



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.

Cycle 2 Grants – Awarded in December 2016

RESULT: Individuals and families are economically secure

Improve housing stability

- **AIDS Alabama**, \$75,000 to establish an emergency, overnight shelter for unaccompanied, minor youth in the Birmingham city center. As the largest city in Alabama, Birmingham is often the place where homeless youth travel seeking the most opportunity for help and needed services. Youth homelessness has increased dramatically in our area and adult shelters are not equipped to provide critical housing for this population. Created for the unique needs of homeless youth, this safe, secure space will allow shelter outreach staff to find and connect with homeless and runaway youth, offering supportive services before they fall victim to traffickers.
- **Latch and Live Foundation**, \$5,000 to support a program working with the Bessemer City Schools that will provide temporary housing and supportive services to families struggling with homelessness and help reduce moves that disturb children's educational process. Last year, Bessemer City Schools served 354 homeless students.

Increase public policy changes and direct services that positively impact low-income individuals and families

- **Central Six Development Council, Inc.**, \$50,000 to support *Power UP!* an annual event dedicated to empowering young women and their mothers to become engaged and educated in non-traditional career opportunities in the construction industry. Funding will provide for dedicated staff to engage more middle and high school girls from underserved communities, track participants beyond the event, and facilitate their enrollment in career tech and community college programs in construction and manufacturing.
- **Girl Scouts of North Central Alabama**, \$25,000 to support a Customer Engagement Initiative (CEI). The initiative will allow Girl Scouts to more aggressively recruit the adult volunteers needed to help reach girls in low income and underserved areas. CEI streamlines the process necessary to become an adult leader, provides online training for volunteers and offers all scouting materials through a web-based Volunteer Toolkit. By making it easier for adult volunteers to deliver critical Girl Scout programming, the organization will be able to serve the hundreds of girls in Alabama currently on waiting lists to join a Girl Scout troop.
- **Growing Kings, Inc.**, \$25,000 to support the new monthly "Mid-Knight Basketball League" pairing at-risk male youth and local law enforcement agencies. The program will be established at four recreation centers and serve 12 public housing communities. The goal of the project is to promote improved attitudes and interactions between police and youth. Participants from the housing communities will be required to complete one community-based mentor session per month to remain eligible to play.
- **Hope Inspired Ministries**, \$50,000 to expand a successful employment readiness program to the Woodlawn community. This program will empower low-skilled, poorly educated and chronically

unemployed adults through participation in an intense 12-week curriculum designed to help them obtain and maintain employment. The program will also provide individual case management to help work through and overcome current barriers to progress.

- **Impact Alabama: A Student Service Initiative**, \$20,000 to support a continued partnership between SaveFirst and Lawson State Community College. Second-year students at Lawson State will be recruited to enroll in a business elective course that allows them to earn credit toward their degree while gaining practical experience volunteering at SaveFirst tax preparation sites. Lawson students who participated in the pilot program last year will return to serve as tax site leaders, gaining critical leadership experience. Through these and other statewide efforts, Impact will help provide free tax preparation services to more than 2,500 families during the 2017 tax season.
- **Magic City Harvest**, \$7,500 to create a phone app that will allow smaller restaurants to donate excess food. Deliveries between food donors and the recipient agencies Magic City Harvest supports will be made by recruiting and engaging new volunteer food drivers. This 'Uber for Food' model is an established technology being used in three other cities and could double the 1.2 million pounds of food recovered in our area each year to support agencies that feed the hungry.
- **Magic City Woodworks**, \$25,000 to hire a full-time shop manager, allowing the emerging agency to increase the number of apprentice hours for the unemployed, at-risk young men in their yearlong program. Magic City Woodworks mission is to train, equip and invest in these men and they do it by pairing a marketable job skill with mentoring and employment readiness, all while paying a living wage during the apprentice period. This new hire will be the first full-time employee for the organization.
- **Shepherds Fold, Inc.**, \$50,000 to increase the capacity of Shepherd's Fold by rehabbing a facility that will eventually house up to 140 male and 30 female former-inmates. They will participate in Shepherds Fold's transitional program which promotes becoming a productive citizen through ongoing programming, mentoring and case management. In the past two years, the recidivism rate for the formerly-incarcerated who complete Shepherds Fold's 6-month transitional program is 1%, compared to the statewide average of 32.5%.
- **Walker County Coalition for the Homeless**, \$25,000 to create a mentoring and support program for homeless individuals and families in Walker County. The program will recruit and train a team of volunteers to assist with home repairs, car donations and repairs, positive socialization and wrap-around support through churches, businesses, and civic groups. Funds will be used to hire a volunteer coordinator for this new effort
- **YWCA Central Alabama**, \$25,000 over two years to provide support for rapid re-housing, transportation and other basic living necessities for rural victims of domestic violence in St. Clair and Blount Counties with little access to resources. By providing direct assistance, low-income victims are able to reestablish safety and stability with a firm, financial footing.

RESULT: Communities are sustainable, livable and vibrant

Expand access to arts and cultural opportunities

- **Alabama Symphonic Association, Inc. (ASO)**, \$50,000 to support the launch of ASO's new Sound Edge Festival, a nine-day festival that will bring together creative talents for intense collaborations with the ASO and across Birmingham
- **The Ballard House Project**, \$28,000 to expand the existing digital oral history program at the Ballard House. The Project honors the heritage and voices of the African-American community by gathering, preserving and sharing individual and small-group oral histories, as well as holding workshops to teach the importance of preserving family history and documents.
- **Bib & Tucker Sew-Op**, \$5,000 to help expand open sewing sessions to new areas of the community to be held at libraries and community centers in Woodlawn, West End, Tarrant and Central Birmingham. The March Quilts/Bib & Tucker members facilitate open sewing sessions and discussion around a relevant civil or human rights theme and create quilt blocks that express personal feelings about the issue.
- **Birmingham Boys Choir**, \$10,000 to support the purchase and storage of new, safe, transportable risers for the Choir. Birmingham Boys Choir has recently experienced significant growth due to a successful cultural diversity program by implementing satellite rehearsal locations and increasing staffing.
- **Birmingham Civil Rights Institute**, \$100,000 to develop a safety plan, increase readiness (based on needs identified by the US Dept. of Homeland Security) and support upgrades to outdated technology. With increased tourism, visibility and pending legislation to achieve National Parks status, these improvements will enhance the visitor experience, engage visitors and donors worldwide, and help to build better relationships.
- **Birmingham Museum of Art**, \$60,000 over two years to support "Third Space," a two-year exhibition highlighting contemporary artworks from the Museum's permanent collection. Building on the momentum of recent public programs that use contemporary art to engage diverse audiences, "Third Space" will serve as an exciting vehicle for connecting with new patrons and encouraging all members of our diverse community to explore the BMA. This support will help make art and culture accessible to visitors from all backgrounds through free programs such as artist talks, guided tours, and art-making activities; resources for teachers and students; and innovative methods of interpreting the exhibition.
- **Terrific New Theatre**, \$6,000 to support Project W.I.T.S. (Written in the South), a new, annual play writing contest culminating in a two-weekend, live theater event during which the winner's piece will be staged for an audience. No other theater in the Birmingham area has such an event and TNT's goal is to make this city a place to visit and enjoy a uniquely Southern experience.

Expand and improve public green space

- **Alabama Historic Ironworks Foundation**, \$4,500 to update the phone system and improve internet speed and connectivity between the park office, museum, country store, and front gate.
- **Alridge Gardens**, \$25,000 over two years to expand the boathouse and boardwalk as part of the Lake Trails Expansion, which will provide additional educational opportunities and create a more

pleasurable and accessible outdoors experience. Like all of Aldridge Gardens, these green spaces will be free and open to the public.

- **Enon Ridge Community Development Corporation, Inc.**, \$4,000 to provide materials and equipment to expand and improve green space by developing community micro-parks in the Enon Ridge neighborhood.
- **Ruffner Mountain Nature Coalition**, \$40,000 to implement a new educational strategy in partnership with Fresh Air Family (FAF). The grant will improve outdoor education space and enhance education programs at Ruffner.
- **Vulcan Park and Museum**, \$45,000 to assist in the refurbishment of the historic Work Progress Administration stone picnic/plaza area, located on the eastern border of the park. The renovation of this tree-shaded area would provide space that can be utilized as a much needed classroom, or rented for private events, creating an additional source of revenue for the Park.
- **Vulcan Park for Birmingham Industrial Heritage Trail**, \$10,000 to support the development of a mobile app, TravelStorys GPS, that will engage users who are driving, walking or cycling in the area and connect them with the history of the area. The Birmingham Industrial Heritage Trail Project is a collaboration between Sloss Furnaces, Vulcan Park and Museum, Tannehill State Park and Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve.
- **Walker County Commission**, \$50,000 over two years to develop public access at 4 points along the Blackwater and Cane Creeks blueways in Walker Co. Also, funds will be used to make minor improvements at two existing state-operated boat launches. This will connect seven access points along two blueways, creating 31 miles of new public green space.

Further develop vibrant city center for Birmingham

- **Alabama Moving Image Association**, \$150,000 to support the construction of the Sidewalk Cinema and Film Center, an independent film venue, in the historic Pizitz building in Birmingham's historic theatre district.
- **Birmingham Landmarks, Inc.**, \$75,000 for help replace the air conditioner at the Alabama Theatre. The current air conditioner was installed in 1953 and is far beyond its normal life span. Since 1927, the Alabama Theatre has provided an air conditioned oasis for promoting the arts in the city center.
- **Innovation Depot**, \$100,000 over two years to help launch the Velocity Accelerator, a 12-week, intensive program to provide entrepreneurs with seed-funds and intensive mentorship to foster innovation and growth from idea to maturation.
- **Venture for America**, \$9,000 to fuel job growth in Birmingham and other cities that struggle to attract talent, while empowering top graduates to help startups grow and create value. With 12 Fellows now in Birmingham, VFA aims to bring 10-12 in 2017. To reach this goal, they will host a 2017 job fair in Birmingham to bring together Fellows from across the country and companies from across the southeast to interviews for the day. In previous VFA Job Fairs, companies that attended were twice as likely to hire a Fellow, and half of Fellows accepted offers with companies they met at a Job Fair. Hosting the Job Fair locally will lower the barrier to participation for Birmingham companies.

- **YouthServe, Inc.**, \$40,000 over two years to increase opportunity for youth participation in Downtown Birmingham and create new school year opportunities. Funding will be used to develop additional service projects, create an Idea Lounge (a safe, accessible, comfortable place to encourage ALL youth to hang out and brainstorm in small groups and increase youth-led projects outside of normal programming), and help with marketing and technology support.

Improve the natural environment

- **Alabama Rivers Alliance**, \$60,000 over two years to support ARA's work to advance creation of an Alabama state water plan. A state water plan defines how a state will balance and sustain water uses for present and future generations, while protecting the river systems that supply the water. The recent historic drought shows how important a state water plan is. The capacity of rivers to support aquatic biodiversity, recreation, drinking water, manufacturing and agriculture has been compromised by this drought. The state needs a mechanism for looking the big picture and balancing all water needs in times of shortage. With three significant watersheds (Cahaba, Black Warrior and Coosa) supplying its various needs, the Birmingham area is the least secure without a state plan.

Children's Mental Health RFP

Sustainably expand and/or enhance mental health services for children in our region.

- **Impact Family Counseling**, \$70,000 over three years to assist agency in becoming a Medicaid Rehab provider and leverage insurance reimbursement to expand their children's mental health services by at least 100 clients.
- **East Side Mental Health Center**, \$30,000 over three years to develop an in-school day treatment program for children with severe emotional disturbance in Tarrant City Schools. This program will leverage Medicaid and school district funds to serve children with needs beyond the scope of the mental health counseling program East Side and Tarrant City Schools have had in place for 15 years.
- **Oasis Family Counseling**, \$30,000 to leverage Medicaid, DHR and Drug Court funding to launch new evidence-based therapies for severely traumatized children and their parents (Trust-Based Relational Intervention and Filial Therapy). The model focuses on strengthening the child-parent relationship by empowering parents with innovative ways to interact with their children.