



INSIDER INSIGHTS

increasing your impact

In this special holiday edition, I want to share a story about community, collaboration, and the power of saying yes. Being a small part of this story of the nonprofit spirit has been a truly rewarding experience.

The video linked below will tell you what happened when the board of Fulton Montessori School, a neighborhood provider of early childhood care and education in Richmond's East End, found themselves at a crossroads, struggling to find the next leader of the school.

Like many others throughout, I said yes when Cindy, the president of the board, reached out for help. She contacted TvM because we provide interim support for nonprofits, even though she knew that this situation was very unique. With no background in early childhood education and other client commitments, I couldn't step into an interim school leadership role. However, I knew that I wanted to help the families that depended on the school and the servant leader who reached out for support during a time of uncertainty.

I honestly wasn't sure how much I could help, so I offered to provide strategic guidance to the board, at no charge, on a short-term basis. When community partners came to the table to help ensure the school stayed open, my role shifted and grew to providing operational capacity, supporting and representing the board through partner conversations and grant applications.

Each of the three funders (the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond, Robins Foundation, and City of Richmond) proactively ensured that TvM's consulting services were included in project funding - something that was both unexpected and greatly appreciated by this small business owner. Truly the greatest gift, though, is being able to say that I played a small role in ensuring that families continued to have access to a high-quality provider of full-day early childhood education and care in a high-need area of Richmond.

Please watch the [video](#) to see the power of community collaboration and saying yes. And if you're in a giving spirit this holiday season, please consider a [donation](#) to the YWCA Richmond to support The Sprout School.



Photos of Tracey with FMS board members (above) and Cindy with Sprout School leaders and the new school director (right)

