



January 1, 2020

Ms. Susan E. Frazier
4336 Regency Ct
Jackson, MS 39211-6158

Dear Friends,

I'm excited to attach an important report, produced with The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation, titled: *A New Civic Covenant - Jackson Ready to Step Forward*.

As part of community engagement around the recent W.K. Kellogg Foundation-supported initiative for transforming Jackson Public Schools, we realized it was time to have a deeper conversation about our city, working towards solutions to our challenges and sharing responsibility for making Jackson work. We partnered with The Harwood Institute to interview 25 community leaders to learn about their aspirations and concerns for Jackson. We also convened a daylong meeting at the Two Mississippi Museums. These candid conversations provide a roadmap for how we can tackle the underlying conditions in Jackson.

As Rich Harwood writes in the report, "The only way to make progress is to move forward with greater common purpose guided and shaped by a new civic covenant."

Over the next few months, the Community Foundation for Mississippi will be mobilizing to help Jackson get on this new path. In early 2020, we will host The Harwood Institute's Public Innovators Lab to train approximately 75 community members in the practice of Turning Outward — a practice that enables communities to become a collective force for change. From this training, funded in part by the Kellogg Foundation to advance civic equity, groups of public innovators will emerge and receive ongoing coaching to drive collective action across Jackson. These efforts will recognize, celebrate and build upon the good work already taking place. We welcome your comments, your ideas for people to be part of the Public Innovators Lab, and your support for our ongoing efforts for Jackson, for good, forever.

Together, we can marshal our shared resources to create positive, lasting change in Jackson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane Alexander".

Jane Alexander
President and CEO