The North Texas Community Foundation launched WORTH: The Next Generation of Philanthropists in October 2015 for the purpose of engaging up and coming leaders in community philanthropy. Through an experiential and educational series, WORTH members have the opportunity to learn about nonprofits and community needs in Tarrant County and think strategically about what effective, sustainable philanthropy will look like for future generations.

Members join WORTH by making a $250 annual contribution to the WORTH Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation, which will provide for future community needs young professionals find valuable decades from now. In return for the members’ donations to the Endowment Fund, private investors have provided matching funds, dollar for dollar, up to $50,000 per year for members to grant at their discretion.

WORTH began its giving legacy by partnering with Streams & Valleys, an organization that has impacted and improved Fort Worth’s Trinity River for more than 50 years.

Next, the Fort Worth Zoo and Mrs. Ramona Bass helped members envision their legacy, find their philanthropic passion and assess where and how resources should be allocated for the greatest impact.

Collaboratively, WORTH members voted to support a nonprofit working to treat and prevent child abuse more effectively and participated in a grant deliberation meeting to review seven grant proposals.

**WORTH members granted $25,000 for the 2015-16 grant cycle.** Assets include $17,500 from private investors matching WORTH memberships and $7,500 from the Wikierak Fund at the North Texas Community Foundation.

**CASA of Tarrant County** received $15,000 for the purchase of web-based tablets and software to help staff and volunteers serve children in foster care more effectively.

**First3Years** received $10,000 for a pilot program to address the needs of maltreated infants and toddlers through support of a co-parenting alliance between birth and foster families.
Members celebrated the grants made to CASA of Tarrant County and First3Years at a private home in the Omni Residences overlooking downtown Fort Worth in February 2016.

The educational series of the 2015-16 grant cycle will conclude at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) on April 7th.

WORTH members will gather to discuss what it takes to create and sustain effective philanthropy within a community. They will explore the parallel between sustainable philanthropy and BRIT’s mission to be ‘rooted in sustainability’, while also learning about the importance of follow-up to assess progress and evaluate grant success of their funded projects.

The 2016-17 educational and experiential grant cycle will begin in early fall.

Many thanks to this year’s nonprofit partners:

WORTH is a program of the North Texas Community Foundation.

For more information on WORTH, please contact: Garrett March at gmarch@NorthTexasCF.org.