

# PAY IT FORWARD FOREVER FUND

## *Legacy Statement of Conley Brooks, Jr.*

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Far into the future, I hope that Minneapolis residents continue to express the values that our community holds dear today: Honesty, integrity, humility, industriousness, generosity. As Midwesterners, we often take these values for granted, but it's important to remember that we live in a special place. My family and I owe a lot to the people who built this city, and I feel a strong sense of responsibility to pay this legacy forward.

When I think about what Minneapolis might be like in 50 or 100 years, my hopes boil down to three themes: First, I hope we find new and better ways to ensure that everyone who lives here has real, equitable opportunities to thrive. I hope we become more readily inclusive, and that we welcome newcomers and help them acquire the tools and skills to participate fully in our community.

Second, I hope that Minneapolis continues to support its legacy institutions, which form the bedrock of our community. Historically, one of the Twin Cities' strengths has been its cohesiveness, and I hope that, even as our community grows and becomes more diverse, future generations will keep the connections strong between our businesses, nonprofit institutions, and cultural resources.

Third, I hope that, even as we look to the future, we do not forget our past, and that Minneapolis works to preserve and honor its history, its culture, and its natural and built environments.

Fifty years from now, my family will have lived in Minnesota for 200 years. I would love to think that my grandchildren and their children will still be part of this community, and that they will find meaningful ways to participate in the community and contribute to the wellbeing of their friends and neighbors. I don't know which community organizations will benefit from the grants made from the Pay It Forward FOREVER Fund, or which needs those grants will address—and that's as it should be. I trust that future generations, including my descendants, will make thoughtful, informed decisions about how best to spark positive change in the Minneapolis of tomorrow.

