



dialogue OR debate

2015 Annual Report

American Leadership Forum
Houston/Gulf Coast Chapter

2015 highlights

1095 Fellows in the Houston network experienced personal and professional growth, developed long lasting bonds with relationships of mutual trust and continue to provide effective skilled service to the community.

Over **1000** Fellows participated in ALF events.

70 effective and engaged leaders were trained in collaboration and consensus building.

\$148,250 in scholarships were awarded.

Countless networks were expanded, collaborations formed, opinions heard, and coalitions created to build a more effective community in the Houston/Gulf Coast area.

*We're conditioned to judge.
What if we suspend our judgement
and have a dialogue?*

"ALF has also strengthened my commitment to the community, my resolve to work where I can, and to make this a better place for us all."

-- **Jerome Gray** (Class XXXII), Vice President & Senior Press Officer,
Metropolitan Transit Authority

*"My ALF experience has helped me become a better leader and person.
I'm inspired by the commitment and dedicated humanity of
my classmates and the ALF family as a whole."*

-- **John Farrell** (Class XXX), President, Midvale Enterprises and Farrell Executive Coaching and Consulting

message from the chair

Is there a way to leverage food bank distributions as “food scholarships” that could help individuals achieve future educational and professional growth goals?

What if each individual and organization did just one thing to address human trafficking in Houston?

What specific action might be taken to improve interactions between law enforcement and youth?

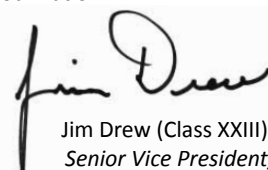


The 70 Senior Fellows of ALF classes in 2015 brought these urgent issues to the forefront of our region’s attention through **dialogue**. They engaged leaders from across the community in ground breaking discussions, seeking to co-create innovative solutions to serve the common good.

Consider how, in contrast, as our nation heads into an election year, our attention is drawn to **debate** wherein candidates attempt to distinguish themselves from one another by defining their platforms often in polarizing ideological stances.

ALF strives to build leaders, and a culture of leadership, based upon finding common ground and values through **dialogue** rather than seeking to persuade or “win” through **debate**. Imagine the opportunities and potential for our region and our nation when leaders are trained in collaboration and consensus building. This is at the heart of ALF’s mission to provide this possibility by joining and strengthening diverse leaders to carry these lessons forward.

I hope you’ll join me in embracing dialogue and servant leadership and building ALF to continue to enrich our great city and our region, the people who live here and those with whom they interact.



Jim Drew (Class XXIII),
Senior Vice President,
Bowen, Miclette & Britt, Inc.

message from the president

In 2015, it was exciting to see:

- 70 more effective and enlightened leaders trained in the arts of dialogue, collaboration and community building complete their ALF year and graduate from **Classes XXXIII, XXXIV and Criminal Justice Class 5**.
- **Class XXXV, Class XXXVI and Community Development Class 2** begin their ALF learning journey and join our network.
- Hundreds of Senior Fellows participate in ongoing dialogues around critical issues in our community. Our **Senior Fellows Retreat** explored Disparities and Inequities in the Greater Houston Region. Our **Second Friday Breakfasts** looked at Developing the Latino Leadership Pipeline, Decreasing the Demand for Human Trafficking in Houston, Implications of Falling Oil Prices on the Energy Capital of the World, and many other significant subjects.
- Not only did these Senior Fellows build new relationships and continue to demonstrate their commitment to the ALF values of diversity, dialogue and community service, but it was particularly inspiring to see them once again committing their time and resources to engage in such significant and selfless conversation for the greater good of our region.
- **Powerful new tools – our updated website and new brochure** - were created to better communicate ALF’s unique impact in building a space for leaders wherein barriers between people are removed, issues are frankly and openly discussed, and solutions emerge that benefit the entire community.
- Our community came together to recognize the exemplary service of **Arthur and Philamena Baird and the Fraga Family at our 2015 Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Dinner**. Our Senior Fellows, community leaders and corporate sponsors generously contributed more than \$200,000 to continue and expand our leadership capacity building service to our community.



2015 was a year of great accomplishments for ALF and I want to thank each of our volunteers, board members, committee members, generous donors and Senior Fellows for making this all possible. We proudly serve as a catalyst for positive change in our community, our region and our world. Together we continue to increase the capacity of our diverse leaders to serve our common good. I am honored and humbled to serve this incredibly important organization and invite you to continue to join us in service throughout 2016.



Daniel Snare
(Medical Community Class 5),
President, American Leadership Forum

The Power of Dialogue

What's happened since the **Class XXXIII Dialogue** on:
How can food become the currency for change?



While all ALF dialogues are wonderful conversations, here's an example of how one ALF class dialogue has made an impact on lives in Houston.

A lot has happened in a very short amount of time since March 12, 2015 when members of the American Leadership Forum Class XXXIII gathered at TSU's Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs with individuals living in Houston Housing Authority residences to ask the powerful question, "How can food become the currency for change?" Class XXXIII was interested to know if food could be leveraged as an incentive to assist individuals working to achieve educational, employment and self-sufficiency goals. Specifically, they examined a model that the Houston Food Bank is exploring to repurpose \$10 million worth of food into an activity that changes the lives of the community. The dialogue created a meaningful opportunity to ask and listen to individuals thoughts on this model.

Food scholarships are a central feature of the Food for Change model. As the program develops, clients will receive food scholarships when they commit to completion of programs that can lead them to self-sufficiency. Food scholarships reduce financial pressure by covering a portion of household grocery costs so clients can focus on improving their lives.

As with traditional scholarships, recipients of food scholarships must maintain eligibility through their participation in programs in five categories: education, employment, health, housing or family finances.

Over the summer, a dedicated space was found to form a collaborative "one-stop shop" to support work readiness and connect public housing residents with nutrition, employment, education and financial empowerment services—to help public housing residents find and keep jobs. The collaborative received funding from The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Jobs-Plus Pilot Program. The Houston Food Bank is scheduled to begin the food scholarship program at Cuney Homes at the beginning of June 2016.

How did this all emerge?

According to Brian Greene, President/CEO of the Houston Food Bank and a member of ALF Class XXXIII, their class dialogue "pushed along and shaped our thinking as we explored plans for this program. The dialogue helped in decision making and provided an opportunity to better understand how the food could be leveraged to benefit the needs of the clients. In addition, it forced us to think through some of the challenges associated with administering such a program (e.g. customer service, program length, and evaluation)." He explained that the two-way channel to discuss this concept was invaluable to the Houston Food Bank in seeking input from the Houston Housing Authority (HHA) and for HHA clients to hear from the Houston Food Bank.

That's **ALF's** impact on the community.



Class XXXIII

Joi Beasley - President/CEO, GOGO Business Communications
Alfred H. Bennett - Judge, United States District Court, Southern District of Texas
Peter Boudreaux - Partner, Curry Boudreaux Architects
David A. Brown - Founder and Director, Invest in Houston
M. Helen Cavazos - President/CEO, M. H. Cavazos & Associates
Bruce G. Coe - Assistant Director of Development, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Diane Englet - Senior Director Corporate Community Relations, CenterPoint Energy
Stephen M. Fraga - President, Tejas Office Products, Inc.
Nicole Gonzales - Assoc. Professor of Neurology, UT Health
Brian Greene - President/CEO, Houston Food Bank
Michele M. Hedges - Senior Counsel, Omega Protein, Inc.
John Hinojosa - Executive Director, St. Francis Charities/Zachariah House
Harish Jajoo - City Council Member, Sugar Land
David Kim - Executive Director, Urban Land Institute
Anne McClellan - Executive Director for Growth and Innovation, University of Houston
Adrian Patterson - Partner, Andrews Kurth LLP
Randy Petersen - Executive Vice President, Cadence Bank
Dean R. Quinn - Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary, S & B Engineers and Constructors, Ltd.
Renee Reimer - Chief Risk & Legal Operations Officer, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
Leila Sarmecanic - Partner, Rogers, Morris & Grover
Christof Spieler - Vice President, Morris Architects
Chris Tritico - Attorney at Law, Tritico, Rainey, PLLC
Audrey M. Trotti - President, Watershed Market
Evelyn V. Velasquez - Dean of Workforce & Economic Development, Houston Community College Northwest
Tandelyn Atkinson Weaver - Executive Director, The Kingdom Builders' Center

"Through ALF I've gained a keen awareness of how to listen and how to understand different perspectives."

-- **Michele Pola** (Class XXIV), Retired- Chief of Staff and Chief Business & Community Relations Officer, Houston Independent School District



Criminal Justice Class 5

Angelica F. Adams - Director of Strategic Partnerships, Communities in Schools of Houston, Inc.
Jeff Alexander - Harris County Protective Services, Division Manager, Youth Services Division
Jackie Autman - Executive Director/President, Crossroads: Community Partnership for Youth, Inc.
Mary H. Beck - Chief Operations Officer, Council on Recovery
Candance Broussard-White - CPS Regional Director, Harris County
Jo Ann Burbridge - President, Jones-Burbridge Consulting
Lisa Thompson Caruthers - Director, Cooperative for After-School Enrichment
Laura Cohen - Director of Clinical Services, Pathfinders of Oregon
Julie Crowe - Director-Prevention Services, DePelchin Children's Center
Giselle Easton - Federal Programs Director, AAMA
James T. Fallon - Attorney, Law Office of James T. Fallon III, LLC
Ally Frankovich - Program Manager-Adult Forensic Unit, MHMRA of Harris County
Henry Gonzales - Assistant Executive Director, Harris County Juvenile Probation Department
Kristin Guiney - Judge, Harris County 179th District Court
Steve Halpert - Juvenile Division Chief, Harris County Public Defender's Office
Tram Ngoc Ho, MD - Physician in Internal Medicine, Rudolph Medical Associates PA
Tarsha Jackson - Harris County Director, Texas Organizing Project (TOP)
Olivia McGill - Assistant Deputy Director-Health Services, Harris County Juvenile Probation Dept.
Donald McKinney - Assistant Chief of Police, Criminal Investigations Command, Houston Police Department
Alan Rosen - Constable Precinct 1, Harris County
Constance Rossiter - Program Director, YMCA International Services
Terrance Windham - Assistant District Attorney, Harris County





Class XXXIV

Laura Lopez Cano - Artist

Teresa B. Harris - Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley

Mustapha Kibirige - Chairman, K&S Consulting, LLC

Maria J. Korn - Director, Talent Management and Acquisition, TPC Group

Kelley Lang - Retired, VP-HR Unconventionals, Shell Exploration & Production

Michael Lewis - Consultant

Chris Lloyd - CEO, MHMD – the Memorial Hermann Physician Network

Jerome P. Martin - VP/General Manager, KPRC-Ch.2

Susan B. Martin - Community Volunteer

Diane McGehee - Director, Center for Missional Excellence,
TX Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Derrick Mitchell - Partner, Bracewell LLP

Terry Morales - Senior Vice President, Amegy Bank

Jerry Nevlund - President/CEO, Associated General Contractors-Houston Chapter

Rick Ngo, M.D., F.A.C.S. - General Surgeon, Southwest Surgical Associates

Tina Paez - Director of Administrative & Regulatory Affairs, City of Houston

Carrie Potter - Owner and President,
The Carrie Potter Group, LLC

Shelly Power - Academy Director, Houston Ballet's
Ben Stevenson Academy

Ravi Sandill - Judge, 127th District Court, Harris County

Sophia Mao Smith - Payload Software
Engineering & Integration, NASA

Michael K. Stewart - Vice President and
Chief Administrative Officer, Finance and Administration,
United Way of Greater Houston

Hoang Quan Vu - Partner, Corporate Finance,
Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP

Mike White - Head of School, Westbury Christian School

Kelly J. Zúñiga, Ed. D. - Executive Director,
Holocaust Museum Houston



2015 ALF graduates

forums & dialogues

- **Chez ALF** - dinner and dialogue served at Senior Fellows' homes
- **Reservations for Six** - program designed exclusively for Senior Fellows to get to know one another in a small group setting
- **Second Friday Breakfasts**
 - Developing the Latino Leadership Pipeline
 - Decreasing the Demand for Human Trafficking in Houston
 - Implications of Falling Oil Prices on the Energy Capital of the World
 - Possibilities of High Speed Transportation Between Houston and Dallas
 - Miracles, Milestones, and Mistakes Related to Social and Spiritual Entrepreneurship
 - What is the Community's Role in Supporting the Mental Health of the Next Greatest Generation? A Discussion on the Challenges and Opportunities Facing Our Returning Veterans
 - Mayor Annise Parker and Plan Houston
 - Foster Care to Independence-How Houston Is Meeting the Challenge
 - Is the STAAR Test the best way to assess school and student success?
 - The Art of Collaboration
 - Post-Election Analysis and Dialogue
- **INvest in ALF-Class Check-Ins**
- **Class Dialogues**
 - How can food become the currency for change?—Class XXXIII
 - Human Trafficking—Do One Thing—Class XXXIV
 - Improving Interactions Between Law Enforcement and Youth — Criminal Justice Class 5
- **Nonprofit Leadership Collaborative Forum 2015 featuring Adam Bryant**
- **Class Experiences and Curriculum**
 - Orientation—Camp Allen, Navasota, TX
 - Wilderness Challenge—Lake George, Colorado
 - Transformational Dialogue
 - Experience as Other
 - Leading is Convening
 - Taking Stock Retreat
 - Disruptive Innovation
 - Houston Area Survey with Stephen Klineberg, Ph.D.
 - Commencement
 - Debrief Reunion
- **Other ALF Events**
 - Annual Meeting
 - Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Dinner, honoring Arthur and Philamena Baird and the Fraga Family
 - Senior Fellows Retreat
 - Donor Recognition at The Ensemble Theatre
 - COPE - ALF Convocation On Public Education
 - ALF Check IN's
- **Other projects**
 - Launched mobile friendly website
 - New informational brochure and outreach materials



(left to right)
Arthur Baird,
Philamena Baird,
Felix Fraga,
Nelly Fraga,
Lupe Fraga,
Irene Fraga

2015 Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Dinner

Arthur and Philamena Baird were presented with the Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award and the Fraga Family received the ALF Public Service Award at the Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Dinner held on April 29, 2015 at the Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa. The event, attended by 380 guests, raised over \$200,000 to support the American Leadership Forum (ALF)'s ongoing mission of joining and strengthening diverse leaders to serve the common good.

"ALF is one of Houston's most important organizations in helping to shape our future by bringing diverse leaders together in really meaningful ways. In the world today and in a city that is so spread out, it is more important than ever to build the bridges that can transcend the separate silos in which we live. ALF brings our multiethnic community together and helps to establish lasting bonds of friendship and trust across the inevitable divides. I believe in the work of this organization."

-- Stephen Klineberg (Class X), Professor of Sociology,
Founding Director, Kinder Institute for
Urban Research, Rice University



\$50,000 +

American Express Philanthropy
Rockwell Fund, Inc.

\$30,000 +

Houston Endowment, Inc.

\$25,000 +

Chevron

\$10,000 +

H-E-B

\$5,000 +

Arthur and Philamena Baird
CenterPoint Energy
Roland Garcia/Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Marathon Oil Corporation
The Marek Family
Stan Marek
John P. McGovern Foundation
Memorial Hermann Health System

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Eddie Allen/Eagle Global Advisors
Amegy Bank
Anonymous
Cathy and Gary Brock
Rev. Kirbyjon Caldwell
Cole Chemical & Distributing Inc.
Comerica Bank
Jim Drew
Energy XXI/Kristi and John Schiller
Melanie Gray
Greater East End Management District
Harris County Hospital District Foundation
Winell Herron
Houston First Corporation
Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa
The Leon Jaworski Foundation
Kelley Lang
Ron Martin/BDO USA, LLP
David Mendez
Sharon Murphy
Neighborhood Centers, Inc.
Page
Tejas Office Products, Inc.
Texas Children's Hospital
United Stationers Supply Company
John and Kimberly Watson

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Sofia Adrogué
Margaret Alkek Williams
Bryan Altman
Paula Arnold
Leslie and Jack Blanton, Jr.
Donald Bowers
Bud Light/ Silver Eagle Distributors
Les Cave
Steve Costello
Rayanne Darensbourg
Marian Davenport
Jessica Diaz
Dee Dee Dochen
Diane Englet
John Farrell

Rick Figueroa
Sheri Foreman Elder
Nelly M. and Felix Fraga
J. Kent and Ann Friedman
Dorothy Gibbons
Jerome Gray
Bonnie Hellums and Carel Stith
Michael Holthouse
Rochelle Jacobson
Ken Janda
Eartha Jean Johnson
Paule Anne Lewis
Susan Martin
George Martinez
Anne McClellan
McConnell Jones Lanier & Murphy LLP
Marc Melcher
Sherry and Gerald Merfish
Petro Amigos Supply, Inc.
Port of Houston Authority
Shelly Power
Janet Pozmantier
Dean Quinn
Beth Robertson
Regina Rogers
Randy Sim
Leslie Smith II
Daniel and Mary Snare
Clarissa and Gregg Stephens
Paula Sutton and Bill Gross
Trammell Crow Residential
Ileana and J. Michael Trevino
Robert and Phoebe Tudor
Scott Van Beck
Jose Villarreal
Harriet Wasserstrum

\$500 - \$999

Jagdir Ahluwalia
Stanford and Joan Alexander
Nory Angel
Darren Asher
Ann and Matt Barnes
Minnette Boesel
Genora Boykins
Judy Bozeman
Jo Ann Burbidge
Kofi Burney
Camden
Richard Caplan
Cynthia Colbert
Paul Colbert
Martin Cominsky
Michael Cordua
Judith Craven
Cissy Davis
Anna Dragsbaek
Bob Eury
Eric Evans
Gayle Fallon
Vaunette Fay
Roland Garcia
Fena Garza
Gershen Consulting
Teresa Harris
Cecilia Hawkins
Leisa Holland-Nelson

Richard Huebner
Russell Jackson
John Johnson
JPMorgan Chase Bank
Sylvia Kerrigan
Pat Kiley
David Kim
Stephen L. Klineberg
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Renee Logans
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Marcie Mir
Gasper Mir, III
Terry Morales
M.A. Toni Moreno
Cheryl Murray
Tina Paez
Randy Petersen
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Lenox and John Reed
Renee Reimer
Mary Ryder
Michele Sabino
Gracie Saenz
Pam Sailors
Ravi Sandill
Leila Sarmecanic
Richard Schechter
Diane Schenke
Alesia Shealey
John Simon
Taryn Sims
Charlene Slack
Larry Slack
Vanessa Sola
Lois Stark
Steve Stephens
Michael Stewart
Ellen Susman
Mustafa Tameez
Marcy Taub
Mel Taylor
Tadd Tellepsen
Billie Toland Properties
Claude Toland
Randy Velarde
Caroline Vetterling
Barron Wallace
Judy Wallis
Tandelyn Weaver
Bob Wimpelberg
Jerri Workman
Teresa Yancey
George Yang
Francene Young

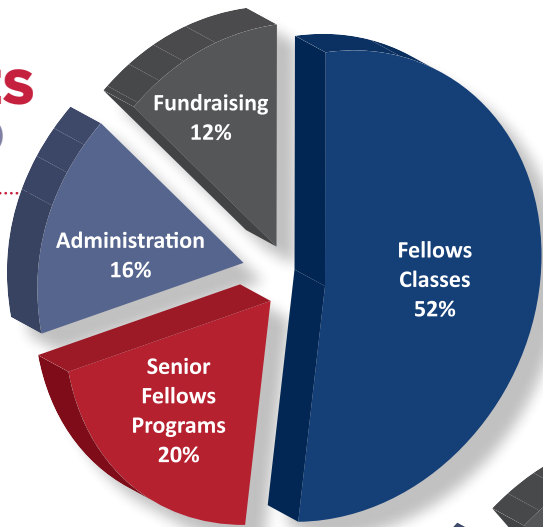
Other

Downey Bridgwater
David Underwood

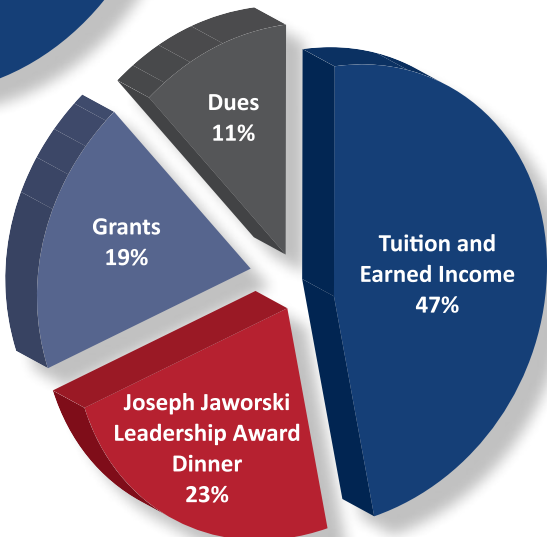
financials

In 2015 ALF had operating revenues of \$826,282 and expenses of \$839,690. At year end ALF had investment assets of more than \$2.4 million, of which \$1.5 million is in the Endowed Scholarship Fund.

EXPENSES \$839,690



REVENUE \$826,282



transcending
silos

2015 Annual Report



mission statement

The American Leadership Forum (ALF) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to join and strengthen diverse leaders to serve the common good.

officers

Jim Drew
Chair

Sharon Murphy
Chair Elect

Marian Davenport
Vice Chair

Joni Baird
Secretary

Les Cave
Treasurer

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Matthew Barnes
Donald Bowers
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Mel Taylor**
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