



# Community Investment Philosophy

*This Community Investment Philosophy describes how we will act on our commitment, values, and guiding principles as we work.*

## Anchoring Principles:

### **We are community-focused in all we do.**

Dogwood exists to make our region a place where all who live here can live, learn, earn and thrive. We partner with organizations and communities in Western North Carolina to close gaps, clear roadblocks, pursue opportunities, and apply imaginative ideas to advance shared well-being. We work to make the place we call home healthier, stronger, more inclusive, better educated, economically stable and more resilient today and for future generations.

### **We view equity as a means and an end for our work.**

Achieving equity requires us to address the imbalances and burdens that existing systems can produce, especially for people and communities historically left behind. Equity exists when all people have unconstrained opportunity to live lives of dignity and well-being, when the pathways and systems on which progress depends are strong and accessible, and when adverse social systems or circumstances do not predetermine a person's health and life chances.

## How We Will Work:

**One:** We will seek to understand before we act.

**Two:** We will model transparency, integrity and candor to build trust.

**Three:** We will work deeply to disrupt factors that perpetuate challenges.

**Four:** Our investments will be both responsive and catalytic.

**Five:** We will use multiple forms of philanthropic capital to advance change.

**Six:** We will be impatient...and patient.

**Seven:** We will emphasize learning and share what we learn.

**Eight:** We will seek and act on feedback to improve our performance and sharpen our strategies.

**Nine:** We will remain hopeful and diligent as we work for transformation.

[dogwoodhealthtrust.org](http://dogwoodhealthtrust.org)

