

Applicants for the Inaugural Shauna M. Sorrells Grant 2020

Finalists:

Africa Matters Initiative

<https://www.africamattersinitiative.com/>

Africa has the youngest population in the world with over 230 million young people. Africa Matters believes that this youthful population is an economic opportunity - provided youth, particularly adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), are upskilled and educated. Our target group is black African and disempowered young womxn. Funds will support our She Is Empowered (ShE) program. ShE is a one-year, non-residential, online development program for young African women and girls focused on leadership, soft skills development, social entrepreneurship, advocacy, African feminisms, and mentorship.

For 3 Sisters, Inc.

<https://www.F3S.org>

For 3 Sisters provides financial support and resource case management services to women affected by breast cancer. We also educate the healthy community about breast cancer and the importance of early detection. While our financial support and case management program, Road to Resources, is nationwide and open to people of all races, identities, and socio-economic status, one-third of our participant population comes out of Baltimore, Maryland and are primarily low income and women of color. We are primarily asked to alleviate financial burdens involving rent, mortgage, groceries, and utilities. Our outreach program, Power of ONE, focuses on all communities; however, we're launching a new initiative that involves taking breast health education, access to mammograms, and financial support resources directly into under resourced communities.

SciTech2U Inc.

<http://scitech2u.org/services>

We serve K-12 students from under-served and under-represented communities. Funds will allow us to extend SciTech2U's after school program and provide free and low tuition for camps to the students in the underserved and under-represented communities. SciTech2U aims to deliver a program that covers the science of energy retrieval. Students will develop a deeper understanding of advantages and disadvantages of renewable and non-renewable energy; understand the process of extricating nonrenewable energy from the earth, and compare and contrast the process of harnessing renewable to non-renewable energy. We provide kits with materials, tools, specimens and instruments that scientists use in wetlabs. Students use STEAM terminology, are immersed in hands-on STEAM experience, and develop an awareness of STEAM professions.



Semi-Finalists:

Araminta Freedom Initiative

<https://aramintafreedom.org>

Araminta Freedom Initiative reduces the threat of child trafficking—the buying and selling of minors for the purpose of sexual exploitation—and restores the mind, body and spirit of those who have survived the trauma of modern enslavement. We develop and implement educational initiatives and local prevention plans with churches, schools and communities, while providing individualized, restorative services to victims of child trafficking using trauma-informed, evidenced-based models. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Araminta has seen three times the normal annual number of girls and young women referred for services. Araminta seeks to provide scholarships to certification programs enabling these young women who have been sexually exploited begin a professional career with dignity and pride.

The Dwelling Place, Inc.

<https://www.tdp-inc.org>

The Dwelling Place has served homeless families of Montgomery County for over 30 years in their pursuit of stability and self-sufficiency. Our families have endured significant trauma and challenges that have brought them to a point of homelessness. Many of our families are at-risk for having all their hard work undone and we seek to keep them stable during these uncertain times. Prior to the pandemic many of our families were stable and working towards new careers and educational goals. Today, we are focusing more on mental health stability, food, household necessities, and educational support while children are distance learning. Funds will be used to ensure stable housing and educational support and emergency assistance as a result of loss of employment and income.

Generation Hope

<https://www.supportgenerationhope.org>

Generation Hope provides two-generation programming, which provides holistic support within a caring community where teen parents and their children make progress together. Through our Scholar Program, we help teen parents earn college degrees and secure jobs with family-sustaining wages through mentoring, case management, mental health counseling, career readiness programming, tuition support, and emergency funding to assist in crisis situations like housing instability or domestic violence. Through Next Generation Academy, we help Scholars' children prepare for kindergarten through home visiting; resources for literacy, academic, and social emotional development; mental health counseling; and financial support to access high-quality childcare.

Joseph's Home

<https://josephshome.com>

We provide medical respite care to medically-fragile adults experiencing homelessness. The people we serve are ready to discharge from a hospital setting but have nowhere to recover and recuperate from an illness or injury. We provide client-centered care coordination, nursing, case management and peer support, along with safe, private rooms and three nutritious meals a day. We connect people to housing and other community resources to ensure long-term health and housing stability. Roughly 60% of those we serve attain stable housing in an average length of stay of less than 90 days. Our current facility has 11 rooms for men. Serving all genders is a long-time goal for our organization that is finally coming to fruition. We are seeking funds to renovate a second facility to serve medically-fragile women who are homeless and need recuperative care.



Applicants:

A Friend of Mind

<https://www.afriendofmind.org>

A Friend of Mind serves BIPOC adolescents and families. Funds will be used to hire BIPOC interns, cover instructor training of BIPOC individuals to become suicide prevention trainers, and support monthly mental health support groups for BIPOC adults as well as yoga and meditation classes for BIPOC adolescents. Our results will include elimination of mental health stigmas and promotion of mental health and suicide prevention awareness among underserved populations.

Action for Children

<https://www.actionforchildren.org>

Action for Children transforms the lives of children by supporting, empowering, and advocating for the adults who make the biggest impact on children's lives—their parents, caregivers and teachers. One aspect of our work is supporting licensed providers who provide child care in their homes. These Family Child Care (FCC) providers are predominantly women of color. They are small business owners using their homes to provide an essential service to keep the workforce afloat by ensuring that children have a safe and clean place to be while their parents are working. Many of the FCC providers we serve receive public subsidies for the children in their care, meaning the children's caregiver is working but wages are deemed too low to pay for child care. These are often crucial, frontline workers- and are frequently women of color as well. Funds will be used to purchase new Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) items for the Family Child Care providers and divide it up among the various homes; and support the FCC owners with financial planning and assistance with their tax returns.

Akron Area YMCA

<https://akronymca.org>

The Y is a founding nonprofit organization, offering health, hope, and opportunity for ALL. Traumatized kids are at the heart of many of our community's challenges--gun violence, substance abuse, racial tensions, educational inequity... Youth who live in under-resourced communities—where domestic and neighborhood violence, racial discrimination, and poverty are more prevalent—experience complex trauma through repeated and prolonged exposure to traumatic events beyond their control. They are in a perpetual state of fight or flight (survival mode), impairing their ability to regulate their emotions, pay attention, and form good relationships—all key elements to success in school and in life. Funds will be used to strengthen community by providing services to high risk and traumatized youth. Outcomes: We will be a catalyst to change the way our community views the youth behind the statistics and a place where traumatized youth can heal, learn, grow, thrive and become assets to our community.

Alternative Family Services

<https://www.afs4kids.org/>

Our organization advocates for the underserved youth of the Greater Bay and Sacramento Areas. Most of our 1,500 clients (annual average) are children of color. Recently in the climate of the pandemic, our needs have drastically increased. Technology improvements to provide each youth with laptop technology for distance learning and visitation with biological family members have presented new challenges. We have also seen an increase of homeless children coming into our care in recent months. This grant would help us address these issues and acclimate to the unprecedented year's many challenges.



Bellefaire JCB

<https://www.bellefairejcb.org>

At risk children and families, primarily those who are Medicaid eligible and live in poverty across northeast Ohio in need of mental health and substance abuse treatment. In addition, Bellefaire is the home of the Monarch Center for Autism, a day school and residential program for children preschool - 22 years of age with moderate to severe autism. Funds will enable Bellefaire to provide critically needed technology to the at-risk youth we serve in the community. The pandemic has shifted our services to telehealth yet many of those we serve do not have a device in the home that enables them to receive their mental health treatment. We would like to purchase tablets to distribute to our clients.

BEST Community Resource Center

<https://www.bestcommunityresourcecenter.org>

We provide free and confidential assistance for men, women, children, youth, seniors and families; regardless of religion, race, age, or ability to pay. COVID-19 has resulted in schools shut all across the world. Globally, over 1.2 billion children are out of the classroom. BEST Community Resource Center has converted a school bus into a Mobile Academic Classroom. The Mobile Academic Classroom packs a lot of punch in a small space to function as a classroom and place for students and families to learn wherever the Mobile Academic Classroom is parked, truly bringing the classroom right to students' neighborhoods. The Mobile Academic Classroom also serves as a Internet Hot Spot and can provide up to 200 students with internet services within 300ft of the bus.

Buckeye Ranch

<https://www.buckeyeranch.org>

The Buckeye Ranch's My Place program is a transitional housing and support services program for young adults ages 16-21 who are in transition from county custody, unprepared for independence and at risk of becoming homeless. Often their families are estranged and/or not capable of providing the support that youth need. My Place is a 15-unit apartment building, supervised 24/7 with staff capable of dealing with youth crises and counseling. Residents are young adults who are pregnant and young mothers who are staying at My Place with their children. More than a place to live, young adults develop behavioral, cognitive, and life skills critical for their future success.

Central Community House

<https://www.cchouse.org>

Central Community House (CCH) primarily serves families with children living at or near the Federal Poverty Level, the large majority of whom include an African-American, single parent. This comprises families born into generational poverty who have faced significant infrastructural, institutional, and cultural barriers to escaping long-standing cycles of instability and crisis. In the core service area, more than half of all families spend more than 30% of their income on housing. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, Learning Enrichment Centers (LECs) have filled a critical void for working parents and their children, providing safe care, educational support, and access to technology needed for virtual learning. Funds will support academic coaches, supplies, occupancy/space costs, and PPE to maintain a safe environment for youth and staff during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Challengers Independent Living

<https://www.challengers1.org>

Challengers provides life skills services to teens who are residing in Maryland's foster care system. Participants of our program are transitional aged youth between the ages of 15-21 who have suffered from trauma, abuse, neglect and abandonment. Funds will purchase laptops and software for our teen parents program. In today's society, the need and use of computers are a necessity for education, employment and mental health. Thus improving the potential for more desired outcomes post foster care.



Champion Project

<https://www.championproject.co>

We serve Black and non-white Latinx students in 8th-12th grade interested in pursuing higher education. Funds will support our Champion Coaching program: a virtual college prep focused mentoring program connecting high school students to current college students for guidance on completing high school successfully and going to top-tier colleges in an affordable way. Our approach is unique because it's for the students, by the students. It also focuses on building relationships to teach the importance of creating a network as we believe the best benefit for Black students going to college is to leverage the connections it allows them to make. We hope to see 100% of our participants go to a college that's affordable for them and 80% of them attend a college with a high graduation rate.

Children's Hunger Alliance

<https://www.childrenshungeralliance.org>

We serve children ages 0-18 in high poverty areas who are food insecure. Funds will provide food to children in poverty areas via afterschool meals, providing meals in early childcare settings-both in-home and childcare centers, and summer feeding sites. We also work with K-12 schools to increase the breakfast participation rates for those children who qualify for the free and reduced breakfast and lunch program. Finally, we provide educational programs on the importance of good nutrition and physical activity.

CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence

<https://www.lssnetworkofhope/choices>

We serve victims of domestic violence living in Franklin Co. Ohio. Funds will be used toward our transitional housing program, designed to provide financial support and social services to victims of dv who have the most barriers to permanent housing. These households include 4 or more children, limited English proficiency or are obtaining legal immigration status. Due to COVID program participants need increased financial support and are remaining in the program longer than planned.

City Year Columbus

<https://www.cityyear.org/columbus/>

City Year Columbus is a dedicated AmeriCorps program helping students build the skills they need to thrive in school and successfully graduate from high school. City Year provides individualized interventions in attendance, behavior, and course performance to students in grades 3-10 by pairing Americorps members with small groups of students to develop near-peer mentorship relationships. City Year helps students stay on track to graduate from high school with the skills to be successful adults. City Year's Mission is to see our students reach 10th grade on track to graduate from high school, ready for college and career. With City Year, we hope to see students motivated and engaged at school, activate their true potential, and attain durable skills both academically and emotionally.

Clarion Call, Inc.

<https://TheClarionCall.info>

There is a reading crisis in our Country. Low literacy is the primary energy that fuels the school-to-prison pipeline. A 2019 study revealed that in Maryland, 78% of the state's Black 4th graders were not proficient in reading; translated, 78% of Maryland's Black 4th graders are statistically slated for prison. The challenge is not unique to Maryland, it's nation-wide. This is borne out in the fact that 75% of state prison inmates, and 59% of federal prison inmates are low literate. The Clarion Call Read to Lead Campaign is designed to mitigate the reading crisis by coaching youth to reach grade-level reading proficiency or better. The program is flexible, scalable, and measurable. With proper funding, we will expand to reach hundreds of youth and coach them toward reading proficiency.



Columbia Park

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Columbia Park provides seniors with affordable rent.

Columbus Speech & Hearing Center

<https://columbusspeech.org>

Columbus Speech & Hearing Center (CSHC) serves over 8,000 individuals a year in Central Ohio. Our mission is to improve communication for all – and we do so by providing speech, language and hearing services. Speech, language and hearing problems affect one of every 10 people, and the impact is profound at any age particularly during these challenging times. CSHC offers help - and hope. CSHC believes in inclusivity. Our services allow individuals of all abilities to be included in the world around them through improved communication and awareness. Funds will be used for our Speech Department's Early Intervention Program. Our Early Identification program launched in 2018 in response to an urgent need we saw within our community. According to The Groundwork Group, in Central Ohio, only 40% of children enter K-5 ready to learn. That number drops to 26.4% for children who are living in poverty. Our goal is to meet the needs of families by improving school-readiness through early identification.

Communities In Schools of Ohio

<http://ciskids.org>

Communities In Schools (CIS) has been the nation's largest and most effective organization dedicated to keeping kids in school and helping them succeed since 1975. CIS works inside school systems with superintendents, principals, educators and other personnel, and forge community partnerships that bring resources into schools and help remove barriers to academic success. Over 75% of the students that CIS supports daily live at or below the federal poverty level and qualify for the free/reduced school lunch program. Additionally, 74% of the students we serve are African American. Funds will be used to support schools with additional resources such as clean clothes, basic household supplies, school supplies, family dinners, and incentives to reward students who are staying in school and staying engaged in learning during the COVID-19 crisis.

Community Bridges, Inc.

<https://communitybridges-md.org/>

Community Bridges (CB) serves girls ages 9-18 from an array of ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. The traditional CB Girls Program encourages girls in 4th through 12th grades to explore their identity, increase their self-esteem and build their character in a safe and nurturing space. Our integrated programming encourages our girls to lead holistically healthy lives: emotionally, socially and physically. Weekly lessons focus on topics such as healthy relationships, cultural awareness, leadership and goal setting. Since transitioning to virtual, CB has added tutoring to its list of services. Because of COVID-19, CB has shifted to meet girls' basic necessities as well. CB coordinates deliveries of groceries and toiletries to families to keep them safe and healthy during this time.

Community Reach of Montgomery County

<https://www.cmrocks.org/>

Community Reach of Montgomery County seeks to improve the quality of life for the MOST VULNERABLE of Montgomery County residents by providing them with basic health and human services and advocating on their behalf, with the goal of helping them achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. Community Reach's Language Outreach Program quickly adapted our English and Citizenship classes to an online platform, as well as the childcare and tutoring we provide to the children of our adult students. Given the existing academic gap between children from immigrant families and their English-speaking peers, it is crucial that we are able to have our tutors help these students with their online schoolwork during the school year, especially given that they cannot get this assistance in their non-English speaking homes.



Cool Kids Committee, Inc.

<https://ckcinc.org>

CKC, supports low income and at-risk youth through our bullying and gang prevention program. Funds will allow us to purchase more laptops for our virtual learning lab. This helps with our low-income families. We also will be able to assist them with other educational needs to support them and keep them on track to be successful.

Cuyahoga Community College Foundation

<https://www.tri-c.edu>

Tri-C's Women in Transition (WIT) program provides education, support, and referrals to college and community services for women experiencing one or more transitions in their lives. WIT has supported more than 10,000 women as they navigate challenging life transitions: finding a different career path, reentering the community after incarceration, overcoming domestic violence or other trauma, encoring after retirement, beginning their education or career after raising their children, or adapting to American culture when born elsewhere. WIT is an 8-week, non-credit course program offered days and evenings at all four Tri-C campuses. Using a holistic approach, the curriculum includes introduction to academic and workforce programs, personal development, career exploration, computer basics, life skills, financial literacy, and health/wellness. Moving to an online model due to COVID-19 shutdown orders has revealed the vast technological divide within our community and how it contributes to inequity for disadvantaged individuals. All 18 women who had registered for the session slated to begin in March 2020 at our Metropolitan Campus were no longer interested in participating in online classes due to lack of internet and/or computer access. Funds will be used to lease hotspots and provide computers for our most vulnerable populations to access the far-reaching benefits of the WIT program.

Edna House for Women

<https://www.ednhouse.org>

Since 2004, the Edna House has served over 1200 women from Cleveland and many surrounding counties. We give women a safe and sober place to live while beginning their journey of sobriety through abstinent based programming and sober support. Our goal is to return them to their families and communities sober and strong in mind, body and spirit. We are independent of government funding and receive no healthcare reimbursement. We take women in with no financial means and teach them to be independent and self supporting. They never have to worry about the lights being off, or food on the table. Funds will be used to help us pay for the basic needs of electricity, water, sewer and gas bills to house approximately 115 women in 2021.

Empowering Community Leaders Network, Inc. (ECLN)

<https://www.eclninc.org>

ECLN provides educational and cultural enhancement opportunities that foster leadership development in middle school girls through its flagship program: Sisters Wholesome Aspiring toward Greatness (S.W.A.G.). Funds will be used to expand: curriculum emphasis in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), to move from the present general orientation to more practical applications generating even more interest for young women to enter presently male-dominated fields; innovative networking opportunities for professional mentoring experiences with female role models; and sphere of influence in ECLN's virtual presence in increasing participant numbers and meeting a deficit in addressing public education opportunities for economic and socially disadvantaged emergent female leaders.



Enterprise Community Development

<https://www.enterprisecommunity.org/financing-and-development/community-development>

At ECD, we believe that home should be a place of pride, happiness and opportunity – without forcing impossible budget tradeoffs like paying the rent or visiting a doctor. We are committed to making well-designed homes affordable, delivering superior property management invested in our residents' wellbeing, and connecting our communities to resources, programs and support that open the door to growth and success. As a result of our work, residents are doing better in school; learning new job skills; visiting with doctors more regularly; honing healthier eating and exercise habits; and engaging in the community in productive and lasting ways. Our goal is to prevent eviction and increase long-term stability of low-income households.

Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services (ETSS)

<https://www.ethiotss.org>

ETSS's Family Care program focuses on bringing culturally specific outreach and services to refugee and immigrant women and their families in Central Ohio who have been victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, human trafficking, and stalking situations. Our program aims to empower immigrant and refugee women, many of whom are single mothers. Throughout 2020, even in the face of the pandemic, we have continued to reach out to survivors and their children through technology, phone calls and socially responsible, protective ways to meet their needs, whether with food, PPE, or personal hygiene items while ensuring they have safe housing and an understanding of the steps they need to take to stay healthy during COVID-19. We partner with providers throughout Central Ohio for services that will lead to self-sufficiency, financial independence and building a safe future without threat of violence. Funds will be used to provide emergency services, supportive services, and Trauma Responsive Care to survivors. Our goal is for survivors to gain independence and live free of violence.

Fab House

<https://ioby.org/project/fab-house>

We service Glenville residents of all ages interested in learning digital fabrication for education, workforce and entrepreneurship, with a special focus on those underrepresented in STEM including women and girls. Funds will be used to create a cohort of resident ambassadors and instructors to be trained in digital design and making. This initial cohort will learn design software and up to two machines through virtual learning and partnerships with a local and international maker space expanding their knowledge and human capital network. After the training they will support the outreach to additional residents and support the learning of others through workshops.

The Family Recovery Program, Inc.

<https://www.frp-inc.org>

Every month, dozens of children in Baltimore are removed from the custody of parents who are abusing drugs, and the Family Recovery Program (FRP), non-profit organization has been successful in helping parents overcome those challenges. Parents who have had children under the age of 10 removed from their custody due to drug-related circumstances are eligible to voluntarily enroll, or the Juvenile Court may order parents to take part. Since 2005, this nationally recognized program provides parents with substance abuse treatment referrals and a full range of supportive services, including mental health care, transportation, housing assistance and parenting and case management support. Services are tailored to meet the needs of parents who are in crisis and unable to move forward without intensive, ongoing help. Funds will be used to create a family enrichment program that will through offering classes and experiences such as yoga, mindfulness, meditation, smoking cessation, healthy eating, and fun in recovery, enhance the lives of the families we serve.



First Candle

<https://www.firstcandle.org>

Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) is the leading cause of death for babies one month to one year of age, claiming the lives of 3,600 babies every year with infants of color dying at three times the rate of white infants. Structural racism deeply embedded within the health care system influences the way safe sleep and breastfeeding guidance is shared with families of color. According to a study by the Journal of Pediatrics, 45% of families receive inaccurate information about Safe Sleep from care providers. Our program, Straight Talk for Infant Safe Sleep, is a training course for hospitals and home care providers on the Safe Sleep recommendations. We explore implicit bias and how it affects how information is delivered to families. We roleplay to determine ways they can facilitate conversations with families to problem solve issues surrounding safe sleep in supportive, judgement-free ways.

First Generation College Bound, Inc.

<https://www.fgcb.org>

FGCB serves Prince George's County students from low-to moderate-income families and those who are first generation college bound. We prioritize low-income students and serve moderate-income first generation students based on resource and space availability. The youth we serve are beating the odds to graduate high school and attend college. Many live in communities experiencing violence; have challenging home lives or personal situations; or are taking on adult responsibilities such as jobs or caring for younger siblings. Funds will support FGCB's main program, the College Success Program, which assists students with college acceptance, entrance, and retention.

First Glance Student Center, Inc.

<https://www.firstglance.org>

We serve at-risk youth, young/teen moms and children in the Kenmore community of Akron, OH. First Glance's program The Connect exists to bring moms and their young families into a community of encouragement, mentorship, and support, in an effort to break cycles of poverty. Volunteer mentor moms share experiences, best practices, and emotional support with teen and young moms who most often do not have a strong family support system themselves. Providing this family environment, while educating on important topics and building life skills, is key to changing a dysfunctional families and communities.

The Gathering Place

<https://www.touchedbycancer.org>

The Gathering Place serves adults and children who have been diagnosed with cancer and their loved ones. The agency provides a caring community that supports, educates and empowers individuals and families touched by cancer through programs and services throughout Northeast Ohio, all provided free of charge.

GlobalForce For Girls, Inc.

<https://www.globalforceforgirls.org>

Beginning with a pilot project in Baltimore, Maryland, GFG will work with young women aged 16-20 who demonstrate an interest in technology careers. GFG's team of experts will provide guidance over the course of each girl's high school and early college experience. Programs will target young women of color who are sorely underrepresented in the technology industry and be driven by mentors and, over time, program alumni. GFG seeks to build a supportive network that will reshape the landscape for women aspiring to the highest levels of industry leadership.



Godman Guild Association

<https://www.godmanguild.org>

Godman Guild serves Central Ohio's most vulnerable residents during their journey to gain social and economic mobility. Located in Weinland Park, Godman Guild serves young people in grades K-12 with year-round youth development programming. Additionally, we serve adults not only from Weinland Park, but across Columbus and Central Ohio through Adult Education and Workforce Development programming. Godman Guild's A.C.E.S. after-school program operates in partnership with Weinland Park Elementary to provide after-school programming to approximately 90 young people in grades K-5. Utilizing a trauma-informed approach, our education specialists work to support the individualized academic and social growth of these young people. By spending time each day working side by side with classroom teachers, our education specialists are able to tailor support that meets the needs of not only the larger group, but also those of individual participants.

Governmental Savings Institute

<https://www.govtsavings.org>

We teach girls self defense...reducing the amount of violence against women from nearly 20% today. Our program was tried in 2 pilot programs in Israel. I would use the funds to lobby Congress to create several similar pilot programs here in the US. I would do this in a school system, a military base (have some Naval support) , and with a subset of government employees and their children (moms and daughters program).

Heritage Faith Ministries

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In these days and times, it's necessary for women of color to be empowered to apply the proper skills to handle finances for themselves and for their children. Providing a safe place to learn, earn and grow personally. We educate women and children on various ways to handle finances and how to be empowered to have the skills and knowledge to create a financial lifestyle to be prepared for emergencies and a secure future.

HIT in the CLE

<https://www.hitinthecle.com>

Our mission is to grow and diversify the talent pipeline of entry level software development and data science talent for northeast OH. We work directly with middle, high school and college students to create a pipeline with the end goal of securing employment for students when they complete their post secondary education. We provide a robust experiences in coding, mentoring, professional development and networking.

Hitchcock Center for Women

<http://hcfw.org/>

Hitchcock Center for Women (HCFW) has been a leader in substance abuse treatment for women since 1978, carrying out the mission to empower women to achieve and maintain productive, chemically-free lives at home, at work, and in the community. The agency serves adult women, including pregnant women and women with children. Hitchcock is one of the only providers in the state of Ohio that allows women to enter an American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Level 3.5 residential treatment facility with their children. We believe that keeping the family unit intact during treatment greatly improves the family dynamics and reduces the number of children displaced into the foster care system. Services are provided using cognitive behavioral models, which include both individual & group counseling, case management, crisis intervention, family education, and prevention education.



Housing Initiative Partnership

<https://www.HIPhomes.org>

HIP is a nonprofit housing developer and HUD-approved counseling agency in Maryland. The vast majority of HIP's Housing Counseling and Financial Capability Program clients are hourly and service industry workers that have been directly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of these families were already struggling to rebound from financial and medical hardships prior to March, and have now lost income and jobs. Many are struggling with access to technology because the public libraries remain closed. It has been a hardship for low- and moderate-income clients to submit the necessary documents to get approved for Covid Rent Relief programs. HIP created its own Emergency Rent & Food Assistance Fund in April to those not eligible for other ERA programs. Funds will be used to provide newly-housed women and children with basic supplies to help them start rebuilding their lives and feel safe in their new spaces.

IndeedWeCode

<https://www.indeedwecode.com>

IndeedWeCode (IWC) is a signature program of Chalkdust Education Foundation (CEF) offering computer coding instruction and IT-related proficiencies and opportunities to African American middle and high school girls in greater Cleveland. . Through its two-week summer camp and related experiences throughout the academic year, the life chances of the least visible people in IT and technology-based entrepreneurship, African American females, are maximized. IWC wants black girls to: See the possible: illumination! Dream the invisible: imagination! Create the tangible: innovation! Now in its sixth year, IWC is striving to expand its capabilities as interest in the program has increased. IWC alumna reflects significant interest in STEM-related careers, with several majoring in computer science as a direct result of participation in IWC. With the advent of COVID-19 and the closing of all colleges/universities, K-12 schools and libraries within the state of Ohio precluded IWC Camp 2020. Given the uncertainty of when such facilities will reopen with the kinds of restrictions and limitations that may be required, IWC desires to increase its options for program delivery in a wider range of settings. Consequently, purchasing Chromebooks and other equipment would enable the IWC program to occur in a wider range of Wi-Fi capable environments such as businesses, churches, and other community-based facilities.

Jada's Got Your Backpack

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I serve children that are underserved by providing them with the educational tools they need to succeed. I plan to provide more backpacks and supplies to kids in Belize. It is my goal to have an impact on children apart of the diaspora. It is essential. My results would be closing that educational gap and providing viable access.

Jennings Center for Older Adults

<https://www.jenningsohio.org>

Rooted in Catholic values, Jennings celebrates and nurtures individuals as they age, through exceptional choices and continuous innovation. In fulfilling our mission, we commit ourselves to these values: Respect, Compassion, Community, Discovery of Potential, and Celebration of Life. Its non-profit, faith-based mission annually supports over 1,500 older adults with affordable housing, health care and community-based services in Garfield Heights, Shaker Heights, Brecksville and Chardon, Ohio. Jennings offers services and supports for older adults of all income levels with special concern for those with limited means. Approximately 50% have incomes below 150% of the poverty level. Approximately 80% are women and approximately 25% are women of color. Funds will be used to prevent housing instability, food insecurity and premature nursing home placement among low-income older adults by helping to fund the start-up costs of Jennings' new affordable assisted living community opening in January 2021. The community will serve 30-35 low-income older adults annually through the Ohio Medicaid Waiver program, with the expectation of breaking even or realizing a modest 4% profit margin.



Leadership Montgomery

<https://leadershipmontgomerymd.org/>

Leadership Montgomery's mission is to educate, inspire, convene, and connect leaders to advance Montgomery County. We provide the programming, trainings, and experiential learning that strong and engaged leaders need to address disparities and embark on the work it will take to eliminate them. It is imperative to continue engaging leaders in the public, private, and nonprofit sector around these issues to impact the greater good of our region. While some organizations are working to address racial disparities and community health in intentionally civil ways, they operate from multiple understandings that rely more on personal feelings and popular opinion instead of historical facts and a deep examination of structural racism and how it can affect and negate the work they are doing. Montgomery County needs strong and engaged leadership to address the disparities of the County, particularly in the nonprofit sector.

Learning Undefeated, Inc.

<https://www.learningundefeated.org>

Providing equitable access to education is at the core of who Learning Undefeated is as an organization. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the economic disparities of the populations we serve, as these communities face enormous challenges around accessibility of quality educational resources and opportunities. Learning Undefeated prioritizes its programming to students and schools in under-resourced communities. At least 75% or more of those schools served have a majority student population that qualifies for Free and Reduced Meals. Additional focus is on students that are typically underrepresented in STEM careers (defined by Learning Undefeated as minority, female, low-income, and first in their family to go to college). Programming is geared towards students and their teachers in grades K-12. Funds would support Learning Undefeated's Mobile STEM Education programming across the region.

Made By Kids

<https://mbkmadebykids.org/>

Made By Kids is devoted to exposing underserved and underprivileged youth, (Ages 5-14), to the arts. 90% of the youth that we serve have an average annual household income of <\$18,000 with 5 or more people in their home. 95% of our program participants identify themselves as Black or Latino. Additionally, Twinsburg Township in Ohio and the surrounding suburbs lack affordable quality programming for low-income families. The few programs that are offered in surrounding suburbs are often costly and do not offer the hours and/or year-round programming as that of MBK. Funds are sought to implement a culinary curriculum at MBK.

Marian House

<https://marianhouse.org>

Marian House exists to help reduce homelessness and poverty among women and children in Baltimore and help them address and overcome the underlying cause(s) of their homelessness. The women we serve experience co-occurring issues of substance abuse disorder, mental illness, domestic violence and more. We provide safe shelter and supportive services. All of the women we serve have histories of trauma; we aim to create a safe and supportive environment. Services provided include meals, individual and group counseling, substance abuse treatment, employment assistance, psychiatric evaluations and care, pre-GED and GED education services and individual tutoring, financial education, a personal savings program, support in achieving family reunification, medical and personal supplies, drug screenings, and transportation for services such as healthcare.



Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance

<http://www.mmhla.org>

MMHLA is focused on national policy around maternal mental health (MMH) conditions, such as postpartum depression, which are the most common complication of pregnancy and childbirth, affecting 1 in 5 women during pregnancy or first year following pregnancy. MMHLA's mission is to advocate for universal education, screening, referral, and treatment of MMH conditions. In fall 2020, MMHLA partnered with the Milken Institute of Public Health at George Washington University to launch an intern program. MMHLA brought on two fabulous second-year interns, both of whom are women of color who hope to pursue careers in the maternal-child health field, to assist with specific activities and to train the next generation of leaders in maternal mental health. Funds will be used to provide monthly stipends for both interns for 2021.

Mental Health America of Ohio (MHAOhio)

<https://mhaohio.org>

Mental Health America of Ohio hosts the POEM (Perinatal Outreach and Encouragement for Moms) program, a single-entry point of care for maternal mental health complications (MMHC) by providing mom-to-mom mentoring, support groups, talk/text line, access to specialized clinicians, and collaboration with MHAOhio's Get Connected to aid in housing and legal needs. While mothers of any race can face mental health challenges during pregnancy and after childbirth, Black women are especially vulnerable. They are more at risk of MMHCs but are less likely to receive treatment. POEM's Rise Initiative serves Black & African-American mothers, and has been steadily growing in its peer-based telehealth services since its inception two years ago. This program provides peer support and care navigation for Black mothers, who've been even more so exceedingly impacted by Covid-19. POEM serves approximately 2,000 pregnant and parenting women each year primarily in Central Ohio with maternal mental health services and verifies that nearly 80% successfully connect with the resources they need. In stark contrast, a 2015 study (Byatt) found that only 22% of women who screened positive for depression received mental health intervention.

Missouri M.A.D.E.: Mobilizing And Diversifying Elections

<https://www.missourimade.org>

Missouri M.A.D.E. identifies, recruits and trains women to run for public office. Even though women represent 51% of Missouri's population, less than a quarter of our state legislature is comprised of women. Funds will be used for our Leader to Legislator program; a targeted engagement strategy throughout MO to recruit a minimum of 50 women for Missouri M.A.D.E.'s candidate pipeline. We specifically seek to engage with Black and other women of color, as well as LGBTQ+ women, non-binary people comfortable in women's spaces, poor women and rural women. Our organization aims to mobilize diverse candidates to run for public office in order to strengthen the legislative leadership across the state, and by recruiting underrepresented women and girls to run for public office, we will increase women's political representation throughout Missouri.

Montgomery Housing Partnership

<http://www.mhpartners.org>

Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP) is a nonprofit affordable housing organization founded in response to the increasing demand for affordable housing in the Washington, DC region. MHP provides rent relief, financial counseling, on-site health services, and food assistance to help low-income families in our housing properties with emergency needs caused by the COVID pandemic. When the COVID lockdown started, MHP created a resident emergency outreach team. The outreach team provides counseling to residents that have been impacted by COVID, assessing their needs and helping them apply for public aid such as rent payment assistance, unemployment benefits, subsidized health insurance, and utility assistance. To date, over 300 resident households have received emergency counseling.



NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania

<https://www.neighborworkswpa.org>

NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania serves low- and moderate-income prospective homebuyers as well as homeowners at risk of foreclosure. Though our programs and services are open to all western PA residents, we work with key community partners to ensure that Black Pittsburghers – who have had inequitable access to homeownership due to housing segregation, redlining, lending discrimination, and other forms of systemic racism – have access to sustainable homeownership. NWWPA seeks to increase homeownership among Black western PA families by providing HUD-certified homebuyer counseling and education and connecting first-time buyers to down payment and closing cost assistance. Our services are designed to help prospective buyers assess their level of purchase-readiness and take the next steps on their homeownership journey. As credit and cash continue to be the biggest hurdle to homeownership for LMI buyers and particularly buyers of color, NWWPA offers a low-interest, down payment and closing cost assistance loan to make homeownership more accessible and attainable to individuals and families who have not benefited from the region's economic growth.

North Community Counseling Centers, Inc.

<https://www.northcommunity.com>

North Community Counseling Centers' Women's Empowerment Program aims to prevent, educate, and empower women to live quality, healthy lives through the support and guidance of other women in the community. This program operates in full awareness of the specific challenges that women and families face, with the goal of helping women succeed in their lives and their communities. NCCC works hard to meet clients where they are and help clients overcome barriers to education, housing, medical services, employment and behavioral health treatment. We focus on education, empowerment and self-esteem building so the women and their families can live more independent, quality lives. We work to improve the lives of the women we serve, including tangible evidence of change in their financial lives, housing opportunities, parenting needs, and ability to increase their independence. We provide a bridge to help women overcome the barriers they face in order to elevate to a better life.

Norwalk Arts Center

<https://www.norwalkartscenter.org>

Norwalk Arts Center celebrates and increases advocacy for the arts in all facets in Norwalk, Huron County and the surrounding area. Theater veterans Vanessa Cook and Theresa Barcus founded NAC and bought the historic Norwalk Theater in 2018. With an executive board of local business, music and theater professionals (primarily women), NAC began to fulfill its mission even before extensive renovations could be completed to the building. Working temporarily out of a storefront nearby, NAC produced a musical for young people in late 2019 and started an Arts Explorer program. Hundreds of people - individuals, businesses, sports teams and other organizations - have stepped forward to donate time, labor and funding to help with these programs and begin renovations on the theater. With such tremendous community support, we look forward to expanding our offerings to celebrate art in all forms in north central Ohio. Our dream is to bring youth and adults from every walk of life and as many backgrounds as possible together to produce and enjoy art in all forms.

Open Arms Adoptions

<https://openarmsadopt.com>

We serve foster care children thru educating the community about the need to adopt from foster care, working with adoptive families, and we serve women who may be in a crisis or unplanned pregnancy. The more outreach we can conduct about the need to adopt from foster care the better. There are over 3,000 children in Ohio's foster care system that are available for adoption. This grant would enable us to do more community outreach, family training, and provide the post-adoption support necessary for families that adopt from foster care to be successful.



Pawsibilities Vet Med

<https://pawsibilitiesvetmed.com/>

The veterinary profession does not reflect the population of the United States. In fact, veterinary medicine is one of the least diverse professions in the country. The veterinary profession also suffers from disproportionately high suicide rates, likely due to workload, mental illness and financial burden. In a profession in crisis, it is imperative that we recuperate the climate within while providing those who join with the tools to develop a successful career. Pawsibilities is a web and mobile platform designed to aid in the recruitment and retention of diverse talent to the veterinary profession through pooling of resources, providing professional development, and providing positive mentorship opportunities. Life-skill training opportunities will be provided in subjects including diversity, equity and inclusion, financial, mental and physical wellness, written and verbal communication and leadership. Most importantly, we provide the opportunity for coaching and mentoring while showcasing veterinary professionals from a variety of backgrounds, to emphasize that anyone from anywhere can join.

Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland

<https://probonomd.org>

The Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland (PBRC) recruits, trains, and engages attorneys to provide free legal help to low-income families, ensuring they can meet essential needs like food, shelter, employment, and medical care. We work to stop illegal or unfair wage garnishments, evictions, foreclosures, denial of benefits, and more. Most of our current work focuses on securing affordable and safe housing and stabilizing homes in distressed communities. Our community and courthouse-based free legal clinics help low-income individuals fight off unscrupulous debt collectors, whose actions impact the families' ability to pay the rent or mortgage; stop unfair evictions or establish rent escrow proceedings to remedy unsafe living conditions; prevent homes from being foreclosed; and provide assistance in dealing with utility companies and water bills, which threaten their access to a safe and healthy home. Last year we directly served 2,880 clients, with the vast majority being women and children of color.

Produce Perks Midwest, Inc.

<https://www.produceperks.org>

We serve low-income, vulnerable Ohioans experiencing food insecurity, chronic disease and nutrition-related illness; additionally, we serve local, Ohio farmers and small-business market-retailers. Funds will support healthy food purchases (nutrition incentive programming) for struggling Ohio individuals & families; most notably pregnant women with a focus on improving infant mortality rates within select OH counties (counties with the highest infant mortality rates). In response to Covid-19, we're providing home delivery of fruits & vegetables, directly sourcing from local producers and providing virtual cooking training and educational resources.

Refugee Response

<https://refugeeresponse.org>

The Refugee Response provides educational support, employment training and placement, and case management for refugees who have resettled in the Greater Cleveland area. . Since 2012, more than 2,000 refugees have been resettled in Cleveland city boundaries, including many from Afghanistan, Syria, Burma/Myanmar, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While refugees are assigned case managers when they enter the United States, they only receive those services for their first five years here. Refugees who move from the city where they were originally resettled to be closer to family, seek work, or find cheaper housing also lose case management support. We estimate that 25% of the refugees in the Cleveland area are these so-called "secondary migrants," many of whom move here because housing is relatively inexpensive. Funds will be used for an emergency housing fund for clients experiencing a housing crisis, and who are not supported by a resettlement agency.



RePlay for Kids

<https://replayforkids.org>

RePlay for Kids provides free adapted toys for children with disabilities. Typically, we host workshops where volunteers are shown how to attach a cable to a battery-operated toy, so that a child with a disability can access the toy with an external switch. These toys are used in schools and therapies to teach and encourage movements. Due to the pandemic, we have had to cancel all workshops, and children who are learning remotely no longer have access to adapted toys. We now have volunteers adapting toys at home, and are shipping the adapted toys to children who need them so they can continue learning. Funds will be used to provide adapted toys to low-income families who have children with disabilities.

Rise Up: Northeast Ohio

<https://riseupnortheastohio.org>

Science is the most productive when we bring diverse people with diverse experiences together to solve complex problems. However, science careers are plagued with representation issues. At Rise Up: Northeast Ohio, we bring real world, cutting-edge science into some of the most underfunded school districts in Ohio. We identify schools in need and pair high school science teachers with scientists working in a lab who virtually bring students into the lab. We aim to help remove barriers for future students while discussing the exciting things we do in the lab to supplement their curriculum. Perhaps most importantly, we show we are just like them and passionate about science. Funding will allow our program to provide supplies to classes in some of the most dire schools in need and provide opportunity to students, helping to stimulate students and empower the next generation of diverse scientists.

Sasha Bruce Youthwork

<https://www.sashabruce.org>

The mission of Sasha Bruce Youthwork is to improve the lives of runaway, homeless, abused, and neglected at-risk youth and their families in the Washington area. Although we serve the entire region, 90% of the youth we see are African American from DC's Ward 7 and 8. We believe youth have the tools and skills to thrive. Our role is to help untap that potential and position them for success. Residents at Olaiya's Cradle, our program for formerly homeless moms and their children, receive mentoring and support to help strengthen the bond between parents and children while learning life skills that will prevent future incidences of homelessness. Funds will help formalize a partnership between Olaiya's Cradle and Briya Public Charter School that will allow women to pursue a certificate and become a medical or dental assistant while their young child receives a pre-K education.

Shirley Chisholm Education Foundation

<https://www.shirleychisholmed.org>

The Shirley Chisholm Education Foundation (SCEF)'s dynamic year-long program, The Protégé Experience is a one-of-a-kind virtual program that pairs young women with female mentors with demonstrated success in their fields in order to develop the skills and experience needed to complete college, launch a business, or take a business to the next stage. SCEF's target client for the pilot of The Protégé Experience is a woman who resides in the United States or the Caribbean, age 16 to 25, who will become a first-generation female college graduate and/or a first-generation female business owner. This foundation is dedicated to addressing the holistic needs of these young women and developing in them the personal and professional skills and opportunities to have a better quality of life.



Slavic Village Development

<https://slavicvillage.org>

Slavic Village Development (SVD) serves over 22,000 residents in the Broadway Slavic Village neighborhood. Our neighborhoods are diverse in age, gender, and racial identity with 80% of our residents falling into the low-to-moderate income bracket. Our Housing Outreach Staff will use funds as a way to address emergency issues that arise that could cause housing instability as a way to prevent homelessness. The instability brought about by the Covid-19 has let us know that we need to prioritize immediate needs while working to address the larger overarching issue of poverty and housing inequity. Our goal is to make sure residents remain fed, safe, warm, & dry. Over the past year the outreach staff has partnered with the Sisters of Humility of Mary Ministry to provide emergency funds to residents experiencing instability.

Treehouse Ohio

<https://www.thetreehousebedford.org>

The Treehouse provides professionally designed play experiences that are accessible to children of all abilities and income levels. We offer Northeast Ohio families a safe place to bring children to be accepted and accommodated, where differences are celebrated. We also provide playgroup to-go bags as a free, weekly service for those families wishing to adhere to social distancing guidelines and bi-weekly virtual playgroup opportunities so that kids can still participate in a Treehouse experience from the safety and comfort of their own homes. Our goal is to reach as many children as possible in the Greater Cleveland area with free virtual playgroups and to-go bags in order to build important developmental skills while kids are unable to be in school or in structured play environment like The Treehouse.

US Together, Inc.

<https://ustogether.us>

US Together's mission is to coordinate, organize, and initiate services to immigrants and refugees through education, advocacy, support services, information, referrals, and networking opportunities. A significant portion of our programming is focused on women, many of whom are women of color. UST has witnessed teens and young women in New American communities experiencing a high rate of pregnancies due to stigmas surrounding sex and a lack of access to education and contraception. Funds will be used towards a comprehensive, hybrid, digital-interpersonal model sexual education program, providing a safe space for women and girls to ask questions, learn safe practices, access contraception, and understand anatomy, autonomy, and consent. Our unique solution—targeted outreach and a culturally appropriate curriculum—will empower refugee girls and women to pursue higher education and establish careers, which will also create a ripple effect that will benefit the broader community and the children of these empowered women.

Wells International Foundation (WIF)

<https://wellsinternationalfoundation.org>

The Wells International Foundation empowers women, girls, and persons of African descent of all ages to realize their highest potential through arts, literacy, study abroad, and other educational and cultural programs. With a specific focus on reading comprehension through our Reading Never Stops program, we're targeting low-income, minority early readers (Kindergarten and Grade 1) and early transitional readers (Grades 2-3) – children who are advancing from reading picture books and simple texts to becoming self-regulating, independent readers of more difficult texts.

WIF offers book donations and virtual story times to low-income minority K-Grade 3 students as part of this early, intensive intervention. We conducted a pilot virtual story time session for BBBS with an 8-year-old African-American book author and will launch a full program in January 2021.



WNDC Educational Foundation

<https://wndceducationalfoundation.org/food4dckids>

Since we launched Food*4*DC*Kids in May 2020, we have provided more than 8,250 meals to students and families served by the Columbia Heights Educational Campus (CHEC). CHEC identifies the neediest students and families in their community and delivers the meals. In better times, CHEC students are regulars at EF's International Women's Day and other programs; we have provided computers to graduating seniors and supported them in other ways.

Women Empowering Nations

<https://www.wenations.org>

Women Empowering Nations is a non-profit organization that provides exposure and mentorship for girls of color in underserved communities to grow as socially conscious global leaders. The organization serves young women in the United States and Africa (Ghana, Tanzania, Gambia, and South Africa) and has focused its existing efforts on working with middle and high school girls. Women are dramatically outnumbered in senior leadership. Only about 1 in 5 C-suite leaders is a woman, and only 1 in 25 is a woman of color. WEN's vision is to develop more confident female leaders of color to be equipped and passionate about leading organizations, businesses, schools, and agencies domestically and internationally. We work to contribute to a society where women leaders of color will no longer be viewed as the exception to the rule but as relevant assets and necessary additions to organizations globally. Women Empowering Nations provides exposure and mentorship for girls of color in underserved communities to grow as socially conscious global leaders through school based mentorship programs, travel seminars and annual leadership conferences. The organization has primarily focused its efforts on middle and high school girls. However, as our young women matriculate, we see a dire need for programming to continue into college to support their journey as young professionals.

Women's Housing Coalition

<https://www.womenshousing.org>

WHC serves chronically homeless individuals and families in Baltimore City identified as such by Federal guidelines - they have a disabling condition and has continuously homeless for a year or more, or they have a disabling condition and has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. Our program serves 23 families and 103 individuals, and our clients range in age from very early 20s to mid-60s. We provide safe, stable, permanent housing for this population and provide support services customized to the needs of each person who becomes a resident in our program. Our case managers meet with each resident to identify short and long terms goals, and provide resources to help residents meet those goals. Case managers also create programming for residents to participate in based on the residents' needs. These programs range from anger management, addiction recovery support and acupuncture to financial literacy, parenting, physical fitness and more. The housing we provide is permanent for our residents – there are no limitations on the amount of time our residents spend in our housing units.



Women's Recovery Center

<https://http:womensctr.org>

Women's Recovery Center (WRC) is an Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) certified intensive outpatient substance use disorder treatment center in Cleveland, Ohio. The mission of WRC is to serve women and their families by providing comprehensive addiction treatment, prevention, and education programs that are client-centered, family-based, and recovery-focused. We are here to serve women and their families that suffer from the consequences of substance use disorder and many of the commonly associated barriers to seek treatment. We would use the grant award to fund our unique intensive outpatient program. Our health and human services agency operates programming that can be started immediately. The wait time to get in for an initial assessment is 24-48 hours. Programming includes group, individual, and family counseling, parenting classes, case management and referral services, transportation, child care, nutrition and domestic violence education, and STI education paired with HIV testing. Our clinical staff uses best practices curriculum that includes cognitive behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, mindfulness practices, brief therapy, and contingency management. We facilitate programming and offer ancillary services to ensure life-long recovery. We strive to meet the highest standards for our clients who have been marginalized, underprivileged, and traumatized during their lifetime.

Zollie McClendon Memorial Foundation

<https://www.facebook.com/thezolliemcclendonmemorialfoundation/>

I service African American girls and women in the Cleveland metropolitan area. My main age demographic is young ladies 13-18 and their families. ZMMF prides itself on creating experiences for young ladies. The expectation is that they are able to take their experiences learn a grow from them. We have thrown human trafficking seminars, college sleepovers, and trunk parties. Funds will aid us in making unforgettable experiences.

