

Letter from Board Chairman  
William L. "Bill" Kirby, IV

The Harvest Foundation was founded in 2002 with the purpose of improving the quality of life for all citizens by investing in programs focused on health, education and economic development. While this still remains the core vision of The Harvest Foundation, 2020 brought about significant challenges and changes that have motivated us to refocus and reevaluate our efforts.

The COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented challenges for our entire community, and I am proud of the quick response by our partners, board members and staff. Through a multitude of projects, we have been able to help families, small businesses, and nonprofit agencies that were negatively impacted. As the pandemic moves into 2021 with us, our efforts will continue.

In addition to the challenges brought about by the pandemic, 2020 was a year of change. This year we said goodbye to our longtime President, Allyson Rothrock, and welcomed Kate Keller to step into this role. Allyson had been with The Harvest Foundation in some capacity since its inception in 2002. Her efforts were instrumental in our success, and I would like to personally thank her for her many accomplishments and years of service.

Although Allyson will be missed, I am excited to move forward with Kate at the helm. Kate brings a fresh new perspective to our community. She has already made significant contributions by promoting our equity journey and initiating a new strategic plan.

As a native of Martinsville, I have had the pleasure of witnessing the creation and evolution of The Harvest Foundation. I have no doubt that our community will continue to face challenges in 2021, and I consider it a great honor to serve as the new Board Chair and have the opportunity to continue working towards our mission.