

## Quotes

0:42 - I served as an adviser on the Gulf Coast fund. I was recruited by some other people in the area to participate in that. And so I served anywhere from 2 to 3 years at the time. And it was the first time That I had done any philanthropy work, so it was really exciting.

1:32- 1:52: I was recommended by some other community leaders within the region who told me about the work that was being done around recovery after Hurricane Katrina here in the Gulf Coast region. So as an advisor we helped to manage the funds that has been put in through the Rockefeller Foundation as this special project.

1:53: We vetted potential organizations. We were also able to recommend organizations who we thought we're doing good work on the ground, that we already knew about. I was responsible for speaking on behalf of the funds whenever it was necessary. I also reviewed the grant applications and made recommendations on which applications should be funded; which ones maybe good to consider at another time, maybe have them to resubmit.

2:47- 3:35: So for the Gulf Coast fund it was organic. I mentioned that this was the first time that I had actually worked from the place of being a philanthropist and being able to help bring resources into the community and so when I met the fellow advisor, met representatives from the Rockefeller foundation and partnering groups and funders from within the region and outside the region as well. It was really unique. It's an experience I can say that I haven't had since. It was the first. And I think since that time I haven't seen anything of that scale of effort put into the gulf coast region to help with recovery and restoration and future building efforts for the area.

3:36 - And so, what was really different and unique about the Gulf Coast Fund, as I met my fellow advisors, is that it was people just like me. We were grassroots leaders who had been doing work in the community pre-Katrina as well as post-Katrina and even until today.

**4:05-4:34: When you are dealing with national funders sometimes you feel like there's a them and a us, but here it felt more like a we. Everybody was kind of coming from the same place even though we had various backgrounds, we did various bodies of work. It was the connectivity from us being from the Gulf South and some shared experiences that we had in the area.**

**4:50 -5:37: When you have national funders that come in, a lot of times it is not anyone who is from the area. We were a group of advisors who were in recovery ourselves. It wasn't just that the people we were serving were in recovery, but we were in recovery, so we had been directly impacted by the disaster. And so we had a unique understanding of what was happening in the region. We had suffered the trauma much like those organizations that would have been looking to us for help. We understood the trauma of the disaster because we were experiencing it ourselves.**

5:38: We built leaders. This is what I could see from the time of the Gulf Coast fund as an advisor. They were people I can remember meeting that had never been in a place of leadership, but they were thrust into that place. And what I saw from my tenure there was how those individuals were able to grow. And sometimes I run into those individuals now who are still in the work; still doing the work of the community.

**6:28: It just had a real grassroots synergy kind of organic feel that I had not seen when were talking about dealing with funders in philanthropy work.**

**7:38 - 8:05: When you have local involvement from communities. People who look like the folks that have been impacted or people who are from the area and understand the layout of the communities and the landscape, it really does make a difference. Especially the more rural the area, the more reluctance people from the South are when you see a bum-rush of people coming in....**

10:13: I think we had a lasting impact on people - the ability to go into small areas where people had been doing work the best that they knew how...

11:10: The Gulf Coast Funds help to bring about a sense of assuredness.

11:59: The money was good, but I think those relationships that were built were some of the greatest achievements.

**13:07: We were not only looking at the immediate disaster, but we were looking at environmental issues, health issues, looking at issues of injustice. So when I thought about philanthropy I had never seen it done in that way.**

