



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM

## 2017 Grants Overview

### Cycle 1 Grants – Awarded in May 2017

#### RESULT: CHILDREN ARE SUCCESSFUL ALONG THE EDUCATION PIPELINE

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

- **Mitchell's Place**, \$18,000 for a multi-purpose computer lab to serve as a skill acquisition and social learning tool for students. This technology will allow the staff to use web-based curriculums for teaching age appropriate skills related to social, communication, and motor development through systematic approaches.
- **Walker County Community Action Agency, Inc.**, \$7,500 to help in remodeling the interior of a new building for their Afterschool and Summer Youth Programs. Walker County CAA serves a critical need for afterschool and summer programs in a county where such programs are limited.

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

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Birmingham**, \$35,000 over two years to provide mentoring services to girls living in public housing in the Birmingham area. BBBS will partner with the Birmingham Housing Authority to provide girls with needed role models to help with tutoring and career and college planning.
- **Birmingham Public Library**, \$95,000 over two years to expand Teens Engineer BHM, a pilot afterschool program that partners engineering students from UAB with teens, from three library locations to five. The grant will be used to buy laptops, software, tools, safety equipment, and to fund stipends for engineering students for the Springville Road and Smithfield libraries.
- **College Admissions Made Possible**, \$21,500 to expand college-access programs at Fairfield High School. The grant will be used to extend ACT preparation to the entire 11<sup>th</sup> grade and add ACT-aligned, academic support for all 10<sup>th</sup> graders.
- **Construction Education Foundation of Alabama**, \$37,000 to provide Electrical and Carpentry Commercial Trade classes to Shades Valley High School. The training will provide 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students with industry recognized trade training and obtain a career ready skill by graduation.
- **Girls Incorporated of Central Alabama**, \$15,000 to expand their Bold Futures Mentoring Project. The program follows evidence-based practices that stem delinquent behaviors for girls who are at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system. It also prepares girls to succeed in high school and increases their likelihood of college enrollment.
- **Offender Alumni Association**, \$5,000 to support a Youth Career Readiness Initiative that will work with youth ages 14-17 by providing an alternative environment to learn skills to promote employability. This initiative will identify and engage young people in the Titusville Community to participate in community revitalization by working to help clean yards and vacant lots.

- **Southern Research**, \$12,500.00 to support the development of an assessment tool to help gauge the possibilities and effectiveness of STEM programming. The assessment would bring key partners together to identify needs and opportunities that support advanced learning in STEM areas, curriculum alignment, and foster collaborations that leverage the expertise of Southern Research for out-of-school learning experiences.

## **RESULT: PEOPLE CAN LEAD HEALTHY LIVES**

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

- **Action for Healthy Kids**, \$25,000 to advance student health in 15 schools in Jefferson, Shelby, Walker, St. Clair, and Blount Counties, reaching more than 6,600 students. The program will provide customized nutrition and physical activity equipment kits and technical assistance to build capacity of local school wellness teams.
- **Beat the Streets – Birmingham**, \$5,000 to establish a year-round youth wrestling program in the Birmingham City area. Through this program, experienced volunteer coaches mentor and teach wrestling technique with the purpose of providing healthful recreation as an alternative to drugs and other negative behaviors, and to promote life skill such as respect, responsibility, goal-setting, work ethic, dedication, discipline, nutrition, fitness, mental toughness and positive self-image.
- **Community Food Bank of Central Alabama**, \$30,000 to connect underserved seniors to healthy food through three programs: the delivery of fresh produce and high protein foods to senior public housing facilities in Blount County; expansion of the hospital pantry at UAB to serve senior patients screened for food insecurity; and operation of a full-service Benefits Enrollment Center in five counties. The Center will help seniors apply for multiple benefits including SNAP, home energy subsidies and more.
- **HEAL, Inc.**, \$50,000 over two years to pilot expansion of the HEAL program to area middle and high school students. HEAL Hybrid reinforces the lessons about healthy eating and active living taught to younger children and helps older children stay on course and deal with adult challenges, including healthy food shopping and finding time to exercise.
- **Hoover Helps**, \$5,000 to expand a volunteer-driven backpack and voucher feeding program that will reach more than 260 at-risk children in Hoover schools who are not currently participating in feeding programs.
- **King's Home**, \$20,000 to renovate an existing structure located at King's Home to be the Education Center at King's Garden. Programs at the Center will teach food production and "farm to table" food preparation and processing. Residents participate in growing food at King's Garden and will complete the learning process by using fresh, healthy ingredients in meal preparation.
- **Miles Chapel CME Church**, \$5,000 to create a community garden that will be use to educate children and families in the public housing community adjacent to Miles Chapel about healthy food sources and changing eating habits to encourage mental and physical wellness. Residents of the community do not have access to public transportation and the closest grocer is two miles away; the garden will be a source of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- **Redemptive Cycles**, \$10,000 to help purchase a truck for transportation of donated bicycles, bike valet event set-up supplies, and other operational duties. Donated bikes are refurbished and either

given to an Earner (an individual who has completed the Earn-a-Bike program), gifted to a bike-less child or sold in the store to help sustain programs. The bikes provide opportunities for physical activity and transportation.

- **The Exceptional Foundation**, \$25,000 to implement a 30-week wellness course that focuses on the health of participants age 60 and older. The program will include both onsite and offsite workouts, nutrition and cooking lectures and periodic fitness evaluations to measure preset fitness goals. The grant will also help in funding a remodel of fitness facilities as well as acquisition of additional fitness equipment to extend the program to all 185 participants enrolled at The Exceptional Foundation.
- **Trips for Kids Birmingham**, \$5,000 to support marketing for the new bike Recylery and helmets for the children's Ride Program. Revenue generated by bike sales from ReCyclery helps fund the Trips for Kids program that introduces inner city students to mountain bike riding at Oak Mountain Park. The program has hosted more than 470 students since 2013. The grant will also help fund the startup of an Earn a Bike program for students in the Avondale area.
- **United Way of Central Alabama** (Community Partnerships of Alabama), \$30,000 to enable Meals on Wheels to scale up volunteer operations and improve services. As the newly contracted Meals on Wheels administrator in Jefferson County, United Way of Central Alabama inherited a volunteer program with no active recruitment program, manual volunteer processes and outdated delivery software. This grant will allow United Way to engage more volunteers, empowering them to impact the quality of lives of seniors, and by increasing operational efficiency, allow Meals on Wheels to serve more seniors.

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

- **Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association**, \$40,000 to expand their Mobile Screening Unit coverage to the five-county Greater Birmingham area. The grant will help provide eye exams, low cost glasses and screening for serious eye problems like cataracts and glaucoma for elderly and uninsured patients.
- **American Red Cross**, \$37,000 to replace an out-of-date vehicle and freezer used for critical blood transportation and storage. In Alabama, the Red Cross is the sole provider of blood services to Sickle Cell patients in addition to collecting more than 53,000 blood units each year. The vehicles are used in every step of the collection, transportation, and delivery process.
- **Cahaba Valley Health Care**, \$22,000 to support a dentist for a new Friday clinic at their Cooper Green location. As the only free dental clinic in central Alabama, they provide services to hundreds of underserved patients in the area; this grant will allow them to serve more patients.
- **Camp Smile-A-Mile**, \$100,000 over three years to support the construction of Smile-A-Mile Place, a new facility that will deliver year-round services to children battling cancer. The building will provide a space for children and their families to have access to programs that help them cope with the short- and long-term effects of cancer.
- **Concerned Citizens for Our Youth, Inc., Beacon House**, \$10,000 to help replace therapeutic toys and art supplies destroyed in a recent fire. Beacon House is a twenty-four hour residential child care institution for children who have experienced trauma, abuse or neglect or have exhibited negative behaviors. This grant will provide our clients with purposeful, high quality toys and games for use in play therapy with our trained and licensed therapists.

- **Easter Seals of Birmingham Area**, \$100,000 over two years to expand outpatient therapy services to St. Clair County. Easter Seals will open a clinic that will offer physical, occupational, and speech therapy to children birth to 21 years old regardless of their ability to pay.
- **Foundry Dental Center**, \$30,000 to help complete building renovations to expand the Foundry Dental Care services in the Bessemer and Birmingham communities. The grant will allow them to add two additional treatment rooms, assistant workspace and an improved patient rest area to better support our non-ambulatory patients. With this expansion, the Foundry will realize a 40% increase in our capacity to deliver patient care enabling an additional 60 new patient care visits each month.
- **Kid One Transport**, \$22,000 to help with the purchase of two new Enhanced Mobility Program vehicles so that Kid One Transport can continue to provide long-range, reliable transportation to medical appointments for children and expectant mothers who need specialized treatments at healthcare facilities in the greater Birmingham area.
- **Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center**, \$27,000 for implementing a tobacco cessation program for consumers with mental health and/or substance abuse disorders. The Wellness Program will provide individual and group counseling, medication assisted treatment with Capstone Rural Health Center, and development of an integrated clinical workflow between Northwest and Capstone for metrics collection and outcomes.
- **The American Heart Association**, \$100,000 over two years to implement Target: BP at three Birmingham-area clinics that serve 6,200 minority and rural patients with hypertension. Target: BP is an evidence-based care program that helps patients reduce blood pressure long-term by combining consistent care with individual treatment plans.
- **UAB School of Nursing**, \$75,000 over three years to bring a Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program to Jefferson County, targeting our most vulnerable low income mothers pregnant with their first child. NFP nurses make weekly in-home visits to clients, beginning early in the mother's pregnancy and lasting over a period of 2 ½ years, educating them and transforming their lives. Nearly 40 years of research proves that NFP programs improve health outcomes of mothers and their babies, save money and produce lasting benefits for families.
- **UAB/Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center**, \$50,000 over two years to expand the Institute for Arts in Medicine, a program that strives to transform the environment of care and enhance healing of patients, families and staff through art experiences in hospital and community settings. The grant will help provide additional teaching artists and a part-time staff person to facilitate expansion and manage volunteers; develop tools to measure the clinical benefits of arts in the healthcare setting; expand arts opportunities for UAB's Center for Psychiatric Medicine; and the develop and implement an AIM marketing campaign to increase access.
- **University of Montevallo**, \$24,000 over two years to expand operations of the Community Counseling Clinic. This free clinic operates one night a week and serves children, adolescents, adults, and seniors through individual therapy, group therapy, family therapy, and couples counseling. The grant will allow the program to expand operations to four evenings per week.

## Cycle 2 Grants – Awarded in December 2017

### RESULT: INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES ARE ECONOMICALLY SECURE

#### Improve housing stability

- **Blanket Fort Hope**, \$8,500 to train and license therapeutic foster homes designated for child victims of human trafficking.
- **Changed Lives Christian Center**, \$40,000 for the renovation of four water-damaged restrooms in a transitional housing facility that provides housing, employment opportunities and transportation for chronically homeless men.
- **Family Promise of Birmingham**, \$6,600 to hire a development consultant to improve development and fundraising efforts in order to enhance services for homeless families in the Greater Birmingham area.
- **Titusville Development Corp.**, \$50,000 to renovate and improve affordable housing facilities for low to moderate income seniors in the Titusville Community. *Aging Focus*

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

- **A.G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club**, \$125,000 over three years to build a new Boys & Girls Club facility that will increase the number of young people who will be served from 230 to 450. The new facility will also offer new capabilities including a teen center, commercial kitchen and a permanent performance space.
- **Blount County Children's Center**, \$35,000 to add an ADA-compliant restroom, waiting room, and sound-insulated forensic interview room to serve victims of child abuse and their caregivers.
- **Collat Jewish Family Services**, \$50,000 over two years for the Personal Care service, increasing capacity by 33% for in-home personal care services like laundry, meal preparation and bathing for elderly clients, allowing them to stay in their homes. *Aging Focus*
- **Grace House Ministries**, \$50,000 over two years to fund a Life Skills Coach for girls 18-26 in their Transitional Living Program, which serves former foster girls who work or are enrolled in college.
- **Independent Living Resources of Greater Birmingham**, \$40,000 over three years to expand ramp-building program to serve individuals with disabilities in Blount, Shelby, St. Clair, Walker, and rural Jefferson counties. *Aging Focus*
- **Jefferson County District Attorney**, \$40,000 to expand the Helping Families Initiative from 40 families reached to 160. The program includes assessment, intervention and referral with a goal of preventing high-risk students from entering the juvenile justice system.
- **Shelby Emergency Assistance**, \$50,000 to renovate a new, donated space that will allow the program to expand and enhance services to low-income families in crisis as well as add a job training and certification program.
- **St. Vincent's Foundation**, \$30,000 to expand Jeremiah's Hope Academy, which provides training low-income for health care jobs, to North Jefferson, Blount and St. Clair counties.
- **Still Serving Veterans**, \$18,000 to hire a new case manager to expand their Veteran Resource Connections program into the Greater Birmingham area. This program identifies and coordinates resources and provides follow-up help for veterans (more than 40% of their clients are over age 50). *Aging Focus*

- **The Cooperative Downtown Ministries Inc. dba Firehouse Shelter Ministries**, \$100,000 over two years to build a new Firehouse Shelter, that will replace a 110 year old building and allow the program to serve additional clients and provide additional services.
- **The Jimmie Hale Mission**, \$13,000 to purchase computers for training facilities that have recently become part of AIDT's Ready-To-Work program.
- **Urban Ministry**, \$50,000 to fund a community asset mapping process to develop new social enterprise projects that provide job training, employment opportunities and neighborhood revitalization in the West End community.
- **The WellHouse**, \$50,000 to build new transitional housing for victims of human trafficking who have completed intensive treatment.
- **Alabama Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, Inc.**, \$40,000 over three years to support local assessment and evidence-based changes addressing school discipline actions that disproportionately impact students of color and their success.
- **Faith in Action Alabama**, \$12,000 to engage clergy and congregations in the Birmingham area who have been hard-hit by gun violence. The program will work through the community to strengthen the capacity of the Birmingham Violence Reduction Initiative.

## **RESULT: COMMUNITIES ARE SUSTAINABLE, LIVABLE AND VIBRANT**

### **Expand access to arts and cultural opportunities**

- **90.3 WBHM**, \$50,000 to expand local journalism and increase coverage of local issues and opportunities through a new, hour-long weekday call-in show.
- **Bib & Tucker Sew-Op**, \$20,000 to fund a part-time employee to expand hours of Bib & Tucker Sew-Op's new shop in the Woodlawn area. This will allow them to increase utilization of the space and develop additional income for the program.
- **Birmingham Black Radio Museum**, \$5,000 to upload and transcribe more than 90 interviews from 1936 to 1989 with political figures, entertainers, authors and radio personalities. The material will be publically accessible on the BBRM website in time for Alabama's Bicentennial.
- **Blountsville Historical Park**, \$16,000 to construct a Blacksmith Shop in the Freeman Museum at the park. The new facility will be used for demonstration and display of the historical society's blacksmith tools and equipment.
- **CEPA Management Corp**, \$25,000 to upgrade technology for the Center for Education and Performing Arts (CEPA) theatre in St. Clair County. CEPA's county-wide drama education program has generated increased usage of the facility including five new community and school drama clubs that have formed in the last year.

### **Expand and improve public green space**

- **City of Bessemer**, \$50,000 to extend Bessemer's first-ever rail trail from Berkley Avenue to Arlington Avenue, linking a public housing community and the park and new rec center. The trail is part of the Red Rock Ridge and Valley Trail System and includes the construction of a pedestrian bridge.
- **City of Oneonta**, \$3,500 to launch Bikes with a Badge, promoting safety and access to Oneonta's three parks. The program will equip two police officers who will patrol the area on bicycles.
- **Freshwater Land Trust**, \$50,000 over two years to pilot an Adopt-a-Trail program that will recruit and manage volunteers for upkeep and improvement of trails in the Red Rock Trail System.
- **Montevallo Development Cooperative District**, \$30,000 to convert a parking lot in the center of Montevallo into vibrant, interactive green space. The space will provide a community gathering space featuring an outdoor classroom, a Bioswale and event space.

### **Further develop vibrant city center for Birmingham**

- **Alabama Initiative for Independent Journalism**, \$15,000 to support a reporter at Birmingham Watch, a local news resource that focuses on public service, investigative and explanatory content in the areas of environment, economy education and government. This reporter will focus on issues that affect economic development in the area.
- **Create Birmingham**, \$50,000 over two years to create CO.SHOP, a shared retail opportunity for CO.STARTERS small business graduates with a goal of expanding creative entrepreneurship in the city center.
- **McWane Science Center**, \$60,000 to convert and upgrade the IMAX Dome theater from a film-based platform to digital. The upgrade will also include updating the seating, sound system, and screen in the theater

### **Improve the natural environment**

- **Alabama Wildlife Center**, \$60,000 to create a state-of-the-art educational enclosure for the Bald Eagle and Eurasian Eagle Owl at the Wildlife Center at Oak Mountain State Park.
- **Black Warrior Riverkeeper**, \$30,000 over three years to implement expanded ambient water quality monitoring at eight key sites on the river. This will provide data to establish a baseline for overall water quality in the river.
- **Cahaba Riverkeeper**, \$12,000 over two years to support the Bank Assessment Stability and Sediment project. The project will be the first-ever longitudinal survey of the Cahaba River and is critical to long-term ecosystem protection and restoration.
- **Coosa Riverkeeper, Inc.**, \$30,000 over three years to hire a program manager to meet increasing demand for public education, manage Swim and Fish Guide programs and add organizational capacity for fundraising and development.
- **Magic City Woodworks**, \$30,000 to purchase a kiln to increase utilization of donated hardwoods, keep over 100 trees per month out of the landfill, and help grow the program to train woodworking apprentices.