



Community  
FOUNDATION

for the  
Central Savannah  
River Area

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE CSRA

Augusta, Ga., December 6, 2019—

The Board of Directors of **The Community Foundation for the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA)** is pleased to announce the **2020 Community Grants Award recipients, comprised of 44 deserving area nonprofit agencies that will receive grants totaling more than \$573,000.** Each of these nonprofit agencies meets the pressing and changing needs of our community, impacting the lives of the individuals they serve across education, youth enrichment, health, the environment, the arts, culture and history, as well as people in need. These grants are made available through the Foundation's *Community Grants Fund*, which is primarily supported by the **Masters Tournament**. The Foundation's *Community Grants Fund* is unrestricted, meaning the Foundation has great flexibility in awarding grants to address the needs in Richmond, Columbia, McDuffie and Burke counties in Georgia, and Aiken and Edgefield counties in South Carolina.

In addition to the 2020 Community Grants Award program, the Community Foundation for the CSRA is pleased to announce the continuation of an initiative-based grant program that commenced in January 2019. The Board of Directors of the Foundation has allocated \$200,000 from our *Community Grants Fund* to address the challenges associated with literacy in the Harrisburg neighborhood. These dollars have been granted to eight local agencies providing literacy programming and wrap-around services reducing barriers to learning from birth to adulthood. **The targeted monies of this grant program along with the funding provided through the 2020 Community Grants Award program combine for a total investment of nearly \$775,000 in the community.**

This year's Community Grants process included 145 dedicated community volunteers who reviewed applications, conducted site visits and brought recommendations to the Grants Committee on the Foundation's Board of Directors. The community volunteers ranked their reviewed organizations such that the top organization received full funding and the second organization received 90 percent of their grant request.

The 2020 Community Grants Award recipients are as follows:

**Arts and Heritage Center of North Augusta \$2,500**

Arts and Heritage Center of North Augusta offers the youth of North Augusta and the surrounding areas an opportunity to explore the arts through summer camps. This grant will help fund the camps and enrich the lives of children by making art a part of their lives.

**Augusta Canal National Heritage Center \$15,000**

Augusta Canal National Heritage Center's program will offer Georgia Department of Education Standards-based Canal field trips for elementary school students, led by former teachers. Grade-level appropriate activities include Canal guided boat tours, Discovery Center explorations and lessons on subject matter such as history, economics, social studies and science (biology and physical sciences). This grant will help cover the costs of field trips for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from 32 Richmond County schools.

**Augusta Locally Grown \$15,000**

Augusta Locally Grown's "Veggie Park Plus" program provides year-round, plant-based, low-cost, seasonal-food cooking education to low income adults throughout Augusta, with an emphasis on the Harrisburg community. The program is mobile and intended to be shared throughout the community at health fairs, churches, schools, hospitals, etc. This grant will improve, expand and mobilize the plant-based, seasonal cooking, meal prep and tasting workshops for the benefit of low-income families.

**Augusta Rescue Mission \$15,000**

For over 54 years, Augusta Rescue Mission has been a source of shelter for many homeless men, providing a safe haven while offering life skills classes, job skills programs and peace of mind as the men work to rebuild their lives. This grant will help update and renovate a stable home and living environment to be used as transitional housing for men in the Augusta Rescue Mission residential program.

**Augusta Technical College Foundation \$12,600**

Augusta Technical College Foundation's program teaches skills in computer programming, operation and troubleshooting of modern computing systems, networking and a variety of basic and advanced program commands. This grant will replace one of three Programmable Logical Controllers (PLC) in the Electrical Systems Technology Program necessary for students to learn industry-relevant skills for a wide range of real-world applications.

**Augusta University Literacy Center \$14,947**

The Augusta University Literacy Center offers evidence-based parenting education to guardians and caregivers as students receive tutorial support. This grant will allow the AU Literacy Center to provide evidence-based one-on-one tutorial support for children of the CSRA, increasing CSRA youth access to tutoring services.

**Berry Center \$15,000**

For over 50 years, the Berry Center has provided high-quality day services to the community's adults with developmental disabilities. This grant will allow the center to obtain much needed instructional materials and supplies to accomplish specific learning goals for clientele served by the Center.

**Bridge Ministry of the CSRA \$13,500**

Bridge Ministry of the CSRA compassionately serves over 1,500 people every year, helping them move from poverty to self-sufficiency by providing tangible and relational support that for some can be the difference between life and death. This grant will provide resources that help supply, operate and maintain the food pantry, disaster-related furniture bank and clothing center.

**Camp Twin Lakes, Inc. \$4,950**

The Camper Scholarship Program is part of Camp Twin Lakes' investment in their campers and their families. Campers are all children and young adults with serious illnesses, disabilities, and life challenges. This grant will allow them to provide camp scholarships that subsidize the cost to families for their children who attend camp.

**Center for New Beginnings (CFNB) \$13,500**

CFNB offers healing and hope to children with special needs, seeking to address the major concerns for families to include progress for their child, isolation from society and the lack of confidence to act on their child's behalf. This grant will supplement direct therapy hours provided to children whose families cannot afford treatment.

**Children's Place, Inc. \$13,500**

Children's Place, Inc. has a decades-long track record of intervening in the lives of children and families to protect, heal and strengthen them from the impact of trauma in their lives. This grant will be used to purchase new equipment, developmental toys and books for our Therapeutic Childcare Program.

**Christ Community Health Services \$15,000**

Christ Community Health Services' mission is to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and to demonstrate His love by providing quality, affordable primary healthcare to the underserved. This grant will cover a portion or all of the costs of additional diagnostic testing or referrals to a specialist as needed.

**Colton Ballet Company of Augusta \$5,400**

Colton Ballet Company of Augusta's mission is to provide professional quality dance performances for the community, encouraging and enhancing a greater public awareness and appreciation for dance as an art form. They have been performing the holiday classic, The Nutcracker, since the early 1970s for Augusta audiences. This grant will help to purchase twelve new "Snow" costumes for its 2020 Nutcracker performances.

**Dog and Cat Networking Agents \$13,500**

The Dog and Cat Network collaborates with local shelters to help place animals in homes. This grant will allow the spay/neuter program to assist low-income families with the costs associated with the spay/neuter procedure, alleviating issues around stray and unwanted animals in the CSRA.

**E3 Foundation \$15,000**

E3 Foundation's program, Project Impact, is a Life Skills and Leadership Development program for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade males that fills the gaps of learning that many are missing. This grant will allow E3 Foundation to expand their program to include professional counseling, financial literacy and professional tutors.

**Easter Seals of East Georgia \$12,780**

Easter Seals of East Georgia provides a continuum of services for those with all types of disabilities, providing skills that allow them to gain employment and social independence. This grant will purchase and maintain a used van to transport disabled clients to job sampling/training locations so that they can gain social independence.

**Family Promise of Augusta \$15,000**

Family Promise of Augusta is a homeless program that offers housing and program service 365 days a year. They focus on families to include single and two-parent households, grandparent(s) with custody of their grandchild(ren) and single pregnant women. This grant will support operational costs associated with program services and needs of the Day Center, the Children’s Day Shelter and the Transitional Dwellings.

**Fighting to Win/Day One Fitness \$15,000**

Day One Fitness improves the quality of life for people with Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Disease and helps people maintain their ability to perform activities of daily living, allowing them to live independently longer, and thereby reducing the overall costs of healthcare. This grant will allow coaches to receive specialized training and work with various experts at Augusta University to develop and maintain these programs, and will assist in the implementation costs associated with adding programs to serve people living with Multiple Sclerosis and Cancer.

**Foundation of Public Schools in Edgefield County \$4,500**

The Foundation for Public Schools in Edgefield County was established to improve and enhance educational opportunities available to all county public school students. Through the Teachers Vision program, this grant will provide funding to teachers in Edgefield County that allows them to enhance classroom experiences through additional materials and technology.

**Friendship Community Center \$15,000**

Friendship’s Women Gaining Freedom to Explore program is designed for women who live with chronic mental illness or behavioral disorders, have limited resources and may feel restricted or embarrassed by the stigma of their diagnoses. Through this grant, women will be able to increase self-esteem and confidence and apply learned social skills in real-world settings.

**GAP Ministries \$15,000**

GAP Ministries addresses the needs of the homeless and working poor in the greater Richmond County area. Over the years, GAP has evolved as the needs of the community have changed, continuing to find ways to “fill the gap” between needs and services. This grant will assist individuals in need who must obtain a photo ID or a birth certificate. It will also assist individuals with the costs of obtaining medical prescriptions and provide diapers to mothers in need.

**Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art \$13,500**

The Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art believes strongly in the power of visual art and its impact on individuals and the community. The Institute has a long-lasting record of providing ArtVentures and Artist-in-Residence to the CSRA. This grant will provide free arts education outreach programs to Richmond County elementary schools and will allow for a continuation of partner programming with the Family Y and Boys and Girls Clubs.

**Good Neighbor Ministries, Inc. \$15,000**

Good Neighbor Ministries was established to benefit low-income residents who reside in the historic Harrisburg neighborhood. Boys with a Future works with and follows African-American males through all four years of high school with the goal of showing them they have a future. This is done by providing male African-American mentors, tutoring, employment opportunities and enrichment activities, which show them there are options beyond gang life.

**GrantWest Enterprises, Inc. \$13,500**

GrantWest empowers Richmond County youth, teens and young adults through various programs and services. This grant will provide programming that helps inner-city youth understand the responsibility associated with sexual activity, imagine career options and financial stability, and develop a clear plan to stay focused on their futures.

**Greater Augusta Arts Council \$4,062**

The Greater Augusta Arts Council strives to promote Augusta's vibrant arts community by offering support for and access to the arts for the community. This grant will provide access to community arts events for special population groups like military veterans, the visually impaired and the developmentally and mentally disabled.

**Harrisburg Family Health Care, Inc. \$13,500**

Harrisburg Family Health Care, Inc. offers patient care to uninsured and underinsured patients within the CSRA, without charge, by Family Practice Resident Physicians in training from the Medical College of Georgia. This grant will fund the costs associated with the lab work often needed to provide additional information for correct diagnoses of the patients.

**Hope for Augusta \$15,000**

Hope for Augusta partners with other like-minded organizations to support families in downtown neighborhoods through after-school tutoring, Bible studies, mentorships, and summer programs. This grant will fund College for Kids, an educational day camp that will serve up to 90 low-income students grades K - 5, for four weeks in June with the goal of offsetting educational loss that occurs in the summer months.

**Jessye Norman School of the Arts, Inc. \$15,000**

Jessye Norman is an emerging arts center providing professional development and community arts programming in a vibrant creative space while continuing to offer free, high-quality core programming. This grant will help to provide high-quality arts education programming that incorporates the elements of STEAM along with tutoring, free of cost for low-income, local 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**Kid's Restart, Inc. \$15,000**

Kid's Restart makes a difference in the lives of families by helping parents learn how to positively interact with their children by providing them with a safe, secure environment. This grant will assist in the costs related to the provision of the Kid's Restart parent-child visitation program. It will also cover counseling services and costs associated with referrals.

**MACH Academy \$13,500**

MACH Academy's mission is connected to the late Arthur Ashe's vision to use tennis and education sessions as tools to promote character and to offer opportunities for young people to become successful adults. It also aims to provide children with healthy, affordable enrichment opportunities while helping to create and support foundations for education, lifestyle and leadership.

**Marty Tucios Therapeutic Golf \$13,500**

Through golf, Marty's program has served thousands of individuals with disabilities over many years. Working with Wedges and Woods Driving Range, this grant will help provide free therapeutic golf several times a week to anyone with a disability, directed by a therapist with an advanced degree, using the latest high-tech equipment.

**Mercy Ministries, Inc. \$13,500**

Since 2002, Mercy Ministries has been working with extremely low-income and homeless individuals in our community. This grant will improve and upgrade the current pantry to facilitate a new program, Retail Recovery, where food is picked up directly from the grocery stores and redistributed to those in need in the community.

**Mt. Zion Community Outreach \$13,500**

Building a firm foundation for children on the phrase "your environment does not dictate your destiny," Mt. Zion has been working with youth in East Augusta since 2011. This grant will help provide an afterschool tutoring program in math, reading and STEM activities for middle school students who are at least two grade levels behind and attend what are considered failing schools.

**ReStart Augusta, Inc. \$12,000**

Through volunteers, ReStart Augusta provides beds to low-income individuals who do not have a bed and cannot afford to buy one. This grant will help pay for supplies needed to make beds and get people off the floor. Each bed delivered will include the frame, mattress, box springs, sheets, pillows and a comforter.

**Ronald McDonald House Charities of Augusta, Inc. \$13,500**

Ronald McDonald House has been "keeping families close" while their child receives lifesaving medical care at the Children's Hospital of Georgia or the J.M. Still Burn Center since 1984. The grant will support the growth of services provided to families by the Family Support Services Program and allow them to ease the financial burden on families who stay at the facility.

**Saratoga WarHorse Foundation \$13,500**

Saratoga WarHorse was founded as a response to the number of veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress and the obvious need for different, nontraditional approaches to addressing it. The grant will help provide veterans residing in the CSRA with a free three-day equine-assisted experience to help those who are diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress reduce or overcome their symptoms.

### **Storyland Theater \$13,500**

For 31 years, Storyland Theater has produced three plays or musicals per season. To date, more than 734,000 young people from 13 counties in Georgia and South Carolina have attended a Storyland Theater production. The grant will provide enhanced educational opportunities by providing theatre experiences to socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

### **That's What Friends Are For \$15,000**

This dedicated network of volunteers helps reunite pet owners with lost pets, finds solutions for "found" animals and assists with the costs of veterinary care. This grant will increase lifesaving programs, including spay/neuters and other vet assistance, which work to stop the population growth of dogs and cats. It will also help provide veterinary care for pets when owners cannot afford it.

### **The Augusta Players \$15,000**

Camp Wonderland, a sixth-year program of the Augusta Players, is a summer arts camp that is designed specifically for children ages 7-22 who have Autism Spectrum Disorder. This grant will help to pay costs that allow campers to attend the camp regardless of their family's economic level.

### **Turn Back the Block \$13,500**

Turn Back the Block's goal is to facilitate a block-by-block housing transformation that will return a sense of community pride to Harrisburg by providing affordable housing for low-income individuals. This grant will be used to cover the costs associated with a Turn Back the Block home.

### **USC Aiken \$15,000**

USC Aiken's Call Me MISTER program seeks to increase the pool of available teachers from a broader, more diverse background. Many black students from low-income families encounter few college graduates who look like them and may conclude college is not something to strive for. This grant will help with the costs that allow participants to receive scholarships. The participants in turn are required to teach in an Aiken County school one year in exchange for each year of participation in the program.

### **When Help Can't Wait \$13,500**

When Help Can't Wait offers direct support to low-income nursing home residents without families who can help them. They assist on a continual basis with basic necessities such as deodorant, lotion and toothpaste which are often considered extras and not provided by facilities. This grant will help supply clothing and toiletry items to nursing home residents.

### **Wholesome Wave \$13,500**

In Burke and Richmond Counties, 46,000 households are considered food-insecure and receive benefits like SNAP or WIC. Wholesome Wave works with programs in these counties to help make sure that these individuals have access to fruits and vegetables and learn healthy eating practices. Working with area farmers, this grant will help bring their food crops to the Harvest Bright Farmers Market and the Veggie Park Farmers Market in the Harrisburg community.

### **Women in Unity \$15,000**

Women in Unity's mission is to support positive change in the lives of disadvantaged children and families in the Edgefield community by providing programs that will significantly improve their chances for success in school, in the workplace and in the home. In addition to hosting a food bank, WIU

organizes a Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Free Food Distribution and Emergency Food Assistance. This grant will allow them to expand their existing programs so that more individuals may be served.