



**00:00 Jennifer:** Jennifer Stanley, I live in Oxford, Maryland. So, in 1981, my late husband and I, Ted Stanley, moved to Oxford, Maryland from New York City, and he started a foundation, the Town Creek Foundation, 1981, and his offices were in... The office was in Oxford. It was very exciting to see the environmental movement was really moving ahead at quite a pace. And at the same time, the government, people who had control of the government, were more conservative. So, there was a push and pull about the conservation effort. But anyway, the young people in the conservation movement, environmental movement, were just exciting and full of ideas, energy, and commitment. My late husband was very, very firm about the idea that he started the foundation to spend what he had earned in his lifetime. So, he died and the foundation was continuing, but I was head of it and I thought it would be best to honor his original wishes, plus the foundation, the principal, was getting smaller and smaller because we were making larger and larger grants. It wasn't the idea that we would go on for perpetuity. That wasn't his idea, and it wasn't my belief either.

**01:35:** I guess, one thing that I would advise is to really assess the area or the concerns you have, as to what is the best way to attack or address those issues. And I think, often, a lot of family foundations, which we were, in essence, a family foundation, only we were not... It wasn't his children brought in to be on the board, to continue the family, the idea of the family foundation. It's not just about giving. It is do you want something to happen, and how do you make something happen? Just giving money doesn't make it necessarily happen. You have to think about, and maybe inquire, or bring people together to figure out how do we make something happen effectively. Yes, yeah. Do you want to be effective? I've watched a lot of family foundations. It was all about, "Oh, we're learning to be giving money," but there's more to it.

**02:40:** One way to avoid the conflicts, and I listen to other family foundations, is that when you bring in family members that probably... With the idea that they're gonna be giving money away, that did generate conflict because everybody had their own idea. But we just had a board made up of a diverse group of people, and there was more meeting of the minds. We didn't have conflict. And we had an executive director and they had a staff, so we stepped away, they did the work, and then would present us with what they thought should work.

**03:17:** Well, I think you do, if you think about it because if your staff or your executive director are not going in the direction you want, I think you do wanna maintain some input. And we had a... We always had really... We had two executive directors over our lifetime and they were wonderful, so conflicts were not an issue with us.

**03:44:** Well, I think certainly if we just take the concern of the environment, you have to be willing to be open to learning what is important or what is happening, and what are the solutions, or what... And you're gonna be willing to make... I mean, some of it's gonna be hypothetical. You're hoping it will work, but we really don't know. We're in... The same with climate change. Where it's... We think this will work and we know some things will work, but some of it isn't gonna be cut and dry. So, you have to be, one, willing to listen and learn, two, you have to be willing to take chances. One of the things the environmental community learned late, diversity. And they have to be really... The community, it isn't just people who liked nature. You had to really bring other



people in who... 'Cause everyone is really dependent on nature and everybody is really part of the environment, so it's not just about science. There is more to it, the environment, and what makes it work for everyone.

**04:58:** My observation is that your observations are right on. So, we have had environmental education. It's happening. I think it's sad that we have, right now, we're experiencing worldwide, a lot of leaders who are trying to push back the advances that environmentalists and scientists have made. It is discouraging. So, I think you're proving that education is important, and I do have hopefulness because of that. But now, let me just also say that just because you live in the city, doesn't mean the environment isn't important, and probably more important because cities have kind of grown up topsy turvy and sometimes you don't make... The city planners don't make enough allowances for making sure that every community within the city has access to green and good water, good play areas, good... Yeah, resources.

**05:58:** You asked me if we wanted to do... Conduct this interview at the reservoir 'cause it's really beautiful and you can get out there and hike. Being in nature opens you up to things. As you said, you slow down. You kind of... You can smell. You can see. You can feel. It's very important. Ted believed, this is the founder of Town Creek Foundation, believed strongly in advocacy. And he was... He'd come from the business world, and I often, I observed him. I was a lot... Quite a bit younger. I observed him very differently in his corporate... In the corporate... He was very different than the other people I watched in the corporate world, and he was not afraid to speak up. And in his giving, he felt the same way. He did not shy away from being an advocate and wanting environmental organizations or other organizations to be strong advocates for what they believed was right. So, when we're watching this today, I mean, the press is under constant... They're corrupt. They're blah, blah, blah. But you have to stand strong, because that's what people who don't want to see things change or they don't want you to be... If they don't agree with what you're doing, you have to be super strong.

**07:22:** I think we're seeing leadership in places where we haven't seen it. And where unfortunately, the people with the power, the power of the purse, their leadership is either non-existent or that it's behind the scenes. They're not... They're acting very surreptitiously and they're not out front, and we don't know who's pulling the strings, and yeah. We want... So anyway, I do see young people, some being very brave, organizations that are leading. Listen, those young people in Hong Kong deserve all of us, all of our observation and hearts. They are standing strong, and today their... Some of their parents are standing with them. Very important. Youth movements were dispensable. And if we watched worldwide... I was in Chile, they killed the Chilean protesters in the '70s. They killed them. What did they do in Egypt? But if the parents are there, I think that is... So, we need adults to stand with young people.

**08:37:** I think the young people also have the will, and the older people... I mean, obviously, there's always some exceptions, but I think the older people are more inclined to say, "Well, let them do it." They can't. We have to stand with the young people, and then I think we can... They won't kill. Very frightening.