

## **Laura Ginther**

It was a WIN for Wilmington when Laura Ginther and her husband decided to migrate to a warmer climate from Hartford CT in 2018. An early connection to Isabella Hinds introduced Laura to the concept of collective giving and to WIN. She has recently been deeply ensconced on our Grants Committee, evaluating the LOIs.

There's one word that pervades Laura's life, her work, and her passion as a volunteer: courage. It's the mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, and difficulty.

Laura graduated from Purdue University, completed a masters program at the University of Alabama, and worked briefly in WI before continuing her education at the University of Hartford, earning a doctorate in clinical psychology. At Laura's private practice in Wilmington, a poster defining the word courage hangs on her office wall, inspiring her patients to tackle their personal challenges.

Books by authors sharing personal accounts of courage sit on Laura's nightstand: Just Mercy written by the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, Bryan Stevenson; Michelle Obama's book Becoming, and Alexander Vindman's memoir, Here, Right Matters.

In addition to WIN, the Community Remembrance Project absorbs many of Laura's volunteer hours. She actively participated in the Community Soil Collection project, conceived and directed by the Montgomery, Alabama Equal Justice Initiative. The Legacy Museum in

Montgomery exhibits these soil samples from lynching sites by county. An objective of the associated National Memorial for Peace & Justice -- for each county involved in soil collection (including New Hanover) -- is to establish a local memorial to the lynching victims. Laura's continuing commitment includes promoting the Racial Justice Essay Contest for local students in grades 9-12 which challenges students to reflect and write about an historical event connecting it to a present-day issue.

Thank you, Laura, for joining WIN and for contributing so much already on the Grants Committee!