



Thanks-Giving Foundation Named an “Organization of the Year” by DCEO in its “Nonprofit and Corporate Citizenship Awards”

DALLAS (Sept 2, 2020) – The Thanks-Giving Foundation, the non-profit group that owns and operates Thanks-Giving Square, a private garden and public space of reflection in Downtown Dallas, has been named “Organization of the Year: Small” by *DCEO* magazine as part of its “Nonprofit and Corporate Citizenship Awards 2020,” presented in partnership with the Communities Foundation of Texas. The organization is featured in the August/September issue of *DCEO* and was honored at a virtual award ceremony unveiling the selectees on August 28.

“We are honored to be selected for this recognition,” said Thanks-Giving Foundation CEO Kyle Ogden. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to lead the Thanks-Giving Foundation as we bring our diverse community together around a shared vision for a new and exciting future filled with kindness, connection, inclusion and gratitude. The work that we do to engage our neighbors through community dialogue, interfaith programs, and gratitude initiatives has never been more vital. We bring people together, and we’re doing this, even if we can’t always be together physically.”

The Thanks-Giving Foundation plays an instrumental role in the Dallas community, both as a physical space to gather for reflection, celebration and healing, and also as an active force for inspiration, education and advocacy through its programs and initiatives. In the last two years, a slate of new leadership and volunteers led by CEO Kyle Ogden, Chairman Christopher B. Trowbridge, and an inspiring and energized board of directors has continued the 50+ year legacy of “celebrating values, thoughts and spirituality” and bringing the Dallas community together through faith and service programs, such as Faith Forward Dallas at Thanks-Giving Square and The Thanks-Giving Foundation Interfaith Council,” both of which are led by board member Almas Muscatwalla.

Thanks-Giving Square, which is operated by the Foundation, is an urban oasis in the heart of downtown Dallas which features a landscaped meditation garden and non-denominational chapel. Since 2018, the Foundation has invested over \$250,000 in physical improvements and has begun a design process for future renovations and improvements, and has plans create a vibrant new Thanks-Giving District downtown.

As part of its nomination, the Thanks-Giving Foundation highlighted the “Serving Up Gratitude” initiative, launched in the early days of the pandemic. The organization, fueled by its donors, committed to purchase more than \$200,000 worth of meals from struggling local restaurants, and to provide more than 20,000 meals to frontline workers responding to COVID-19. To date, more than 125 restaurants have enrolled in the program, which has served all Dallas County hospitals caring for COVID-19 patients, all Dallas County drive-through testing sites, the Dallas Police Department, the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department and the Dallas County Sheriff’s Department. And, as a special treat, the organization served up more than 2,000 cookies from nine bakeries

to nurses on National Nurses Day. Now, the organization is launching a second phase of Serving Up Gratitude to show appreciation for teachers.

“Serving Up Gratitude” has been so meaningful to us on multiple levels,” said board of directors Chairman and Bell Nunnally Managing Partner Chris Trowbridge. “First responders and health care professionals are the heroes of the pandemic and serving them is an honor and a duty. For our local restaurants, we are eager to be part of a ‘bridge’ to better times. At the heart of everything is service and thanksgiving. We are grateful to have made a small difference and honored to be featured by *DCEO*.”

The Thanks-Giving Foundation is supported by board members:

Chris Trowbridge (Chairman)	Jamal Gharbieh	Almas Muscatwalla
Jennifer Altabef	Amy Lewis Hofland	Jud Pankey
Jon Altschuler	Dan Jeakins	Carol Seay
Liz Cedillo-Pereira	Noah Jeppson	Joanna Singleton
John Cuellar	Robert Kent	Mark Shank
Mark Denesuk	Aasem Khalil	David Stewart
Steven Durham	Stan Levenson	Philip Todd
Ron Gafford	Jack Lowe	

About [The Thanks-Giving Foundation](#)

The Thanks-Giving Foundation operates Downtown Dallas’ Thanks-Giving Square and, through its programs, convenes citizens from diverse backgrounds to promote thanksgiving and gratitude as ways to heal divisions and enhance mutual understanding. As an advocate of interfaith dialogue, the Thanks-Giving Foundation has organized international convocations and seminars to promote understanding, harmony and friendship in a community of diverse faith traditions and cultures. Faith Forward Dallas at Thanks-Giving Square fosters and sustains this multi-faith dialogue through a broad and diverse coalition of Dallas’ faith leaders, dedicated to service, hope and a shared vision of unity and justice for the North Texas community. A longtime United Nations (U.N.) Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), the Thanks-Giving Foundation inspired the U.N. to adopt the year 2000 as the “Year of World Thanksgiving.” In 2012, the foundation received the “Spirit of the United Nations Award for Youth Outreach.”

www.thanksgiving.org



Since its inception, Thanks-Giving Square has been an aspirational expression of what Dallas could be.

Through it all, kindness, connection, equity and action have made us who we are. For the last 40+ years, it's been our mission to make Dallas a better, more grateful place, starting in our own hearts, homes and communities. **If you believe that we can all live together in virtue, then join us in this work.**

Dallas, the City of Thanks-Giving. It can't happen without you!

Engage with us at www.thanksgiving.org/engage

Support us at www.thanksgiving.org/support



Grateful to be selected as a finalist in *D CEO's* 2020 Nonprofit and Corporate Citizenship Awards