Ten years ago, my parents established The Mike & Mary Terry Family Foundation. They had a serious mindset as we started out – educating ourselves on how foundations work, the best guidelines for our foundation, and where we wanted to focus our giving.

The Mike & Mary Terry Family Foundation was created as our parents' legacy, a driving force to do good in our community, and an opportunity for our entire family to put into practice the lessons we were taught and have lived.

To whom much is given, much is expected.

Every child has a right to a great education.

We must love and protect our city's homeless men, women and children.

Our intent was to focus on the areas where our Foundation could make the most impact. Our hearts wanted to help those who needed the most help, who found themselves in circumstances beyond their control and often beyond hope.

The family agreed our vision was to eliminate barriers for the most vulnerable in our community. Specifically, we would work to improve the quality of life for North Texas residents in need by providing equal opportunities for all children, advancing youth through education, and ensuring a haven for those in need.

How quickly 10 years has flown by. The most vulnerable are still among us, and there are still barriers for so many of our neighbors to a life-changing education. But we are not discouraged. We help eliminate barriers every day and continue to do so with the organizations and programs we support. But we have learned much as well.

We have opened our hearts to the pain around us. We have learned what is helping and what is hindering. We have seen the difference between providing a meal and providing a path. We give a check, but we have held onto the people and seen ourselves in their eyes.

As a family, I believe we have grown stronger, wiser, and more compassionate. Our Foundation is not a duty because of what we have, it is a calling to bless others as we have been blessed. We are loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Today, I am confident in the leadership and administration of our Foundation by Allison and Christina. They have followed Mike and Mary's example and delve into deeper matters – the stability and effectiveness of the organizations we fund; the true barriers behind the issues; and what is a band-aid versus what could possibly be a true solution.

As the former Executive Director and current President of the Board, I think these past 10 years have readied our Foundation for an even more impactful future. As we continue to help the most vulnerable in our community, we can say with confidence that we are faithfully dedicated to changing lives. And I know that with each grant and each connection we make, we are changing our own lives as well.

Melissa Terry Pridmore
Board President