



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM

CYCLE 1 Grants Awarded in May 2016

RESULT: Children are successful along the education pipeline

Increase high quality early learning opportunities for birth to eight-year olds:

- **Better Basics**, \$60,000 over two years to provide Reading Intervention to 96 first- through third-grade students in Birmingham. The grant will also support an innovative pilot matching student teachers with struggling readers after school. The project is focused on improving third-grade reading levels, a critical indicator of future academic success.
- **The ARC of Jefferson County**, \$20,000 to create an Early Intervention Resource Center. The center will provide a comprehensive collection of therapy materials and tools for the children and families served through the Hope Early Intervention program.

Increase number of career- and college-ready high school graduates:

- **Birmingham Education Foundation**, \$50,000 to build on the success of a pilot ACT preparation program at Ramsay High School by expanding the program to seven hundred students in the Birmingham School System.
- **Blount County Education Foundation**, \$125,000 to expand virtual learning for more than 2,500 students in Blount County through the Blount County Virtual Career Academy. The program will provide a wider range of career options and credentialing opportunities for students.
- **Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama**, \$40,000 to implement a comprehensive college readiness program for Latino youth and parents.
- **Oneonta Foundation for Educational Resources**, \$40,000 to purchase personal learning technology for high school students and provide online access to ACT preparatory programs.
- **Shelby County Student Leadership**, \$5,000 to provide a year-long curriculum for students that participate in a high-school leadership conference. The program will focus on college- and career-ready skills such as communication, organization, budgeting and implement a project design.
- **Spring Valley School Foundation**, \$50,000 to support the purchase of a new facility for the school. Spring Valley School is an independent, nonsectarian school for students in grades 2 – 12 who struggle with dyslexia, ADHD and other learning differences.

RESULT: People can lead healthy lives

Improve nutrition and healthy food access and increase opportunities for physical activity through grants to the following organizations:

- **Backyard Blessings**, \$15,000 to increase the reach of their Friday backpack food program to reach at risk children in two additional schools in Walker County. Each child will receive a pack of five meals for 32 weekends a year.

- **Christian Service Mission**, \$25,000 to expand their sustainable community agricultural projects for alleviating food insecurity with aquaponics and hydroponics gardening.
- **Community Food Bank of Central Alabama**, \$28,000 to expand the School Pantry Program to Blount and St. Clair counties. The program works to alleviate child hunger by providing nutritious food to children and their families in convenient, safe and familiar locations.
- **Grace Klein Community, Inc.**, \$20,000 to improve access to healthy food options by providing additional fruits and vegetables, increasing storage capacity for frozen foods and providing more transportation for deliveries to new and existing clients.
- **P.E.E.R., Inc.**, \$20,000 to increase healthy food access for seniors in Eastern Birmingham, addressing nutrition needs identified by the AdvantAge survey. PEER will reach out to help seniors enroll in SNAP, provide incentive for healthy produce at its East Lake Farmers Market and offer discounted, healthy meals at its Downstairs Diner.
- **The Community Kitchens of Birmingham**, \$15,000 to purchase a cargo van that will be used to transport food and supplies from vendors and donors to their kitchens. The van will also be used to transport food to their clients.

Improve access to care for vulnerable populations through grants to the following organizations:

- **Alzheimer's of Central Alabama**, \$30,000 to expand therapeutically based activities and staff training for adult day care centers in Jefferson County, with a goal of improving quality and more fully engaging participants.
- **Arise Citizens' Policy Project**, \$40,000 to provide support, education and technical assistance to community advocates and consumer representatives involved in the state's transition to Medicaid Regional Care Organizations.
- **Blount County Children's Center**, \$6,000 to support community meetings with Hispanic adults and teens to raise awareness of issues and preventive measures relating to child abuse and domestic violence.
- **Cahaba Valley Health Care**, \$22,800 to support the relocation of their administrative offices and dental clinics to expanded space within Cooper Green. This move will allow for more cost effective care, as well as increase the agency's dental clinic patient volume by 30%.
- **Capstone Rural Health Center**, \$100,000 to support the construction of a new permanent facility to house the clinic. The larger building will allow the center to continue to provide access to care for vulnerable patients as well as space to offer additional services including mental health care, dental care and pharmacy services.
- **Crisis Center, Inc.**, \$5,000 to develop a chat and text messaging platform that will provide a safe space in a comfortable medium for kids and teens that are experiencing a personal crisis or mental health challenge.
- **Gateway**, \$60,000 to expand Go to U, a school-based mental health counselling program, to students at two local elementary schools. The program will provide more than 2700 hours of trauma-informed counseling and crisis intervention services for the students, as well as essential training for school personnel.
- **Glenwood, Inc.**, \$150,000 to support the construction and initial operation of a new community-based, state-of-the-art Education and Early Intervention Center. The Center will house assessment,

early intervention, therapy and education programs targeting children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other emotional disturbances, specifically impacting children under age six and their families.

- **Jefferson County Medical Society**, \$45,000 to establish Project Access to address the urgent specialty health care needs of low-income uninsured patients who do not qualify for government funded insurance programs.
- **Lakeshore Foundation**, \$25,000 to conduct a rapid Health Impact Assessment of transportation access to healthcare for persons with mobility challenges in the five-county area.
- **Mustard Seed Society**, \$5,000 to expand their Suicide Prevention Program in St. Clair County. The program works with area schools, churches and youth organizations to provide suicide education and prevention information.
- **Pell City School System**, \$45,000 to provide support for a partnership with JBS Mental Health Authority to bring mental health services to the four elementary schools in the Pell City School System. The pilot project will provide school based therapy as well as home visits to provide family/parent counseling services.
- **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Alabama**, \$100,000 over three years for a capital expansion that will allow Ronald McDonald House to almost double the number of available guest rooms, create varied housing options for families and add a Family Meeting and Activity Center.
- **Special Equestrians, Inc.**, \$15,000 to launch a Volunteer Enhancement Project to expand the training facility and improve support and communications for the more than 240 volunteers that work with the program.
- **Travelers Aid Society of Birmingham, AL, Inc.**, \$20,000 over two years to be used as community match toward Federal Transit funds that will provide no cost transportation to and from medical appointments for very low income elderly and disabled adults.
- **United Community Centers, Inc.** (Riley Center), \$5,000 to modify and repair the building entrance, parking lot and sidewalk and to bring it into ADA compliance, allowing better access for the families and senior adults who use the facility.