



Making a Difference, One Person at a Time

Young professionals establish foundations close to their hearts.

By Maraline Kubik

Many young professionals aim to change the world. Three of this year's 40 Under 40 honorees are not only changing the world – one person and one family at a time – but also have created foundations to ensure the changes they've spearheaded continue to build momentum.

For Eric Wolford and his wife, Melinda, it was their son, Stone, who inspired them to establish the No Stone Unturned Foundation.

The Wolfords' foundation provides support to families who have a child with special needs as well as community organizations that serve children and their families.

Stone, Melinda Wolford explains, was born with a rare genetic disorder – cardio-faciocutaneous syndrome or CFC. It affects his heart, vision and skin. It also prevents him from eating solid food – the 4-year-old obtains most of his nutrition from a 4-ounce

bottle, his mother says.

Because only 350 children in the world have the disorder, most physicians are unfamiliar with it, Wolford continues. As a result, it took more than two years and 40 doctors before Stone was accurately diagnosed. "Every time I would take him to a doctor for one concern, I left that doctor's office with more," she says.

In a "mom's letter" published on the foundation's Web site, she writes, "Realizing that something is 'wrong' with your baby is traumatic. Finding out week after week that there are more medical issues can be paralyzing. I was looking for answers and running into brick wall after brick wall."

Through that experience Wolford says she and her husband learned a lot. They also recognized that other families were enduring similar situations and, like them, had nowhere to turn.

"We wanted to find ways to support families," she says, whether that be identifying services in their communities or schools that can help, or by providing financial resources to families who have children with

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