

### ***Book Summary***

## **The Bravewell Story: How a Small Community of Philanthropists Made a Big Difference in Healthcare**

Every once in a while the right people come together at the right time to do the right thing – and the world shifts.

In *The Bravewell Story: How a Small Community of Philanthropists Made a Big Difference in Healthcare*, Bonnie Horrigan, author and former executive director of The Bravewell Collaborative, traces the work of this unusual alliance through its 14-year history as a case study in effective, meaningful and strategic giving. In 2002, The Bravewell Collaborative began with the idea that what was needed was a vehicle to inspire systemic change in our health care system – to return medicine to its soul and the healthcare system to the mission of caring for people, not just managing diseases.

The passion to achieve this goal came to unite more than 20 leading philanthropists and foundations to take collective action to address healthcare in the United States. While leveraging their combined resources to affect change, this group helped to define the art of collaborative philanthropy and establish a playbook for a new model of giving. Led by Penny George (George Family Foundation), Christy Mack (Christy and John Mack Foundation), and others, Bravewell was funder-driven, with all members participating in the decision-making process.

Bravewell members' shared commitment to the vision guided their efforts and the principles they chose to embrace. Together they funded initiatives that supported broad systemic change, such as the Bravewell Clinical Network, the Leadership Program in Integrative Healthcare, and the Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine and Health.

Having accomplished its mission, Bravewell chose to sunset in 2015. By then, it had left its mark on medicine as well as leaving a legacy that will continue to bolster the adoption of integrative principles and strategies throughout the nation's healthcare system.