



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM

GIVING TOGETHER

SECRET WEAPON MAXIMIZES GRANTS

2017 / VOL. FOUR

This summer, the Community Foundation received more than eighty-five grant proposals for our second competitive grant cycle which focuses on sustainable communities and economic security. What happens to those requests impacts the entire community.

"These grants are not just handed out," says Gus Heard-Hughes, Vice President of Programs. "Grantees go through a rigorous application process; they need to identify and explain their needs and show how their goals reflect our Results Framework. We recognize that our resources are limited so we have to focus them carefully to make a difference. That's why we depend on the input and insights from our donors and Grant Review and Evaluation Committee (GREC) who work with us through this process."

After reviewing the initial applications, GREC members determined that fifty of the proposed grants submitted were in the best position to impact our target results and strategies. In the next few weeks every nonprofit that was moved forward will meet with one of our Site Review Teams to take an in-depth look at their proposal.

"Fifty site visits to fifty different nonprofits is a lot of ground to cover," says Sarah

Edwards, Giving Strategies Officer at the Community Foundation. "Thankfully, we have a lot of wonderful donors who volunteer along with our GREC members through our Giving Together program to be a part of the Site Review Teams."

Both donors and GREC members bring a wide range of business, community and organizational expertise to the grant process and their knowledge helps Foundation staff assess these requests. "They are our secret weapon," Edwards says, "they really help us discern which grants will have the maximum impact on the community."

Marsha Morgan is a Community Foundation donor who is participating with a Site Review Team for the first time this year. As a member of the Birmingham Change Fund and active community volunteer, Marsha knows a lot about the nonprofit world. "What I enjoy the most about being on a Site Review Team is learning about the great work of nonprofits in the area and how we can help them. I also love the opportunity to be an advocate for the issues I care about."

"Our donors are so generous and they are dedicated to the greater Birmingham area," says Edwards. "We want to provide them with opportunities to learn more about specific issues around giving and the Birmingham region. Participating on a Site Review Team gives our donors the chance to connect with Foundation staff, experts in the field and one another," says Edwards, "all with the goal of creating greater impact and joy through giving."

For more information about Giving Together events or to participate on a Site Review Team, contact Sarah Edwards, at 205.327.3827.

DECEMBER IS ALMOST HERE

Here are important dates to help you plan ahead for end-of-year grants and gifts:

Friday, December 8

Deadline for grant request to be submitted and notice for gifts of complex assets

Friday, December 22 and Monday, December 25

CFGB offices closed

Friday, December 29

Please make all hand delivery of gifts by noon to allow time for processing

Saturday, December 30

Gifts by mail postmarked by this date

Monday, January 1

CFGB offices closed

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Marsha Morgan and Sarah Edwards head out to a site visit

GIVING TOGETHER GRANT BRINGS HOPE

Last year, with the help of Giving Together donors, we provided a grant to Hope Inspired Ministries (HIM), to expand a successful employment readiness program to the Woodlawn community. The program provides more than 360 hours of training, including life skills, employment skills, character building, unpaid internships with local businesses and GED training. Here is the story of Lehua, a recent HIM graduate.

Lehua's story is one of a woman who endured things beyond what most of us could possibly fathom. She grew up in Hawaii as one of 17 children. She encountered appalling abuse at the hands of her father, which greatly contributed to a life of despair and brokenness as an adult.

Her life has included many personal tragedies, but in spite of that, Lehua has always shown such joy and is a pleasure to be around. The HIM staff says that she brings optimism and hopefulness that is hard to match to their office. She currently serves on the HIM staff in Birmingham as the Volunteer Coordinator.

Lehua has impacted more lives in the community by sharing her story and how HIM has changed her life. She's recruited students for the program and also shared her experience and wisdom with current students. The HIM staff says they are better because of Lehua, and they are proud of all she has accomplished and all that she will continue to do with her life!

Because of the Community Foundation's grant, men and women like Lehua have gained opportunities to further their education and secure employment. These steps can change the course of their lives from one of pain to hope for a better future.



SMART GIVING IN 2017 REAPS BENEFITS IN 2018

2017 has provided no shortage of opportunities for sharing what we have to meet the needs of those devastated by earthquakes, hurricanes and man-made cataclysms. Unfortunately disasters and tragic events are perennial aspects of human society, and so we regularly find ourselves wishing we could do more.

Smart end-of-year giving is one way to do more, and the Community Foundation provides uniquely powerful tools for expanding the capacity of your charitable impact.

Becoming a Fund Holder provides three significant benefits: 1) simplify your giving with an efficient alternative to a private foundation; 2) amplify your giving by donating appreciated assets today that can be spent down later and 3) expand your impact by

accessing our broad and deep knowledge of community needs and opportunities.

Contact Lora Terry to find out how simple it is to open a fund and join our community of donors.

Current Fund Holders: Now is the time to think about turning your appreciated assets into charitable dollars, avoiding capital gain taxes on those assets in addition to securing an income tax deduction for 2016. For example, if you have an IRA and a required minimum distribution in excess of your personal needs, you can avoid tax liability altogether with an IRA Rollover that provides a permanent stream of income that will well exceed the annual gift you normally make to your favorite charity from your checking account.

Talk to your professional advisor about ways you can make the most of what you have today in order to give away more tomorrow, or call Director of Gift Planning, Brooke Coleman for help with smart giving.

“BY GIVING SMART NOW, YOU CAN INCREASE YOUR CAPACITY FOR FUTURE GIVING.”

*Brooke Coleman,
Director of Gift Planning*

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GIVING TOGETHER OR TO PARTICIPATE IN A SITE VISIT, CONTACT SARAH EDWARDS AT 205.327.3827

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