

**Sterling-Turner Foundation**

Financial Statements – Modified Cash Basis  
and Independent Auditors' Report  
for the year ended December 31, 2015

## Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Trustees of  
Sterling-Turner Foundation:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Sterling-Turner Foundation, which comprise the statement of assets and net assets – modified cash basis as of December 31, 2015 and the related statements of revenue and expenses – modified cash basis and of cash flows – modified cash basis for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1; this includes determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management also is responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the assets and net assets of Sterling-Turner Foundation as of December 31, 2015 and its revenue, expenses and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting.

### **Basis of Accounting**

As described in Note 1, these financial statements are prepared using the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

### **Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. Supplementary information in the schedule of grants and commitments paid during the year ended December 31, 2015 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

*Blazek & Vetterling*

March 29, 2017

## Sterling-Turner Foundation

Statement of Assets and Net Assets – Modified Cash Basis as of December 31, 2015

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### ASSETS

Cash	\$ 132,154
Investments, at cost ( <i>Note 2</i> ):	
Equity securities – common stock	3,981,983
Money market mutual funds	322,294
Prepaid excise taxes and other assets	<u>34,528</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 4,470,959</u></b>

### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted net assets	<u>\$ 4,470,959</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 4,470,959</u></b>

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*

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## Sterling-Turner Foundation

### Statement of Revenue and Expenses – Modified Cash Basis for the year ended December 31, 2015

#### REVENUE:

Interest and dividends	\$ 1,952,684
Realized gain on sale of investments	<u>1,903,362</u>
Total revenue	<u>3,856,046</u>

#### EXPENSES:

Grants and commitments paid	3,312,000
Salaries and related costs	96,615
Federal excise tax ( <i>Note 3</i> )	73,050
Investment custodial and management fees	48,530
Other professional fees	41,498
Office rent	25,326
Other	<u>14,886</u>
Total expenses	<u>3,611,905</u>

CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS 244,141

Unrestricted net assets, beginning of year 4,226,818

Unrestricted net assets, end of year \$ 4,470,959

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*

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## Sterling-Turner Foundation

### Statement of Cash Flows – Modified Cash Basis for the year ended December 31, 2015

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#### CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Changes in unrestricted net assets	\$ 244,141
Adjustments to reconcile changes in unrestricted net assets to net cash used by operating activities:	
Realized gain on sale of investments	(1,903,362)
Changes in prepaid excise taxes and other assets	<u>16,337</u>
Net cash used by operating activities	<u>(1,642,884)</u>

#### CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Proceeds from sales of investments	1,979,772
Cost of investment purchases	(239,479)
Net change in money market mutual funds held as investments	<u>(47,170)</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>1,693,123</u>

NET CHANGE IN CASH 50,239

Cash, beginning of year 81,915

Cash, end of year \$ 132,154

#### *Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:*

Federal excise tax paid \$56,353

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*

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## **Sterling-Turner Foundation**

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2015

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### **NOTE 1 – ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Organization – Sterling-Turner Foundation (the Foundation) was established in 1960 by Isla Carroll Sterling-Turner for the purpose of supporting charities in Harris County, Texas. In 1982, the geographic support area was expanded to the entire State of Texas at the discretion of the Board of Trustees (the Board). Since 2003, the Board has limited funding to charities in the following five Texas counties: Tom Green, Kerr, Travis, Fort Bend and Harris.

Basis of presentation – The accompanying financial statements are presented in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting. This method of accounting differs from generally accepted accounting principles primarily in that revenue is recognized when received rather than when earned and expenses are recognized when paid rather than when incurred. The Foundation recognizes an asset or liability for federal excise tax in the tax year that it arises.

Federal income tax status – The Foundation is exempt from federal income tax under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code) and is classified as a private foundation. As a private foundation, the Foundation is subject to federal excise tax on net investment income as defined by federal tax laws.

Investments are reported at cost. Realized gains and losses on sales of investments are computed using the first-in, first-out method.

Net asset classification – Revenue and the related net assets are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Unrestricted net assets include those net assets whose use is not restricted by donor-imposed stipulations even though their use may be limited in other respects such as by contract or board designation. All of the Foundation's net assets are unrestricted in that they are available to support the broad purpose of the Foundation.

Grants and commitments are recognized as expenses when paid by the Foundation. At December 31, 2015, the Foundation had unpaid grant commitments totaling approximately \$4.7 million.

Functional expenses – The expenses of the Foundation are summarized on a natural basis in the statement of revenue and expenses – modified cash basis. The Foundation estimates that approximately 94% of expenses relate to the grant program and 6% relate to management and general activities.

### **NOTE 2 – INVESTMENTS**

Investments in common stock had a fair value of \$52,553,047 valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded. Two of the Foundation's thirteen holdings comprise 87% of the total fair value of common stock.

Investments are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Because of these risks, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the fair value of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the fair value amounts in this disclosure.

### NOTE 3 – FEDERAL EXCISE TAX

The Code imposes an excise tax on private foundations equal to 2% of net investment income (principally interest, dividends, and net realized capital gains, less expenses incurred in the production of investment income). This tax is reduced to 1% for private foundations that meet certain distribution requirements. In 2015, the Foundation computed its provision for federal excise tax at the rate of 1%.

The Foundation's federal excise tax expense activity for the year ended December 31, 2015 is as follows:

Federal excise tax applicable to 2015	\$ 37,882
Federal excise tax adjustments for 2012 through 2014	<u>35,168</u>
Total federal excise tax expense	<u>\$ 73,050</u>

Internal Revenue Code §4942 requires that the Foundation annually make qualifying charitable distributions of approximately 5% of the fair value of noncharitable assets during the prior year reduced by acquisition indebtedness, if any, with respect to such assets. Such qualifying distributions must be made by the end of the succeeding taxable year in order to avoid the imposition of a 30% federal excise tax on any undistributed income. The Foundation is currently in compliance with these provisions and is not subject to this federal excise tax on undistributed income.

The Foundation believes that it has appropriate support for the federal excise tax positions taken and, as such, does not have any uncertain tax positions that could result in a material impact on the Foundation's financial statements.

### NOTE 4 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through March 29, 2017, which is the date that the financial statements were available for issuance. As a result of this evaluation, no events were identified that are required to be disclosed or would have a material impact on reported net assets or changes in net assets.

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## Sterling-Turner Foundation

Schedule of grants and commitments paid during the year ended December 31, 2015

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<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
<u>Commitments:</u>	
Annunciation Orthodox School	\$ 100,000
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo	18,000
Houston Parks Board	50,000
Kinkaid School, Inc.	100,000
MATCH	50,000
Museum of Fine Arts	200,000
St. Thomas High School	240,000
Stages, Inc.	200,000
Texas Children's Hospital	375,000
University of Houston	500,000
Texas Education Works (Western Academy)	100,000
<u>Grants:</u>	
Alley Theatre	35,000
Austin Smiles	30,000
BCFS Health and Human Services	30,000
Big Brother Big Sisters	15,000
Bridges to Life	10,000
Buffalo Bayou Partnership	15,000
Buffalo Soldiers National Museum	10,000
CanCare of Houston	25,000
Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos	30,000
Center for Hearing and Speech	25,000
Child Advocates	17,000
Children's Museum of Houston	25,000
Chinquapin Preparatory School	25,000
Concordia Lutheran Church	35,000
Crime Stoppers of Houston	10,000
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (Houston)	15,000
Clayton Dabney (Houston)	50,000
Discovery Green Conservancy	25,000
Epilepsy Foundation	10,000
Zina Garrison All Court Tennis Academy	15,000
Hill Country Arts Foundation	25,000
Hill Country CASA	25,000
Hill Country Youth Ranch	50,000
HITS Theatre	5,000
Houston Arboretum and Nature Center	10,000

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## Sterling-Turner Foundation

Schedule of grants and commitments paid during the year ended December 31, 2015

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<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Houston Ballet	35,000
Houston Center for Literacy	20,000
Houston Grand Opera	35,000
Houston Museum of Natural Science	35,000
Houston Symphony	35,000
Houston Zoo	35,000
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, UT at Austin	5,000
Kids' Meals Inc.	15,000
Lord of the Streets	15,000
Neighborhood Centers	10,000
Open Door Mission	15,000
Pathways for Little Feet	10,000
Periwinkle Foundation	10,000
Rise School of Houston	10,000
St. Agnes Academy	17,000
St. Luke's Center for Counseling	10,000
St. Thomas High School	15,000
Salvation Army	15,000
San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts	100,000
Schreiner University	30,000
Seal Legacy Foundation	25,000
Sire	10,000
Small Steps Nurturing Center	25,000
Spaulding for Children	10,000
Star of Hope	15,000
Strake Jesuit College Preparatory	50,000
Summerhouse, The	25,000
Taping for the Blind (Sight into Sound)	10,000
Texas Parks and Wildlife	10,000
Women's Home	50,000
Woods Project	20,000
Workshop Houston	75,000
YMCA of Greater Houston	15,000
Total grants and commitments paid	<u>\$ 3,312,000</u>