

Meet Chris McLeod



Two words describe long-time WIF member Chris McLeod: courage and commitment.

Chris is a well-regarded professional in Charlotte's philanthropic community. She co-founded the Institute for Philanthropic Leadership, which trains nonprofit leaders, and worked at the Foundation for the Carolinas. In 2012, she embraced the ambiguity of having no "long-term plan" by starting her own business, Giving Matters, Inc. Chris advises individuals, families, foundations and companies that want their charitable giving to make a meaningful difference.

One small story helps illustrate Chris's commitment. Last winter, she awoke to find that someone had broken into her car, smashing a window. Rather than missing a breakfast meeting where she was to speak, Chris drove her window-less car from Dilworth to Huntersville in 28-degree weather. While the car was repaired, she found unexpected pleasure driving the only rental available: a large, black Dodge Ram 1500 Truck. Chris says piloting that truck not only made her feel more confident but also helped her understand the "guys and their trucks" thing.

Chris is joined our organization 10 years ago when WIF was in its infancy. She promptly volunteered for two committees, Grants and Education, and now serves as Development Chair.

Do you have a favorite quote?

"Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently." -- Maya Angelou

When or where do you get your best ideas?

On early morning walks. Or while sitting on my meditation cushion. Or when first I wake up from a nap.

Describe a perfect Sunday.

A well-read man with high emotional intelligence would make me breakfast (still waiting!) and then would read aloud to me the most interesting New York Times editorialI'd go to my yoga class and meet a friend for lunch. Then I would spend two hours writing, followed by a long walk. Early supper. In bed early to read a good book.

Where have you never traveled but would love to visit?

New Zealand

What would you like people to know about WIF?

This is an amazing learning community where you can vary your level of commitment and involvement on annual basis. If you just want to write a check and come to one or two events, that's great. If you want to become really involved, we'll help you learn everything you need to know.

In your view, what are the strengths of collective giving?

Thorough research and accelerated learning.