

June 12, 2020



Dear Community,

In this pivotal moment, we stand in solidarity with our Black community members. The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and countless other Black men and women are chilling evidence of the pervasiveness of racism in our society.

NW Children's Foundation envisions a world in which children thrive in safe, equitable and nurturing communities. Our mission of ending the cycle of child abuse, neglect and trauma can *only* be fulfilled by putting racial equity and social justice at the center of every aspect of our work.

As a public foundation we recognize the privilege we hold, and that it is our responsibility to learn about, speak up against, and disrupt racism and injustice. When Black, Indigenous, and People of Color among us are in anguish, our entire community suffers and fails to thrive.

Any message of solidarity is empty without commitment and follow-through. We are cognizant of the tremendous work and opportunity that lie ahead.

Our commitments:

1. NW Children's Foundation will deepen its equity and racial justice work internally as an organization. We recognize that this work and the change that it demands are inherently uncomfortable and confronting; we will embrace this discomfort.
2. In our work, we commit to bring in and amplify the voices of those furthest from opportunity, as this is the very population we exist to serve and support. Strategic partnerships and grantmaking, educational outreach and convening are the tools we will deploy to improve lives and create a more equitable future for children and families.
3. We commit to advancing [trust-based philanthropy](#), recognizing the *equally* valuable contributions of funders, grant-seeking nonprofits and the communities they serve in advancing equity and racial justice. We prioritize transparency and shared learning with our agency partners over the top-down accountability of traditional philanthropy.
4. We will continue to bring together a diverse cross-section of our society to learn, connect and collaborate on issues of systemic inequity, [adverse childhood experiences](#), community trauma and healing. Through our community forums, partner collaborations and publications, we will share the most current science, research and best practices to prevent and address the underlying causes of individual and community trauma.

There is much work to be done in the days ahead. We invite you into [learning, listening](#), and [partnering for action](#). We owe it to our children – they are counting on us.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria Peattie Helm".

Victoria Peattie Helm
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William H. Strong".

William H. Strong
Board Co-President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Warman".

Elizabeth Warman
Board Co-President