

\$100K for 100

Cummings Foundation

Remarks by Joyce Cummings

\$100K for 100 Grant Winner Celebration

June 8, 2017



Remember – tonight is not about Bill and Joyce – it’s about you! Without you and hundreds of other not-for-profit entities, we could not do much. You work in the food pantries to feed the hungry, tutor students of all ages to assure a good education, run afterschool programs for youth to help them grow socially and emotionally, teach skills so people can join the work force, minister to the sick. You do the work – we simply help you financially so you can continue to function and, in many cases, to expand programming.

The word “ubuntu” originates from one of the Bantu dialects of Africa. It is a traditional African philosophy that offers us an understanding of ourselves in relation with the world. According to ubuntu, there exists a common bond between us all and it is through this bond, through our interaction with our fellow human beings, that we discover our own human qualities. Archbishop Desmond Tutu has stated that we can be human only in relationship, that a person is a person only through other persons.

I was part of a discussion group recently and we pondered whether people such as ourselves really understood that concept or was it primarily part of the African culture. Well, I can tell you – all of you here, no matter your country of origin, your race, your sex, your sexual orientation, your educational level, your, dare I say it, your politics –yes, I dared to say it – all of you practice the philosophy of ubuntu.

I can say the same about the many volunteers who spent hours reading applications and using their expertise to select the final 100. It is not an easy task. They, too, understand the importance of personal relationships and what it means to be fully human and they cannot be thanked enough.

Leonardo Da Vinci wrote, "I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough. We must apply. Being willing is not enough. We must do."

You are here tonight because you are doing, you are applying, you have a sense of urgency and each of you and the organizations you represent has a sense of urgency in your community. Cummings Foundation also has a sense of urgency, and we are just happy we can help your programs grow and continue to blossom.

I'm sure many of you have heard Gloria Steinem's words: "It is far more rewarding to watch money change the world than to watch it accumulate." Thank you for doing the work so Cummings Foundation can help change the world.

It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving. You, the spirit of Ubuntu, put a great deal of love into your giving.

BE PROUD, and congratulations.

