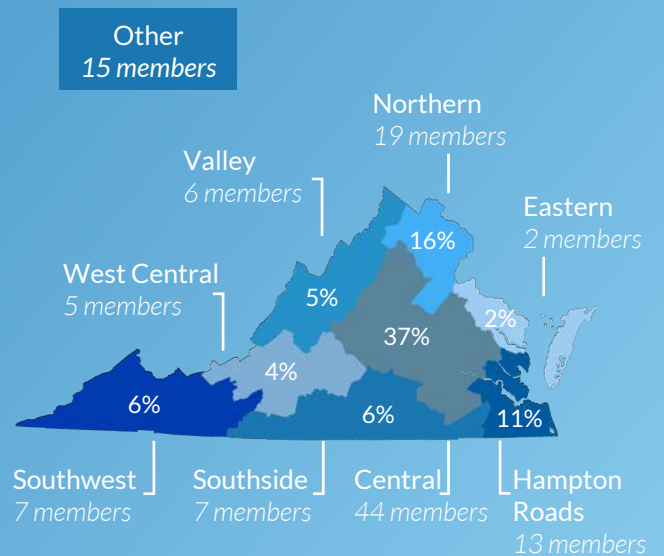
Growing the Network

In 2022, the Virginia Funders Network grew to nearly 120 grantmaking organizations, representing every region of the Commonwealth and including a diverse mix of funder types, sizes, giving priorities, and philanthropic philosophies. Throughout the year, we focused on engaging our current members and actively growing and expanding the network so that, together, we can begin to tackle some of the Commonwealth’s most difficult challenges and capitalize on timely opportunities.

2022 MEMBERS BY TYPE ¹



2022 MEMBERS BY LOCATION ¹



¹ Membership numbers as of 12/2/22

Growing the Network

2022 Members¹

100 Women Strong
 ACT for Alexandria
 Adiuvars Foundation
 Alleghany Foundation, The
 Altria Group
 American National Bank & Trust Company
 Anverse
 Atlantic Union Bank
 Bank of America Private Bank
 Barbara J. and William B. Thalheimer Family Fund
 Bedford Community Health Foundation
 Bernardine Franciscan Sisters Foundation
 Blocker Foundation, The
 Bob and Anna Lou Schaberg Foundation
 Bon Secours Foundation
 Brookfield Foundation
 Cabell Foundation, The
 Cameron Foundation, The
 Camp Younts Foundation
 Capital One
 Cassiopeia Foundation
 Center for Nonprofit Excellence
 Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
 Claude Moore Charitable Foundation
 Coalfield Water Development Fund
 Commonwealth History Fund at VMHC
 Community Foundation for a greater
 Richmond, The
 Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern
 Fauquier Counties
 Community Foundation for Northern Virginia
 Community Foundation for Rockbridge,
 Bath and Alleghany
 Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge
 Community Foundation of the Dan River Region
 Community Foundation of the New River Valley
 Community Foundation of the Northern
 Shenandoah Valley
 Community Foundation of the Rappahannock
 River Region, The
 Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia
 Culpeper Wellness Foundation
 CultureWorks
 Danville Regional Foundation
 Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation
 Doeller Family Fund
 Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
 Edgar A Thurman Charitable Trust for Children
 Estes Foundation
 Fagus Foundation
 Genan Foundation, The
 Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation
 Harvest Foundation, The
 Heritage Wealth Advisors
 Herndon Foundation
 Hitachi Energy
 Impact Project, The
 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation
 Jackson Foundation
 Jenkins Foundation
 Jessie Ball duPont Fund
 John & Janice Wyatt Foundation
 John Randolph Foundation
 Kaiser Permanente
 Koval Family Fund
 Langley for Families Foundation
 Laughing Gull Foundation
 Loudoun Community Cabinet, The
 Mary Morton Parsons Foundation, The
 Memorial Foundation for Children
 Meta
 Meyer Foundation

¹ Membership numbers as of 12/2/22

Growing the Network

2022 Members (continued)¹

Micron Foundation
 Monument Group, The
 Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The
 Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation
 Nettie Lokey Wiley and Charles L. Wiley Foundation
 Newport News Shipbuilding, a Division of Huntington
 Ingalls Industries
 Northern Piedmont Community Foundation
 Northern Trust
 Northern Virginia Health Foundation
 Obici Healthcare Foundation
 O'Shaughnessy-Hurst Memorial Foundation
 PATH Foundation
 Peninsula Community Foundation of Virginia
 Potomac Health Foundation
 Rapha Foundation, The
 Red Gates Foundation
 Richmond Jewish Foundation
 Richmond Memorial Health Foundation
 River Counties Community Foundation
 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
 Robins Foundation
 Rockbridge Community Health Foundation
 Sandler Center Foundation
 Sentara Healthcare
 Sheltering Arms Foundation
 Shenandoah Community Foundation
 SisterFund
 Smyth County Community Foundation
 Suffolk Foundation
 Tattersall Family
 TCV Trust & Wealth Management
 Thompson Charitable Foundation
 Treet Foundation
 Truist Foundations and Endowments Specialty
 Practice
 Twin County Community Foundation
 United Way of Henry County & Martinsville
 United Way of South Hampton Roads
 VCC Social Enterprises
 Venture Philanthropy Partners
 Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
 Virginia Early Childhood Foundation
 Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth
 Virginia Health Care Foundation
 Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission
 Weissberg Foundation
 Wells Fargo
 Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia
 Williamsburg Community Foundation
 Williamsburg Health Foundation
 Wythe-Bland Foundation

¹ Membership numbers as of 12/2/22

Engaging Learning & Networking Events

In 2022, VFN hosted more than a dozen online learning and networking opportunities:

Policy & Advocacy

To help members connect with their elected officials and stay up-to-date on the state and federal policies that affect Virginia communities, VFN hosted a series of Pre- and Post-General Assembly Briefings and participated in Foundations on the Hill alongside the Council on Foundations, United Philanthropy Forum, and Philanthropy Southeast. We also hosted professional development workshops like [“Philanthropy’s Role in Policy & Advocacy”](#) and timely policy briefings like [“A New Crisis Brewing: Unwinding CARES Funded Medicaid Coverage and the Impact on Virginia Residents.”](#)

Issue-Specific learning

To help members connect with and learn from fellow funders and experts, we hosted quarterly Networking Group gatherings for health funders, education funders, social justice funders, housing funders, and community foundations.

Regional Gatherings

Over the summer and through the fall, VFN partnered with members across the Commonwealth to host Regional Funder Gatherings. These in-person events provided opportunities for networking, learning, and community building and are already proving effective in fostering collaboration both in and across regions.

Capitalizing on Opportunities

To help members explore timely opportunities and leverage their limited philanthropic resources, we hosted two multi-part learning series focused on Impact Investing and Broadband.

Inaugural Conference

In May, over 170 philanthropic leaders, representing 91 organizations from across the Commonwealth, gathered in Williamsburg for VFN’s inaugural conference, “Stronger Together: Advancing Opportunities for All Virginians.” Over the course of two days, attendees had the opportunity to attend more than 15 conference sessions, hear from more than 50 speakers and panelists, and build community with fellow funders investing in Virginia.

The conference also revealed areas where we, as an organization, have work to do. As we acknowledged in a post-conference [letter to the membership](#), we missed the mark in living up to two of our original core values – humanity and equity – when we failed to acknowledge the full history of our conference location, Kingsmill Resort and Colonial Williamsburg. We are grateful to the members who stepped up and provided important and constructive feedback in a vulnerable and formative moment in our organizational development.



Participating in the first Regional Funders’ Gathering provided not only a wonderful conversation with very interesting peers, some of whom I had never met before. It also led to informal discussions of topics I had not talked about with funders in these nearby communities – topics such as rural newspapers and community media as well as diversified housing issues. One step that came from these conversations has been follow-up planning for a housing conference and some data analysis that might not only cover the more densely settled communities around Staunton, Waynesboro, and August County but also what the more rural neighbors in Highland, Bath, Rockbridge, and Alleghany are experiencing.

– Mary Fant Donnan, The Alleghany Foundation

ENGAGING LEARNING & NETWORKING EVENTS

Conference Committee

The conference would not have been possible without the hard work of our conference committee and the essential investment of our inaugural sponsors.

MEMBERS

Erin Hogan | Bank of America (Co-Chair)

Carol Sale | Williamsburg Health Foundation (Co-Chair)

Dr. Bill Hazel | Claude Moore Charitable Foundation (Honorary Co-Chair)

Scott Andrews-Weckerly | Community Foundation for a greater Richmond

Elizabeth Cabell Jennings | Truist Foundations & Endowment Specialty Practice

Tom Cosgrove | Newport News Shipbuilding

Kenisha Fallen | Community Foundation for a greater Richmond

Dan Layman | Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge

Jessica Mullen | Obici Healthcare Foundation

Nancy Sullivan | Williamsburg Community Foundation

Effective Communications

In 2022, VFN continued our essential work of keeping funders informed on what's happening across the field of philanthropy, across Virginia, and across the issue areas philanthropy cares about. Our

communications – especially our newsletter, member spotlights, and social media feeds – were noted during the strategic planning process as a valuable resource for members.

Leveraging the Power of the Network

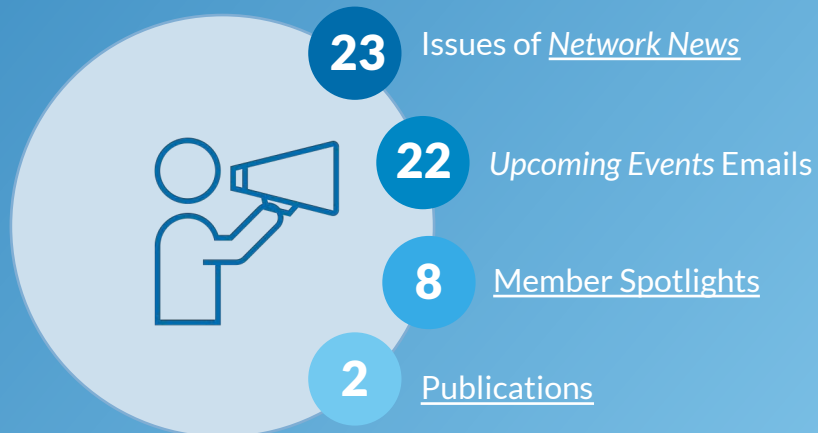
As the largest network of funders in the Commonwealth, one of VFN's primary functions is to leverage the power of the network to, for example, curate and develop useful tools that can inform philanthropic decision-making, help the philanthropic community build meaningful relationships with national funders and cross-sector leaders, and more. VFN's work on broadband over the last two years is a prime example of this work.

As we all experienced through the pandemic, broadband access – or the lack thereof – impacts nearly every aspect of our lives, from being able to go to school and work online, to accessing health and mental health services, to fostering social connections. With nearly half-a-million households across Virginia still lacking adequate broadband connectivity,

many in Virginia's philanthropic community have recognized that advancing their missions is inextricably linked to overcoming digital divides.

Throughout 2022, to continue the momentum from our 2021 "Broadband 101" learning series, VFN conducted a field scan of what funders across Virginia were doing to support broadband connectivity in their communities. We built relationships with state officials and national funders, and partnered with Dr. Christopher Ali, one of the country's preeminent experts in rural broadband connectivity, to produce: [Virginia's Connected Future: A Guide for Funders and Philanthropists to Address Digital Divides in the Commonwealth](#).

BY THE NUMBERS



We are really grateful for VFN's existence and leadership role in VA. The organization fills such a big gap for knowledge and networking among funders. If Southside funders would continue to communicate needs and opportunities as described by the representatives around the table yesterday at our Regional Funders Gathering, the potential for problem-solving is enormous.

– Kathy Milam, Community Foundation of the Dan River Region

LEVERAGING THE POWER OF THE NETWORK

Special thanks to the Danville Regional Foundation and PATH Foundation for their generous financial support of Virginia's Connected Future: A Guide for Funders and Philanthropists to Address Digital Divides in the Commonwealth, and to the many members and advisors who contributed to this body of work over the last two years:

Clark Casteel | Danville Regional Foundation

Kathryn de Wit | Broadband Access Initiative, Pew Charitable Trusts

Adrienne Benton Furniss | Benton Institute

Tamarah Holmes, PhD | Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

DeWitt House | The Harvest Foundation

Andy Johnston | PATH Foundation

Jerry Kuthy | The Cameron Foundation

Robbie McBeath | Benton Institute

Tobi Printz-Platnick | Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

Chandler Vaughan | Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

SECTION 3

Laying a Solid Foundation

VFN's Role in Policy & Advocacy

Philanthropy-serving organizations like VFN can play a variety of functions across the continuum of policy and advocacy activities. With this in mind, VFN's Advisory Board decided that our new statewide association should learn our way into policy- and advocacy-related work, starting with learning alongside our

members, [shining a light](#) on our members who are engaging in and funding policy and advocacy strategies and activities, building relationships with elected officials, and defending the philanthropic sector in the event that is necessary.



VFN's "Power and Potential of Policy Advocacy" report incited our board to fund advocacy work more broadly and confidently. The appendix listing "Organizations Providing Education, Training, and Materials" was like the Good Housekeeping seal of approval and gave staff a comprehensive library to use as a resource to align our advocacy funding to our strategic priorities.

- Kyra A. Cook, Williamsburg Health Foundation

A Strong Infrastructure

In our first two years in existence, VFN has invested in our organizational growth and development, laying important groundwork for future success. In 2022, for example, we welcomed our third full-time [staff](#) member, Angie Molina, VFN's Member Services Associate. Thanks to the significant efforts of the Governance Committee, VFN was well-prepared for

its first significant volunteer leadership turnover at the end of 2022. And, as we prepare for 2023 – the final year of VFN's initial three-year start-up funding – the Financial Sustainability Task Force has been exploring potential business models that will help ensure VFN is a strong, sustainable organization in 2024 and beyond.

Leadership

VFN is grateful for the leadership and vision of our 17-member Founding Advisory Board. As we mark our new organization's first significant leadership transition, we celebrate the significant contributions of our inaugural officers and founding Advisory Board members whose terms ended December 30, 2022.

OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mark Constantine | Richmond Memorial Health Foundation | *Chair* (officer term 2021-2022)

Patricia Mathews | Northern Virginia Health Foundation | *Vice Chair* (officer term 2021-2022)

Clark Casteel | Danville Regional Foundation | *Secretary & Treasurer* (officer term 2021-2022)

Kelly Chopus | formerly of the Robins Foundation | *Governance Chair* (Executive Committee and Advisory Board term 2021-2022)

Christy Connolly | PATH Foundation | *Fiscal Sponsor*

Lynn Tadlock | formerly of the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation | *Membership Chair* (Executive Committee and Advisory Board term 2021-2022)

MEMBERS

Scott Blackwell | The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond

Jill Coleman | The Cameron Foundation

Mary Fant Donnan | The Allegheny Foundation (2021-2022)

Erin Hogan | Bank of America Private Bank

Travis Jackson | Wythe-Bland Foundation

Dan Layman | Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge

Amy Owen | Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties (2021-2022)

Heather Peeler | ACT for Alexandria

Sari Raskin | Community Foundation for Northern Virginia

Brett Rees | Northern Trust

Carol Sale | Williamsburg Health Foundation (2021-2022)

Leadership

VFN is also grateful for the leadership and service of our Networking Group and Learning Series Co-chairs. Throughout the year, these dedicated volunteer leaders worked in partnership with VFN staff to plan and execute issue-specific learning and networking opportunities for members.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NETWORKING GROUP

Teri McNally | The Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region

Sari Raskin | Community Foundation for Northern Virginia

EDUCATION FUNDERS NETWORKING GROUP

Gary Artybridge | Newport News Shipbuilding

Elliot Haspel | formerly of the Robins Foundation

HEALTH FUNDERS NETWORKING GROUP

Denny Huff | Bedford Community Health Foundation

Valerie Liggins | The Cameron Foundation

HOUSING FUNDERS NETWORKING GROUP

Susan Hallett | Bob & Anna Lou Schaberg Fund

Caroline Nowery | Virginia Community Capital

IMPACT INVESTING LEARNING SERIES

Debbie Kasemeyer | Northern Trust

Stephanie Randolph | Cassiopeia Foundation

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUNDERS NETWORKING GROUP

Christopher Cuevas | Laughing Gull Foundation

Stephanie Glenn | Community Foundation for a greater Richmond

