

The Peninsula Community Foundation

AWARDS GRANT TO GLOBAL MINDS UNITED

GMU will partner with Hough High School to build a community of compassionate global citizens.

By Erin Papakostas



Peninsula Community Foundation: From left to right: Darcy Frahm, Dr. Rosenbauch, principal, Hough High, Ridgely Chapman, GMU founder and CEO, Mary Jones, Peninsula Community Foundation board member, Vince Altamura, Peninsula Community Foundation board member. Photo credit: Camille Hughes.

2020 was a tumultuous year, a year when Americans reckoned with topics of racial injustice and political discord.

Ridgely Chapman is a psychoanalytic developmental psychologist who works with the Harvard Graduate School of Education Think Tank on Global Education. She gained recognition in the community through her work as executive director of Solace for the Children and in 2019 became the president/CEO/founder of a nonprofit called Global Minds United. Ridgely Chapman sought to create a program designed to help individuals create change on a larger scale by first understanding their own biases and prejudices.

The Peninsula Community Foundation awarded Global Minds United a year-long grant to work with Hough High School. The Peninsula Community Foundation strives to

build long-lasting relationships with the organizations that they support and looks forward to seeing what GMU accomplishes with the grant, hoping to continue the partnership in future years.

Ridgely recognized the urgency in developing a program like Global Minds United (GMU) when she was traveling around the U.S. as a guest speaker on the topic of innovation and peace-building between 2015 and 2019. "What I was seeing and hearing was a polarization of individuals within the United States, an erosion of empathy, and an inability to dialogue differences," Ridgely commented.

Creating change can seem overwhelming, but Ridgely hopes to show individuals how to make change within their own communities instead of remaining complicit. That is what GMU strives to teach; their mission, Ridgely revealed, is to build a community of competent, compassionate, and active global citizens.

The program is trifold, offering training, professional development, and consulting for global diversity and inclusion. There are six GMU training

modules: implicit bias and diversity, building identities, human rights, dialoguing differences, conflict resolution and peace-building, and finally, implementing change. In addition to these modules, GMU offers consulting to help schools and businesses build diversity and inclusion committees and a think-act program for students, providing them with the opportunity to turn their passion into action.

Last year, GMU worked with Davidson Day School to implement implicit bias and global education training. Global Minds United has since received two new partnerships with William A. Hough High and Carolina Independence Soccer Club to carry their message to young minds. "I think it's really important to note that with Global Minds United, we are not a check-the-box solution," Ridgely said. "The importance of Global Minds United is that it's

extended out over a period of time because to make change, you really have to take it slowly." The GMU program is coordinated over a two-year period.

Vince Altamura, Peninsula resident and board member of Peninsula Community Foundation, said, "The events of the last year made our organization, the Peninsula Community Foundation, look to partner with organizations like Global Minds... The events over the last year put the lens of racial issues and talking through differences and those kinds of issues more in the forefront."

Along with the topic of race relations, Global Minds United also tackles comparative religion, political preference, and gender equality. In a letter to the parents of Hough High, principal Dr. Laura Rosenbach wrote: "Over the next two years [Global Minds United] will work with staff, students, and parents to address the root cause of actions based on implicit bias and bridge an understanding between what we feel, subsequently think, and how we act in response. We will provide our expertise and explore how to cultivate permanent change in an individual through an open, constructive, and fact-based dialogue."

Ridgely hopes that Global Minds United's partnership with Hough will demonstrate the benefits of



Hough High Global Minds United Initiative: Training and consulting for teachers, admin, students, and parents at Hough High School. Photo credit: Camille Hughes.



GMU training team: From left to right: Kristen Enwright, Dawne Kakitsis, Ridgely Chapman, and Tara Jaketic. Photo credit: Camille Hughes.

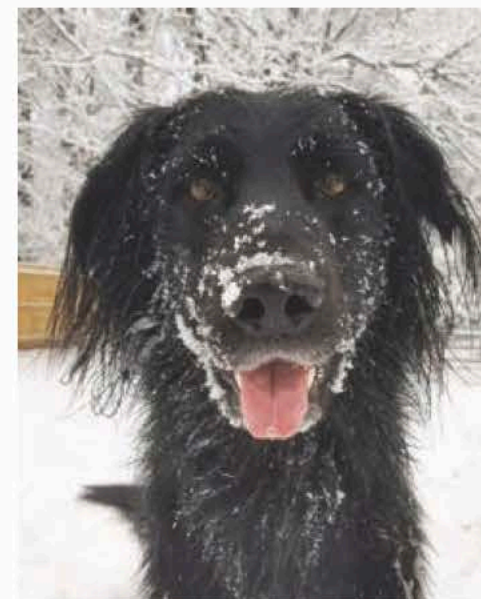
GMU to other organizations who are looking to make changes in their communities. She commented, "Our partnership with Peninsula Community Foundation and Hough is really a moment of us being trailblazers...I think that what we're doing is really




Ridgely Chapman, founder and CEO of Global Minds United. Photo credit: Camille Hughes.

at the forefront because our society is at a tipping point."

For more information about Global Minds United, please visit <https://globalmindsunited.org/> or email info@globalmindsunited.org.



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