

TURRELL FUND DAY FOR CHILDREN

The Importance of Love in Early Childhood
Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Turrell Fund

A Foundation Serving Children

Societal Vision

That need will be eliminated as a barrier to the access of quality educational and developmental experiences by all children, and especially the youngest and their families, so that they may be prepared for academic and life success.

Organizational Vision

That access to quality educational and developmental opportunities will be assured for the children of the Turrell Fund's served areas, with an emphasis on the youngest, at-risk children and their families.

Organizational Mission

To financially and strategically support organizations which directly provide or foster the creation and delivery of quality developmental and educational services to at-risk children, especially the youngest and their families, in Vermont and designated areas of New Jersey.



Steve Adubato, Ph.D.

Steve Adubato, Ph.D., enjoys a distinguished career as a **broadcaster, author, syndicated columnist, university professor, lecturer and motivational speaker**. A trainer and coach in the areas of leadership and communication skills, Steve also served in the mid 1980's as New Jersey's youngest state legislator at the age of 26.

Steve currently anchors three television series produced by the Caucus Educational Corporation (CEC) — ***State of Affairs with Steve Adubato***, the weekly, issue-oriented, public policy series exploring the state of affairs on critical issues being addressed in the New Jersey Statehouse; ***One-on-One with Steve Adubato***, the nightly series that brings viewers in-depth interviews with some of the region's most compelling personalities, including artists, authors, academics, media personalities, health experts and sports icons; and our newest series, ***Think Tank with Steve Adubato***, featuring leaders, innovators and experts who explore the critical issues, trends and challenges facing society today. Steve has also anchored many high-profile television specials including an exclusive, primetime special with US

Senators, Bob Menendez and Cory Booker. Steve has been the recipient of four prestigious Emmy® Awards for his work on public television, including “Best Host,” from the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

The CEC’s series air on PBS stations **Thirteen/WNET** (the flagship station in New York), **NJTV** in New Jersey and **WHYY-TV 12** in Philadelphia and on cable on **Verizon FiOS1**. Select programming can also be heard on **National Public Radio (NPR)** stations **WNYC** and **WBGO** and on **AM970 The Answer**. Programming can be found online through several **digital platforms** including *NJ.com*, *NJBIZ.com*, *NJBIA.org*, *CIANJ.org*, *MeadowlandsUSA.com*, *BestOfNJ.com* and *InsiderNJ.com* as well as on the CEC’s website **SteveAdubato.org** and on Steve Adubato’s **YouTube channel**.

As a **media and communication expert**, Steve is a regular contributor to **MetroFocus**, a PBS series in the New York region and has appeared on **NBC’s TODAY Show**, **CNN**, **FOX News** and **FOX5** as a media and political analyst. Steve has also done significant work on the radio by offering contributing media commentary on **NPR** as well as **77WABC**, **WOR 710** and **AM970**, where he is also the host of a new radio show/podcast, *Steve Adubato’s Leadership Hour*, based on his book, *Lessons in Leadership*. Steve has also appeared on national radio, providing political and media commentary on **SiriusXM**.

Dr. Adubato has served as a **distinguished visiting professor** at New York University and has also been a lecturer at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, United States Military Academy at West Point, Montclair State University as well as Rutgers University. Steve recently joined the faculty at Rowan University as well as Seton Hall University as a visiting professor. Steve received his Undergraduate Degree from Montclair State University, his Master of Arts from the Eagleton Institute of Politics at

Rutgers University and later his Ph.D. in Communication Sciences from Rutgers University. His academic research and writing has focused on the **role of the media in American society** and the **current state of communications, media and journalism**.

A much sought-after **motivational speaker** through his firm Stand & Deliver, Steve has conducted **communication and leadership workshops** for a variety of clients in the corporate and non-profit sectors. Stand & Deliver is a dynamic, hands-on **professional development and executive coaching program**, which Steve created to help today's professionals reach their potential as leaders. Through Stand & Deliver, Steve developed the "**Lessons in Leadership**" platform to provide leadership advice, tips and tools in the form of columns, videos, seminars, as well as his recently published book, *Lessons in Leadership*. Columns and videos can be found through numerous print and online platforms including *NJ Business Magazine*, *Meadowlands USA Magazine*, *AM970TheAnswer.com*, *Stand-Deliver.com* and *SteveAdubato.org*, among others.

As a syndicated columnist, Steve also writes a monthly column for *New Jersey Monthly* magazine. He is the author of five books, including three focused on interpersonal, professional and crisis communication: *Speak from the Heart*, which was featured in *Fortune Magazine*, as well as *Make the Connection* and *What Were They Thinking?* His fourth book, *You Are the Brand*, examines the brand strategies of over thirty individuals and companies. His latest book, *Lessons in Leadership*, explores the connection between leadership and communication offering practical leadership tips and tools as well as powerful case studies from prominent leaders.

Steve has been named as one of New Jersey's "**Power 100**" – New Jersey's 100 most influential people – by *PolickerNJ.com* and *InsiderNJ.com* In addition, *New Jersey Monthly* maga-

zine named Steve one of the top five **most powerful media figures in the state**, as one of the “**50 Most Interesting People in New Jersey**,” and as one of the “**25 Most Influential People in New Jersey**.”

For more information, visit www.stand-deliver.com



/SteveAdubatoPhD

@SteveAdubato





TRISH ALLEY

President, *WholeHeart Board of Directors*

Trish holds an MBA in Organizational Development and Behavior. Her career has spanned the corporate world, teaching at the collegiate level, owning several small businesses, and founding three social profits. In addition to co-founding WholeHeart, Inc., she is the Founder of Wonder & Wisdom and Founder and President of The Wisdom Connection, Inc.



ARTURO BRITO, MD

Executive Director, *The Nicholson Foundation*

Arturo Brito, MD, MPH, joined The Nicholson Foundation on March 13, 2017 as its Executive Director. Brito was previously the Deputy Commissioner, Public Health Services, of the New Jersey State Department of Health, and stepped down from that position to assume the role as head of The Nicholson Foundation. He brings to the Foundation a unique combination of clinical, academic, and administrative experience, with particular expertise in program development for vulnerable populations.

Brito is a pediatrician who also holds a master's degree in public health. Born in Cuba, Brito came to the United States at age 7. He received his medical degree from the University of South Florida College of Medicine, and completed his pediatric residency at Emory University School of Medicine. Early in his career, Brito practiced as a pediatrician in southwestern Alaska and in South Florida. In Florida, he oversaw the South Florida Children's Health Project and served on the faculty of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine as Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics.

From 2006-2011, Brito worked as Chief Medical Officer and Executive Vice President at the Children's Health Fund, a New York City-based non-profit dedicated to delivering high-quality

healthcare to America's most disadvantaged children. In that position, Brito helped its National Network grow from 17 to 25 programs, which greatly expanded the capacity of the Children's Health Fund to deliver comprehensive health care services to homeless and low-income children and families.

Throughout his career, Brito has held appointments on prominent national bodies, including the National Bioethics Advisory Committee (1996-2001) and the Community Pediatrics Training Initiative at the American Academy of Pediatrics (2005-2007).

In 2016, he began serving as Chair of the Senior Deputies Committee at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.

Since 2011, Brito has worked as Deputy Commissioner, Public Health Services, of the New Jersey State Department of Health. In that role he has overseen and led programmatic and policy development in four divisions: Family Health Services; Public Health Infrastructure, Laboratory, and Emergency Preparedness; HIV, STD, and TB services; and Epidemiology, Environmental, and Occupational Health.

Augmenting his professional work, Brito has published extensively and is currently teaching a master's-level course at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. In addition, Brito has frequently volunteered his services domestically and internationally, with multiple volunteer missions to Haiti (responding to the 2010 earthquake) and to Mississippi and Louisiana (responding to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita).



MEGAN CAMP

Vice President & Program Director, *Shelburne Farms*

Megan has worked at Shelburne Farms for 35 years and has been the Vice President and Program Director since 1989, responsible for organizational development and the leadership of education programming and partnerships. Starting as a student intern, she has been an energetic, creative force in the evolution of the Farm's programs, and has taken those programs into partnerships around the world.

She is a recognized leader in Farm to school and the importance of local food systems. Megan has served as a consultant/partner for the Institute for Sustainable Communities, working with national and international education for sustainability projects.

Among other affiliations, Megan is member of the IUCN (The World Conservation Union) Commission on Education and Communication, Vermont Sustainable Agriculture Council, Vermont Farm to Plate Steering Committee, Vermont Farm to School Network leadership team, and the advisory board of the University of Vermont College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Castanea Foundation and The Vermont Council of Rural Development. Megan was recently appointed by the Governor's office to the Vermont Working Lands Enterprise Board.



ELIZABETH CHRISTIE

Turrell Fund Trustee

Elizabeth Christie served as the Executive Director of Windham Child Care Association 1998-2008, and was active in the founding of Kids Are Priority One, Vermont's first statewide early childhood advocacy group. She joined the Turrell Fund Board in November 2003 bringing her concern for the importance of social policy work with her. She is the proud grandmother of Marcel, 6, and Jonah, 4, who live in Asheville, NC.



François Scarborough Clemmons is an African-American singer, actor, playwright and university lecturer. He is perhaps best known for his appearances on the PBS television series *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* throughout the 1970s.

In 1968, Clemmons won the Metropolitan Opera auditions in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He went on to Cleveland, Ohio, where he won a position in the Metropolitan Opera Studio. He sang there professionally for seven seasons, performing over 70 roles with companies including The New York City Opera, Los Angeles Civic Light Opera, and Washington Civic Opera.

Clemmons sang with numerous orchestras, including the Cleveland Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. In 1973, he won a Grammy Award for a recording of *Porgy and Bess*; he performed the role of "Sportin' Life" in that musical over 100 times.

For 25 years, Clemmons performed the role of Officer Clemmons, a friendly neighborhood policeman, in the "Neighborhood of Make-Believe" on the children's television show *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. In the neighborhood itself, Clemmons ran a singing and dance studio located in the building diagonally across from Mr. Rogers' house. As "Officer Clemmons", he became one of the first African Americans to have a recurring

role on a kids' TV series. Clemmons told the story of how he became "Officer Clemmons" on StoryCorps.

Clemmons actively writes across genres for a variety of age groups. Currently, he is writing his autobiography entitled *Di-vaMan: My Life in Song*, a children's story entitled *ButterCup and the Majic Cane*, and a volume of poetry entitled *A Place Of My Own*. Some of his published works include a volume of spirituals named *Songs for Today* and a stage musical called *My Name Is Hayes* based on the life of Roland Hayes. He also commissioned a choral work composed of spirituals entitled *Changed My Name*, arranged by Linda Twine.

From 1997 until his retirement in 2013, Clemmons was the Alexander Twilight Artist in Residence and director of the Martin Luther King Spiritual Choir at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont. He “played the role of professor, choirmaster, resident vocal soloist, advisor, confidant, and community cheerleader”. He is also well known in the Middlebury community for his superb rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner", which he sings at the Middlebury College men's basketball games.

Clemmons lives and works in Middlebury, Vermont, where he is the Emeritus Artist in Residence of Middlebury College. He is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, the national fraternity for men in music.



Chris Dorman

Mister Chris and Friends

Singer-songwriter and educator, Chris Dorman, writes, records, and performs thoughtful and tender songs that captivate multi-generational audiences. These original songs are written with the most sensitive ears in mind and are the foundation for his music and movement program, Music For Sprouts, as well as a new children's television show called Mister Chris and Friends, created by Chris and produced by Vermont PBS. Chris lives with his family on their community farm, Bread & Butter Farm, on the town line of Shelburne and South Burlington. Chris emphasizes children's experience, expression, and management of emotions and the ability to establish positive and rewarding relationships with others, while inviting young children to play, explore, and learn.



CURT FIELDS

President & CEO, *Turrell Fund*

A graduate of Princeton University, and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Curt spent the bulk of his career as one of the top executives of the AT&T Company. Among his responsibilities was the management of AT&T's \$4 billion Consumer Services business.

Curt joined the staff of the Turrell Fund late in 2003, and became chief executive of the organization in January of 2005. He served as a Trustee of the Turrell Fund, and Chair of its Grants Committee, for several years before being tapped to run the organization.

Since taking the helm at Turrell, Curt has expanded the Board of the Fund to include deeper expertise in the areas of early childhood services delivery and advocacy. He is proud to have moved the foundation boldly in these new directions, without abandoning the Fund's legacy of service to all children.

Curt is especially proud to have expanded the core Landon Awards Luncheon into one of Vermont's leading annual seminars aimed at advancing the creation of comprehensive early childhood systems, especially for at-risk children and their families.

In addition to having served on numerous corporate boards, Curt has long served on the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Center Theater, in New York City, and as a Trustee of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. The Theater, and the Symphony each pride themselves on making arts education and community service a priority, not unlike the Turrell Fund.



EDDIE GALE

Program Director, *The A.D. Henderson Foundation*

Eddie Gale has been the Vermont Program Director for the A.D. Henderson Foundation since 2001 and lives in Johnson, Vermont. The A.D. Henderson Foundation supports early learning and strives to improve the quality of education for children ages birth to five in the state of Vermont and Broward County, Florida. In Vermont, the Foundation also seeks to build the capacity of nonprofit organizations, primarily focusing on early education and adult to child mentoring.



The REVEREND BILL GANNON

Turrell Fund Trustee

The Reverend Bill Gannon was ordained in 1962 at All Saints' Parish, Peterborough, where he began as a Curate at the Rector of St. Andrew's, West Manchester. Reverend Gannon left St. Andrew's to become the head of the Sacred Studies Department at the Groton School, Groton, Massachusetts. He also taught at St. Paul's School in Concord, and was a headmaster of St. Mary's School in Peekskill and the Lenox School in New York City. For ten years he had a very successful career working for a Dun and Bradstreet subsidiary, the American Credit Indemnity Company, in New York. He was the Rector at Christ Church, in Glen Ridge, N.J. and, St. Andrew's in Harrington Park, N.J. He graduated from Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont, with a B.A. in History, and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the Army Signal Corps. He has been an active musician throughout his life, playing the trombone and the double bass in schools, churches, and professional venues. Reverend Gannon currently serves on the **Board** of the Turrell Fund.



KIM KEISER

Vermont Director, *Turrell Fund*

Kim Keiser is currently the Vermont Director for the Turrell Fund. She has been in this role since 2012. Her professional career spans over 40 years and includes a variety of Education and Human Services positions, in both the private and public sectors. All have been focused on improving the lives and well-being of children and families. Since moving to Vermont in 1988, positions she has held include Part H (now Part C) of IDEA Coordinator, Director of the Child Care Services Division within the Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), Deputy Commissioner of SRS, and the Deputy Commissioner for the Child Development Division within the Department for Children and Families. Kim left Vermont State government in 2009 to work at the national level in Washington, D.C. A current area of professional interest and developing expertise is cross sector systems integration that is intentionally designed to create and sustain fully aligned, high quality services for children and families within the communities in which they live.



JUSTIN KICZEK

Vice President of Programs, *Turrell Fund*

Justin Kiczek joined the Turrell Fund as the Vice President of Programs in 2018 after a fifteen-year career in education. In his role at the Turrell Fund, Justin oversees the grants process, develops strategy for greater social impact, and works with grantees and clients in order to help them build capacity and harness their own power. After earning degrees at College of the Holy Cross and Hunter College, he taught English literature at Regis High School, Hunter College, and Seton Hall Preparatory School. At Regis High School – named by Niche.com as the best Catholic high school in the United States – he was the chair of a school-wide Curriculum Review Task Force, which developed a top-to-bottom curricular platform that served as a foundation for all departments. A father of three daughters, he and his family reside in Jersey City, NJ.



Junlei Li
Saul Zaentz Senior Lecturer
Harvard Graduate School of Education

Junlei Li is the Saul Zaentz senior lecturer in early childhood education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. His research and practice focuses on understanding and supporting the work of helpers—those who serve children and families on the frontlines of education and social services. Li studied and learned from a wide range of developmental settings with low resources but high-quality practices, including orphanages, childcare, classrooms, and community youth programs. He developed the "Simple Interactions" approach to help identify what ordinary people do extraordinarily well with children in everyday moments and made that the basis for promoting positive system change. Li frequently delivers keynote presentations and workshops for national, state, and international conferences focused on improving practices, programs, and policies for children, families, and professionals, with a particular emphasis on early childhood development. He teaches about improving human interactions and supporting adult helpers at HGSE and the Zaentz Professional Learning Academy. Li's work is significantly influenced and inspired by the pioneering work of Fred Rogers (creator of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood). He previously served as the Co-Director and Rita M. McGinley Professor for Early

Learning and Children's Media at the Fred Rogers Center at Saint Vincent College.



ALY RICHARDS,
Chief Executive Officer, *Let's Grow Kids*

A native of Newbury, VT, Aly formerly served as the deputy chief of staff for Governor Shumlin and had leading roles in several of the Shumlin Administration's efforts to support early childhood—including the federal Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge and Preschool Expansion grants. With experience in education dating back to a gubernatorial appointment to the State Board of Education when she was still in high school, Richards has also convened the coalition that helped to pass a set of education initiatives including free lunch for all low-income Vermonters and the Flexible Pathways bill, which creates a statewide program for expanding dual enrollment and early college. Prior to joining the governor's office, Richards served on the 2008 Obama campaign and worked as the Mid-Atlantic deputy finance director at the Democratic National Committee. Richards currently serves on the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees. A graduate of Brown University, Richards lives in Montpelier.



GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT

Phil Scott was elected as Vermont's 82nd Governor on November 8, 2016, and reelected for a second term in November 2018. Prior to being elected Governor, Scott's experience in State Government includes serving as Vermont's 79th Lt. Governor from 2010 through 2016 and serving 10 years in the Vermont Senate from 2000 to 2010. Governor Scott was born and raised in Vermont, growing up in Barre and attending Spaulding High School and the University of Vermont. His business career includes owning and operating several small businesses that has led to being co-owner of Dubois Construction Company in Middlesex. Prior to becoming Governor, he enjoyed driving his race car, #14, at Thunder Road in Barre and he continues to be an avid cyclist. He is married to Diana Teague Scott and has two grown daughters. Governor Scott is a strong vocal supporter for early childhood programs.



SUSANNE SCHMIDT

Founder, *Say It Forward Productions*

Susanne Schmidt tells funny stories. As a comedic storyteller and national speaker, her work has been featured on CBS Sunday Morning, The Moth, National Public Radio, WGBH Stories from The Stage, and most recently, HBO's Inspiration Room. Susanne has performed in The Boston Women in Comedy Festival and The Toronto SheDot Festival, and was named the "Best of the Valley Voices" by New England Public Radio and The Academy of Music Theater. Susanne is the founder of Say It Forward Productions, and a teaching artist at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts.

In her other life, Susanne Schmidt, MS, LCMHC, is a graduate professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Northern Vermont University and is the mother of two amazing young men, who would probably prefer that she stop talking about them on stage. sueschmidtcomedy.com



MARK SUSTIC

Turrell Fund Trustee

Mark is the Executive Director of Young Tradition Vermont and works privately as a consultant, educator and musician. He has worked with the Vermont Community Foundation, Save the Children, the Permanent Fund, Building Bright Futures and other organizations, and has taught at the University of Vermont, Castleton University and the University of Michigan. Mark has been involved in organizing and presenting cultural events, founding and directing several non-profit arts organizations in Vermont, including the Champlain Valley Festival and Young Tradition Vermont, and continues to work with children and youth interested in learning and performing traditional music and dance. He consults with and advises a wide variety of arts presenting, education, professional and advocacy organizations.



HOLLY WILKINSON

Executive Director, *WholeHeart*

Holly Wilkinson (she/her/hers)--Holly is the Executive Director of WholeHeart, Inc., a Vermont-based non-profit that focuses on fierce love and deep listening to move humanity towards a more just society for all. Holly's expertise is in holding space to cultivate personal integrity and relational trust through custom facilitation and seasonal retreats. Holly holds a Bachelor's in Global Studies and a Master's in Education from the University of Vermont. Her professional experience has focused on community engagement, entrepreneurship, youth leadership, wellness, workforce development and expressive arts. Holly served on the leadership team of the University of Vermont's Career Center and the Women's Small Business Program where she assisted individuals and groups in career/life direction, business planning, and well-being. To keep life in perspective, Holly spends time on the land, writes poetry, and creates collage & ephemeral nature art.

Young Tradition Vermont Musicians



Sebastian West



Alexander Allison



Ben Clark

Sebastian West, Alexander Allison and Ben Clark are members of the Young Tradition Touring Group that did a successful performance tour in metropolitan New York and New Jersey in April 2019. During the tour the group performed in Central Park, the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, the Van Vleck House and Gardens, and many others. Master classes included sessions with Christian McBride, Regina Carter, Mark Gross, Dana Lyn and others. And the group had chances to interact with others their same age involving Jazz House Kids, Jazz for Teens, the Union City Music Project, the Arts High School and more. The group has toured previously in England, Ireland, Scotland, Cape Breton and Japan, and will be recruiting and auditioning new member during the summer months. For more information visit www.youngtraditionvermont.org

About our partners...

Let's Grow Kids (formerly the Permanent Fund for Vermont's Children)

Founded in 2000 by Rick Davis and Carl Ferenbach, two philanthropists seeking a proactive way to make a difference for children and families in Vermont, Let's Grow Kids is a non-profit foundation and a supporting organization of the Vermont Community Foundation. Since its inception, Let's Grow Kids has led a collaborative, focused approach to ensure that outstanding programs for all of Vermont's youngest children are launched, funded and integrated fully into Vermont's early care and education system, serving as a catalyst and seed-funder for the most innovative initiatives and providing support critical to Vermont's efforts to attract further funding to implement these programs. Along with its collaborating partners, Let's Grow Kids has committed to helping Vermont achieve a system of high-quality, affordable child care by 2025.

Vermont Children's Trust Foundation

The Vermont Children's Trust Foundation promotes the well-being of children and families in Vermont by raising funds for community-based prevention programs.

Ensuring that every child in Vermont has a fair chance at success is what drives our work. The money raised by the Foundation supports community-based prevention programs, a ground up approach to making sure children are safe and secure, make wise choices, are prepared to be good students, and are encouraged to feel good about themselves.

S. WHITNEY LANDON AWARDS

In 1995, after the death of S. Whitney Landon, a long-time Turrell Trustee, an award was established in his memory for one exemplary program for children ages birth to six in Vermont and New Jersey.

The S. Whitney Landon Awards are presented each year, in Vermont, for programs which have achieved break-through results in the delivery of services to the youngest at-risk children, and their families, using innovative and creative strategies.

These agencies generally have been active with the early childhood system in their community and advocate at the local, regional, state and/or national level for the well-being of our youngest children and their families.

2019 marks the 24th year of the award. There are two awards, one in the amount of \$25,000 and two in the amount of \$2,500.