

Cycle 2 Grants: December 2023

Nurturing Thriving Communities

- **A.G. Gaston Boys and Girls Club**, \$40,000 to support the After School Care and Summer Camp programs in Bessemer's Southside Homes Unit. The program offers tutoring, homework assistance, and enriching activities designed by Boys & Girls Clubs of America for youth aged 6-18. It aims to provide extended learning opportunities and educational enrichment during out-of-school time that promote academic success, character building, and healthy lifestyles. This initiative ensures a safe, engaging, and nurturing environment for the community's youth, complete with meals and snacks.
- **Alabama Initiative for Independent Journalism (AIJ)**, \$20,000 to support BirminghamWatch.org, an online news service of AIJ, dedicated to reporting crucial local issues in areas facing a news deficit. The grant will support current operations including a news editor and freelance contributors, ensuring continued coverage of key local entities like the Birmingham City Council and Jefferson County Commission. This initiative is pivotal in providing transparent information on community life and government activities, combating misinformation and community polarization.
- **Aletheia House**, \$50,000 to support the establishment of a new residential treatment services program for women in Walker County. The 16-bed facility will offer comprehensive, evidence-based substance use treatment, including counseling and peer support, at minimal cost. The funding is specifically designated for the construction of this much-needed treatment center.
- **Birmingham-Southern College**, \$60,000 over two years to implement the Birmingham Urban Watershed STEMM Initiative, a two-year pilot program focusing on STEMM education for Birmingham City Schools in the Village Creek watershed. The initiative will involve Minor and Wylam Elementary, Bush Hills STEAM Academy, and Jackson Olin High School. The Southern Environmental Center will lead this effort, creating STEMM modules on environmental justice and climate change in collaboration with BSC faculty and students. This project aims to enhance STEMM education while addressing environmental issues in a key urban watershed.
- **Brilliant Kids Academy**, \$10,000 to help enhance Brilliant Kids Academy's educational services by providing new iPads to support literacy, math, and various STEAM programs. Serving students from low-income backgrounds and those with significant academic challenges, the Academy focuses on personalized and small group instruction. The technology upgrade aims to aid students, who are often several grades behind, in developing their reading and math skills, building character, and boosting self-esteem and confidence. This initiative is particularly aimed at narrowing the achievement gap for students attending Birmingham City Schools.

- **East Lake United Methodist Church**, \$10,000 to establish a Recovery Drop-In Center, offering a range of services including peer support, life skill building, seminars, and referrals to recovery and social service agencies. The center, led by certified recovery coaches with personal and professional expertise in addiction and recovery, aims to provide a safe, sober environment for community members. The program will also include trauma-informed care training for staff and community leaders to enhance safety and recovery success.
- **Elevate Birmingham**, \$20,000 for the Little Elevate program, an initiative designed to expand the accredited classes program of Elevate Birmingham. This program aims to cultivate leadership and mentorship skills among high school students, who in turn will guide and support middle school students in their educational journey. The program includes a six-week intensive Little Elevate Mentors Training for high school students, followed by a 12-week Youth Leadership Development Program. In this latter phase, trained high school students will serve as "Teacher-Mentors," delivering weekly lessons to middle schoolers.
- **Fellowship House, Inc.**, \$60,000 to support the renovation of an acquired building into a 20-bed residential treatment facility for women, freeing up beds in other high demand areas. The additional capacity is expected to reduce the strain on local hospitals and homeless shelters, as these beds will provide a safe space for individuals with addiction issues.
- **Grace Klein Community, Inc.**, \$15,000 to support their FEEDBHM program, which operates daily food rescues across Alabama. The grant will be used to purchase Bobcat Skid Steer Loader to enhance efficiency and logistics in collecting and distributing rescued food. With this equipment, Grace Klein Community aims to increase their food rescue capacity and extend their reach to more food-insecure individuals in the state, targeting a goal of three million pounds of rescued food in 2024.
- **Khairi and Little Angels' Memorial**, \$12,000 to secure a physical location that will allow for an expansion of comprehensive services to women and families. The services include childbirth education, mental health support, and assistance with infant burial, along with four different support groups tailored to various needs such as loss of an infant and pregnancy support. The facility, dedicated to enhancing family well-being, will implement a thorough screening process to personalize care for everyone.
- **Klein Arts & Culture**, \$24,000 to support two initiatives: developing a tourism plan in alignment with Harpersville's 2021 Master Plan and creating a mixed media interpretative experience at the Wallace House. This initiative aims to enhance Harpersville's cultural and economic development and establish the Wallace House as a key site on the Alabama Civil Rights Trail. The process will involve community and stakeholder engagement to ensure an inclusive approach to tourism and historical narrative. This project serves as a step towards using arts for racial reconciliation and local development.
- **Legal Services Alabama (LSA)**, \$25,000 to help establish Alabama's first Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) in partnership with Cahaba Medical Care, a Federally Qualified Health Center. The MLP aims to address social determinants of health by providing free legal representation in areas like domestic violence, public benefits, elder law, and housing. An attorney will rotate across Jefferson County sites, addressing not only legal issues but also holistic needs affecting patients' health and socioeconomic stability. This initiative also includes educating clients on rights and resources related to the Family Medical Leave Act, addiction treatment options, and post-treatment benefits.

- **McWane Science Center**, \$18,000 to upgrade and expand McWane’s coding and technology programs in low-income schools. Funds will provide museum field trips, educational partnership programs, outreach, teacher trainings, and summer science camps at no charge to schools and youth-serving organizations.
- **Mitchell's Place**, \$40,000 to support the expansion of the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) comprehensive program at Mitchell's Place in response to the growing need indicated by their waitlist and the rising prevalence of autism spectrum disorder. The funding will cover the costs of training and credentialing staff, crucial steps before billing insurance for services, improving the facilities and equipment, and increasing the capacity of the program.
- **Offender Alumni Association**, \$40,000 to provide support for the Heroes in the Hood - Credible Messenger Youth Program, a comprehensive 12-month initiative aimed at reducing juvenile delinquency and promoting academic success. The program consists of two phases: the School Initiative, which introduces evidence-based trainings and support forums in alternative schools, and the Summer Intervention Initiative, offering activities and forums focused on preventing delinquent behavior during summer months. The program has already shown success in improving conflict resolution skills, academic performance, and reducing criminal behavior among participants.
- **P.E.E.R., Inc.**, \$35,000 to enhance the Downstairs Diner's capacity to offer nutritious meals and support start-up food businesses. The grant facilitates the expansion of free meal delivery for seniors and discounted meal programs, promoting nutrition and independence among the elderly. Additionally, it will enable the Diner to serve as a commissary kitchen for local food producers, bolstering community food initiatives.
- **Renew Birmingham**, \$40,000 to support the Community Health and Wellness: Canvassing Initiative, targeting 2,000 homes in Ensley, Ensley Highlands, Tuxedo, and Wylam neighborhoods. The initiative aims to foster community identity and investment through canvassing and by introducing Renew's programs and services, cultivating organic leadership, and promoting community cohesion. The funding will enable the hiring of 10 canvassers, along with the purchase of tablets, software, and training materials, facilitating effective engagement and relationship-building within these communities.
- **Teach for America Alabama (TFA)**, \$42,000 over two years to launch the Ignite Fellowship in Jefferson County, with a goal of deploying 60 college tutors to improve reading and math scores in Birmingham City Schools. Utilizing TFA's extensive experience, Ignite will offer virtual, customized tutoring to foster student learning and progress. The program is part of TFA’s broader goal to enhance educational outcomes in their communities and to strengthen their future corps member pipeline.
- **The Bell Center for Early Intervention Programs**, \$10,000 to aid in the expansion of the Infant Massage program designed for babies who have recently been discharged from the NICU, experienced a difficult birth, or have a genetic diagnosis that puts them at risk for developmental delay. The program, free for participants, teaches parents massage techniques to enhance growth, digestion, circulation, and emotional regulation. With this expansion, the Bell Center aims to double its impact by serving nearly 100 premature or medically fragile infants in the 2023-2024 year.
- **The Virginia Samford Theatre**, \$60,000 over three years to expand access to the Theatre's STARS educational programs by providing support to students from low-income household enabling them to participate in STARS training, establishing a touring operation that will bring productions to Birmingham

City Schools, and developing internship and employment opportunities. This initiative, in collaboration with the City of Birmingham, aims to increase arts education accessibility and practical skills training.

- **Woodlawn United**, \$35,000 to support the Woodlawn Revitalization Program, an initiative aimed at neighborhood improvement and housing opportunities in the Woodlawn community. The program, in collaboration with local partners and residents, focuses on housing rehabilitation, blight reduction, homeowner education, and new housing development. Key efforts will include enhancing the area around i3 Academy, a nonprofit public K-8 charter school, to reflect the school's nurturing environment through improved housing and community infrastructure.
- **Woolley Institute for Spoken-Language Education (WISE)**, \$40,000 to support the WISE Audiology Mobile Resource for Kids, a program designed to provide accessible audiology and therapy services to families in rural Alabama. The mobile unit aims to reduce health disparities and barriers to healthcare for children who are deaf/hard of hearing or have communication delays. By collaborating with local agencies, the program will offer audiology, speech therapy, and parent education directly within communities. The funding will cover professional services, equipment, and operational costs of the mobile unit, bridging the gap between rural communities and essential health care resources.

Overcoming Persistent Poverty

- **Alabama Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, Inc.**, \$50,000 to support the creation of a collaborative reentry support and case management system for individuals returning to Birmingham following incarceration in state prison, many of whom currently arrive in Birmingham with nothing. The reentry "superhighway" will comprise of existing non-profit agencies that help with identification, job training and placement, drug treatment, peer support, housing, healthcare, and case management. CFGB funds will support cooperating agencies as they plan and pilot this collaborative effort to serve some of our most vulnerable residents, those exiting prison into an unknown and oftentimes desperate future.
- **Community Care Development Network (CCDN)**, \$40,000 to expand CCDN's mobile food hubs and healthy food markets. Funding will support the addition of an 1,800 sq. ft. warehouse to store and refrigerate food. With this ability to store additional food, CCDN will double mobile food sites from 13 to 26 and will be able to serve 2,000 families monthly, addressing food insecurity and promoting healthy eating habits in low-income and marginalized communities across the Birmingham area.
- **Cornerstone Schools of Alabama**, \$25,000 for the expansion of Cornerstone's art and music programs at its elementary, middle, and high schools. Funds will support implementing a Teaching for Artistic Behavior program at the elementary school and establishing a pep band at middle and high schools. CFGB funds will specifically support creating and hiring a new band director position.
- **Diane's Heart**, \$20,000 to support the "She Knew There Was More" coaching and mentoring program in which moms receive intensive professional coaching, mentoring, and counseling, along with guidance on goal setting and creating an execution strategy to reach those goals. Curriculum covers financial management, life and career coaching, and parenting skills. Funds will be used to hire a program coordinator to expand their reach and serve wait-listed applicants.
- **Heart Gallery Alabama (HGA)**, \$ 15,000 to expand opportunities to connect youth in foster care with potential adoptive families and mentors by implementing Heart Days. Heart Days will be in addition to

the current recruitment activities involving television segments, social media, and photo exhibits. These will be in-person meetings for youth who are available for adoption from foster care and vetted adults who are interested in becoming a mentor or adoptive family for a teenager living in foster care. HGA will arrange outings or events that they can all participate in as they get to know each other.

- **NAME Ministries, Inc.**, \$30,000 to support the opening of an Alabama First-Class Pre-K classroom in Ensley, giving 18 low-income four-year-old students access to a quality pre-k education and increasing their chances of reading at grade level by third grade. Funds will support teacher salaries and provide meals and snacks for the students.
- **Women Under Construction Network**, \$15,000 to support the "REPAIR Angels" project. This project involves trade professionals and apprentices known as ANGEL Contractors (professionals who perform critical home repairs) and ANGEL Companions (volunteers who conduct home repair classes and provide companionship to combat depression and loneliness among the elderly). The grant will be used for tools, building materials, program supplies, and the implementation of the "Safe Seniors At Home" program, which allows volunteers to teach safety tips and install safety equipment (grab bars, non-slip mats, etc.) to minimize accidents at home.
- **New Awakening Recovery Services**, \$5,000 to provide transportation for participants of New Awakening's Recovery Enrichment program. Participants living in the shelter and transitioning from the shelter have expressed a need for engagement in recovery enriching activities beyond the shelter. Funding will help provide transportation to job interviews, medical appointments, support groups, and other activities.
- **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Alabama**, \$25,000 to hire a chef and implement an in-house meal program. A full-time chef will plan and shop weekly, maximizing cost-effectiveness, reducing waste, and ensuring a variety of healthy, balanced meals for families. Volunteer groups will continue to be engaged in serving special meals and leading mealtime activities. The Ronald McDonald House becomes a "home-away-from-home" for families while their child receives medical care in Birmingham.
- **Shelby Emergency Assistance**, \$30,000 over two years to hire a Food Recovery Specialist that will spearhead efforts in food pantry management, garden oversight, and the food recovery program involving local grocery stores, restaurants, and farmers. Shelby Emergency Assistance provides case management, referral services, emergency financial support, food assistance, educational opportunities, and much more to empower clients and lead them to self-sufficiency.
- **The Gatherings Mentoring, Networking and Outreach**, \$8,000 to provide mental health counseling, mentoring, wrap-around support, and evidence-based curriculum for at-risk teens, youth in foster care, and pregnant and parenting youth. Funds will support the facilitation of classes that teach effective communication, socialization, personal/life/workplace skills, and structure, while setting the foundation for careers and entrepreneurship. Current partners include Fairfield and Midfield City Schools.

Fostering Equity and Inclusion

- **Alabama Symphonic Association, Inc.**, \$31,000 to support the Alabama Symphony Orchestras' pilot program, Intersections: A Symposium for Future Music Professionals, which focuses on collegiate music students of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds who wish to learn from professional musicians and

increase their career readiness. The program's goal is to provide experiences, connections, and mentors to break down barriers of elitism in the arts and build skillsets as students approach the professional world.

- **Cancer Awareness Network for Children, Inc.**, \$6,000 to continue empowering underserved individuals of all ages who have been diagnosed with cancer by providing supportive services, advocating for their health and economic needs, assisting with finances and transportation, and teaching digital literacy skills. Funds will specifically support the Telehealth Digital Literacy program designed to increase access to telehealth and other online medical tools for African American seniors.
- **Exposure Community Development Corporation**, \$7,000 to continue providing free weekly music lessons, masterclasses, and annual showcases. The programs aim to expose, serve, and educate the community through various styles of diverse music. The organization was founded to help improve early learning by creating a positive learning experience.
- **Junior United Nations Assembly of Alabama**, \$6,000 to support a student-run model of the United Nations Assembly that aims to enhance middle school students' global awareness, diplomacy skills, and leadership abilities. The grant will help to cover general operating expenses and provide a comprehensive two-day UN assembly experience for central Alabama students, including committee meetings, General Assembly sessions, a Security Council meeting, and a World Hunger Awareness program.
- **Knowledge Rhythm and Understanding (K.R.U.)**, \$10,000 to purchase musical equipment, pay instructors, and purchase art supplies in support of K.R.U.'s mission of providing comprehensive Hip Hop music education to children of all ages and fostering personal and creative development while instilling the positive values of peace, love, and having fun. Through workshops, K.R.U. teaches four core elements of hip hop – writing rhymes, breakdancing, drumming, and graffiti arts – so youth can express themselves positively and gain new skills.
- **Parkinson Association of Alabama**, \$10,000 to support the Care Navigation program. Funds will be used to support one-on-one care navigation sessions and to provide kits to the newly diagnosed. Funds will also be used to support the online Parkinson's Disease Resource Center. The work will bring greater awareness so that the more than 16,000 Alabamians living with Parkinson's disease do not travel this journey alone and are connected to critical resources.
- **Workshops Empowerment, Inc.**, \$50,000 to improve the safety and accessibility of the parking area and entrances and to provide capacity and program improvements, including a mural, a garden center, and additional landscaping. Workshops Empowerment helps people with disabilities and other barriers to employment reach their vocational potential by providing vocational evaluations, job readiness, job placements, and support services.

Economic Opportunity for All

- **Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority**, \$60,000 to support the development of a consolidated mobile transportation app for Birmingham's public transit. The app will improve commuting efficiency, accessibility, and community engagement. It will offer multiple payment methods, an intuitive interface, real-time tracking, optimized route planning, and timely updates.

- **Hearts of Wheels**, \$20,000 to purchase and repair cars for underserved youth as part of the Workforce Transportation Support Program. This provides local youth with the means to get to work, trade schools, and/or college. The program is entering its sixth year and averages 10 - 20 cars per year.
- **Jefferson State Community College Foundation, Inc.**, \$20,000 to create access to high-demand healthcare careers in Shelby County by conducting training and certification programs for Hispanic women in the region, in partnership with the Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama. A cohort of 15 students will receive training, complete 96 hours of clinical externships, and have the option to sit for the NHA Certified Clinical Medical Assistant exam.
- **Kids Play Alabama**, \$13,000 to develop a comprehensive database and accounting system, allowing for safe data storage, more accurate account reconciliation, an updated website, and increased capabilities for grant requests and donation tracking. Kids Play Alabama helps families with the cost of sports registration and equipment. They have received more than 1,600 requests for assistance over 18 months of operation.
- **Shepherds Fold, Inc.**, \$35,000 to assist in completing roof repairs that will support affordable housing and provide a safe environment for residents to reside in while focusing on their transformational change and rehabilitation. Shepherds Fold's pursued work is to minimize leading criminogenic factors, such as homelessness and food insecurity, to focus primarily on life skills, behavioral skills, and creating sustainable income through several creative paths for formerly incarcerated individuals to support successful reentry.
- **The Salvation Army**, \$50,000 over two years to support the expansion of the Education and Workforce Development Program by funding a new Program Coordinator position. This role is pivotal in assisting community members in overcoming barriers to secure stable, full-time employment and achieve financial self-sufficiency. The program will target individuals in North Birmingham and Jefferson County, particularly those in minimum wage jobs due to limited education and resources and will offer a comprehensive range of services, including life skills training, GED preparation, vocational and certification programs, and higher education opportunities.
- **Urban Impact, Inc.**, \$60,000 over three years to fund the salary of a dedicated district coordinator. This coordinator plays a pivotal role in serving and managing the diverse needs of the district, acting as a central point of contact and support for businesses, community members, and stakeholders. This position will support the organization's overall goals of building capacity, investing in small businesses, small business training and technical assistance, enhancing business profitability, and advocacy for economic development.

Driving Regional Cooperation

- **Create Birmingham**, \$45,000 over two years to support Film BHM (FB) in building optimal film policies across Jefferson County. FB has been successful in launching and leveraging numerous tools, including location and crew databases; free production registration; and a series of film industry workshops and networking opportunities. Funds will be used to hire regional relationship and film policy research consultants. Both will work with Create Birmingham staff to drive discussions with municipal leaders, identify gaps and opportunities, research filmmaking policies, and craft new policies accordingly.

Cycle 1 Grants: May 2023

Overcoming Persistent Poverty

- **Alabama Interfaith Refugee Partnership**, \$26,000 over three years to provide support for a new bilingual case manager that will increase infrastructure and capacity to provide direct support for an increasing number of vulnerable asylum seekers in Birmingham.
- **Blanket Fort Hope**, \$70,000 to support building a Restoration Home where child survivors of human trafficking will receive comprehensive trauma and restorative services, helping them transition into a productive new life.
- **Collat Jewish Family Services (CJFS)**, \$40,000 over two years to build capacity for CJFS's Senior Solutions, a proven model offering community-based case management and in-home care to low and moderate-income seniors, enabling them to age-in-place, enhancing safety and quality of life, and honoring dignity and self-determination.
- **Community Care Development Network**, \$25,000 over two years to support the Inspire Education Academy, a program that provides life skills, job skills, and access to education and employment for young people who have dropped out of school.
- **Community on the Rise**, \$24,000 to create three new positions (case manager, workshop manager, and outreach coordinator) as well as an advisory board of people with lived experience of homelessness. Services will include recovering identity documents, hiring survivors of homelessness for meaningful work, and providing safe, free housing for up to two years.
- **Cultural and Educational Advancement Foundation**, \$5,000 to provide 40 Power Packs weekly for sixty-five students during the 2023 school year. Power Packs are filled with non-perishable items containing food for breakfast, lunch and snacks
- **Kid One Transport**, \$39,000 over two years to support a project that will provide Medicaid eligible families with access to the Women's Infant and Children Nutritional Program by removing the transportation barrier to WIC services.
- **LegacyWorks**, \$8,000 to support the development and expansion of a paid apprenticeship program for urban youth.
- **Oak Mountain Missions Ministries**, \$9,000 to purchase utility carts, box trucks, storage boxes, and shopping carts to support Oak Mountain's healthy food distribution to low-income families and individuals.
- **PreSchool Partners**, \$5,000 to serve under-resourced families with children exhibiting disruptive or maladaptive behaviors. PreSchool Partners will provide consultation and training in managing behavior disruptions and will provide direct referrals to Mitchell's Place for families who do not have the

resources to access adequate services related to undiagnosed special needs.

- **Restoration Academy**, \$70,000 over three years to support the building of a cafeteria and creation of a school lunch program. Currently, students must bring lunch from home, and 90% of students live at or below the poverty line.
- **Second Shift**, \$13,000 to hire a Client Care Coordinator, a new position that will double the program reach and capacity. Second Shift assists at-risk and aging-out foster care youth to transition into sustainable and connected independence.
- **South Highland Mental Health Outreach Project (SHOP)**, \$9,000 to expand program services from one day a week to two days and to cover the cost of transportation and meals. SHOP provides a social support system and wrap-around services to low-income individuals who are struggling with mental illness.
- **St. Clair Community Health Clinic**, \$10,000 to expand mental services to diverse populations in St. Clair County, including formerly incarcerated individuals. After-hours and remote clinics will be offered to address barriers such as transportation.
- **The Flagstone Initiative**, \$30,000 to improve financial stability for 500 low-income families by offering rent splitting to better align with bi-weekly paychecks. If adopted widely, it offers a disruptive alternative to predatory payday lending.
- **Trinity United Methodist Church**, \$25,000 to create a new space for the Hub Store, which provides clothing and household items for refugees, immigrants, families referred by DHR and JBS, and Food Share guests.

Driving Regional Cooperation

- **Jefferson County Sheriff's Office**, \$80,000 to support the architectural and design work involved in the building of a new metro jail in Jefferson County, replacing the current, outdated jail and consolidating municipal jails. The new jail will provide wraparound services such as education, job training, mental health support, and more to promote rehabilitation and reduce recidivism.

Nurturing Thriving Communities

- **American Baseball Foundation Inc.**, \$8,000 to support a rewrite of Baseball and Academic Skills Instructional Course's (BASIC's) reading curriculum for their youngest readers as they learn basic literacy skills.
- **Blount County Education Foundation**, \$70,000 to support three playground projects in Blount County serving Hayden, Southeastern, and Cleveland communities. Each outdoor space to be developed is located on a school campus and will be utilized by children of the school daily and be accessible to community members beyond the school day.
- **Cahaba Medical Care Foundation**, \$50,000 to pilot a new autism diagnosis clinic, in partnership with United Ability, to create an additional access point for families with concerns about the social or cognitive development of their child.
- **Cahaba Valley Health Care**, \$7,000 to support completion of a new hygiene treatment room that will

provide an additional 300 patients with preventative dental care.

- **City of Cordova**, \$50,000 to rebuild and expand Mill Park, the only park available to families in Cordova. The park is in a central location for outdoor community activities.
- **D2B Mentoring and Leadership**, \$12,000 to support programming that builds character and teaches life skills to young men from underserved communities. D2B headquarters in East Lake provides a haven with educational resources, spiritual enrichment, and fellowship with peers and mentors.
- **Dance Levels**, \$8,000 to provide dance education and dance experiences to underserved youth in grades K-12. Dance Levels promotes an active lifestyle, provides access to performing arts classes and performances, and collaborates with local organizations to facilitate dance workshops in schools.
- **Empower Schools of Alabama**, \$31,000 for a new MakerSpace and sensory room, designed by professionals in collaboration with KultureCity. The sensory room will be tailored to provide a calming environment, while the MakerSpace will be equipped with top-of-the-line tools to enhance student engagement in STEM.
- **Levite Jewish Community Center**, \$15,000 to launch Swim School, a water-safety and swim lesson program for underserved students in local schools. The program aims to provide basic water safety, life-saving skills, and swimming ability through eight 50-minute lessons. The initial partnership with I3 Academy will benefit 90 students in grades 1-3 during the 2023-24 school year.
- **Miles College**, \$22,000 to address the need for mental health services at Miles College. The program will provide accessible and effective mental health services to support the well-being and success of college students. Services will include counseling and therapy, support groups, and an information campaign to link students to crisis hotlines, mental health education, and awareness programs.
- **Mothers' Milk Bank of Alabama**, \$50,000 over three years to expand donor outreach and education programs. Projects include a strategic marketing campaign, expanding the Milk Bank's donor recruitment department, creating a rural hospital onboarding program, and promoting certifications for lactation consultants in rural communities.
- **No More Martyrs**, \$25,000 to provide free counseling services and to expand partnerships with Alabama universities, which allows them to serve as an internship site for graduate students obtaining a master's degree in the field of counseling.
- **Shelby County Children's Advocacy Center**, \$9,000 to purchase a mobile forensic interview unit for child abuse victims at the children's advocacy center. Forensic interviews prevent the child from having to retell about their abuse, thus lessening the trauma experienced by the child.
- **Shelby Humane Society**, \$20,000 to purchase ten quarantine kennels, allowing Shelby Humane to provide better care for both vulnerable and healthy pets in their custody. New quarantine kennels will be critical in saving the lives of shelter pets by averting disease outbreaks, while also preventing unnecessary adoption delays for healthy pets in their care.
- **STAIR of Birmingham**, \$50,000 over two years to increase capacity by hiring a Program Director and Program Administrator to grow and improve the one-on-one, after school tutoring program.
- **The Cohill Foundation**, \$8,000 to support Self-Expression enrichment programs in Bessemer for the Summer, Fall, and Spring. Each program serves 50 at-risk youth employing art mediums and the creative process to help them explore emotions, resolve internal conflicts, and foster healing.

- **Titusville Development Corporation**, \$30,000 to continue renovations and replace old flooring in affordable housing units for low-income seniors in Titusville.
- **Vax 2 Stop Cancer**, \$20,000 to support a dental provider education program to prevent HPV-associated cancers. Oropharyngeal cancer is now more common than cervical cancer in relation to HPV. The program aims to increase dental care providers' knowledge of HPV and its link to oropharyngeal cancers, emphasize their role in HPV vaccination, and help them make effective recommendations for the HPV vaccine.

Fostering Equity and Inclusion

- **Balancing and Overcoming Life Adversities Inc.**, \$4,000 to support free events benefiting the public, including a Wellness and Financial mixer, their annual Juneteenth event, school supply drives, and events focused on mental health support.
- **Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School**, \$40,000 over two years to hire a bilingual student enrollment and community engagement coordinator. This position will focus on strengthening connections with the Latino community.
- **Hoover-AHEAD**, \$4,000 to support their annual Juneteenth Celebration, offering the community an opportunity to learn about the history and significance of Juneteenth. The event promotes understanding, cultural exchange, and diversity, fostering a healthy engagement for all participants.
- **Sight Savers America (SSA)**, \$50,000 to support their Blind Program, which addresses health disparities faced by economically disadvantaged individuals who are blind. The program aims to increase access to blind aids for children and adults on the waiting list and expand the range of aids provided.

Economic Opportunity for All

- **Birmingham Corps**, \$50,000 to help fund a full-time position and program costs for the Talent Navigator Alumni program. This initiative provides personalized support to AmeriCorps members to help ensure that each corps member secures a high-quality, full-time economic opportunity after completing their year in the program.
- **Build UP**, \$75,000 over 3 years to support staffing, curriculum, partnerships, and expansion of their Student Success Program (SSP). SSP provides post-secondary guidance, support, and resources to help high school graduates achieve their post-secondary and career goals.
- **Hope Enterprise Corporation**, \$50,000 to establish HOPE Affinity Networks (HANs) in Birmingham. HANs aim to integrate underbanked residents into the financial mainstream and assist local businesses through lending and training. The program collaborates with employers, schools, hospitals, and nonprofits to provide on-site financial education, account opening, and services for their employees, customers, and stakeholders
- **IMPACT Family Counseling**, \$38,000 to provide case management and supplemental support to parents on government assistance, including assistance with GED, secondary, and vocational certifications; classes on healthy relationships and parenting; domestic violence risk assessments and classes; job referrals; and family and individual counseling.

- **InToto Creative Arts**, \$8,000 to support their weekly work with men from Firehouse Shelter, women from Pathways Shelter, and two public showcases. This funding will provide high-quality art opportunities for individuals facing hardships, allowing them to generate income through art sales.
- **Momentum**, \$15,000 to support the Momentum Works, making their approach accessible to underserved women in Greater Birmingham. Through quarterly workshops and virtual content, the program empowers diverse women to develop leadership skills that positively impact various aspects of life.
- **Studio By the Tracks**, \$25,000 over two years to establish an artist residency program benefiting local artists and individuals on the autism spectrum. The program offers paid opportunities, enhanced training, and art sales opportunities for participants. Each project will be unique, reflecting the artist's time at Studio By the Tracks, with public presentations and educational components.
- **YMCA Birmingham**, \$30,000 to support the training and certification of up to 1,500 lifeguards for free, regardless of their place of employment. This addresses the city-wide lifeguard shortage, ensuring safe swimming environments in pools, fitness centers, campgrounds, and country clubs. Participants will receive the American Red Cross Certificate of Completion for Lifeguarding, gaining marketable skills and valuable experience for future career paths.