

Dear Darin,

In a world where it seems hopeless to think my contribution might make any difference at all, it is indeed a wonderful thing to find Common Change. I have learned over the years to look for ways my contribution can be leveraged into something far greater than it would otherwise be. I have learned to look for ways my contribution becomes a seed that yields fruit far beyond its original purpose. This is Common Change.

It has been several years now since I invited a few friends to form a Common Change group. They are mostly younger than myself and had only experienced philanthropy in a “put your money in the basket every week and be sure to give to United Way at work” sort of way. This was their first encounter with giving directly, in relationship, in recognizing and celebrating our mutual humanity and need. The change in their outlook did not happen overnight. But over time as this little group was able to help an elderly couple fighting cancer, children without a bed to sleep in, a grieving mother, and a friend who’d lost her job, they began to see the world with new eyes. They began to see and respond to the needs they encountered every single day in the lives of those around them. Common Change has transformed and empowered our giving.

So thank you, for meeting with me that day long ago. Thank you for involving me in this great adventure. Thank you for helping me change lives. Oh, and that friend who lost her job? She’s now part of our Common Change group and is actively “paying forward” the kindness she received. Yes. Exactly.

Gayle Evers

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gayle Evers".

Austin, Texas