

# Foundation grants target community issues | Local news

*Jonathan Streetman 812-331-4353 | [jstreetman@heraldt.com](mailto:jstreetman@heraldt.com)*

Children, people with disabilities, people affected by the opioid crisis and more will receive help through more than \$500,000 in grants announced by officials from the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County this week.

A total of 13 local nonprofit organizations were awarded Community Impact Grants totaling more than \$270,000. In addition, \$290,000 in “proactive grants” was announced, bringing the total awarded to \$560,000.

Community Impact Grants ranging in size from \$10,000 to \$50,000 were awarded to groups including New Hope Family Shelter to aid the shelter’s future relocation, Ellettsville Main Street to provide a handicap accessible parking lot at the Heritage Trail, People and Animal Learning Services to build new fences that will allow for more programming, and Catholic Charities Bloomington, which will be able to expand its mental health and counseling services for children, families and individuals who have experienced trauma, often as a consequence of the opioid crisis.

A competitive process led to the the Community Impact Grant awards. A total of 58 organizations applied for grant funding that was awarded to the 13 nonprofits. The Community Impact Funding Initiative is co-funded by the Community Foundation and Smithville Charitable Foundation.

The “proactive grants” were targeted at addressing issues such as addictions and early childhood education. Those grants, which come from interest funds established by donors to address specific community needs, ranged from \$10,000 to \$75,000.

## Competitive Grants

Competitive Grants were made to:

- Banneker Community Center for a 15-passenger vehicle to expand participation for low-income children and teens in programs that inspire youth to maximize their full potential. The grant will allow Banneker Center to increase the transportation radius for the Banneker Camp summer program, Break Days, Teen Drop-In Afterschool Program and the Teen Mentoring Program.

- **Catholic Charities Bloomington** to expand mental health and counseling services for children, families and individuals who have experienced trauma, often due to the impact of the opioid crisis. The grant will fund a therapy technique proven effective in decreasing or eliminating the symptoms of post-traumatic stress; Theraplay, a family therapy approach for children with reactive attachment disorder and their families; and positive parenting and education coaching sessions.
- **Ellettsville Main Street** for a paved, handicap accessible parking lot at the Heritage Trail to provide safe access for people of all abilities to Ellettsville's only recreational pathway for walking, jogging and biking. It is a matching grant.
- **Foundation of Monroe County Community Schools** for the STEM Collaboration Lab at Bachelor Middle School to give students tools and experiences in preparation for careers and pathways in science, technology and engineering. The grant will be used to create a lab where students can create, invent, tinker, explore and discover science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).
- **Girls Inc. of Monroe County** for a programmatic needs assessment to identify the challenges and opportunities of Monroe County girls ages 5 to 18, with a focus on girls of color, those from low-income families and those from rural communities. The grant will allow for Girls Inc. to better tailor its programs and increase participation.
- **Humanetrix Foundation** for technology forum events to increase the number of women pursuing computer science, technology and entrepreneurship training and careers. According to a news release, the grant will fund events for college students and professionals to promote technology skills, internships, companies, networking and careers for women and increase female participation within the greater Bloomington technology sector.
- **Middle Way House** to expand violence prevention programming into elementary schools in an effort to reduce future sexual and dating violence. The grant will aid in hiring a part-time prevention specialist to expand youth prevention to elementary children, with the goal of allowing childhood sexual assault survivors to seek help sooner, decreasing peer-to-peer perpetration and better preparing students for prevention programming when they reach higher grades.
- **New Hope Family Shelter** to support the purchase of property for a new facility to serve more families and children affected by homelessness. This grant allows New Hope to expand its child-care programs and aid the relocation process of New Hope's temporary shelter for homeless families.

- **People & Animal Learning Services** for constructing new fencing to expand therapeutic and educational programs to help more children, adults and seniors with a variety of physical, cognitive, emotional and social disabilities, or who are recovering from substance abuse.
- **Teachers Warehouse** to help expand its services to provide free school classroom supplies to high school teachers. The organization has previously worked with elementary and middle school teachers in Brown, Greene, Lawrence, Monroe and Owen counties.
- **Volunteers in Medicine of Monroe County** for a feasibility assessment of gaining Federally Qualified Health Center status that would qualify VIM to receive federal and state funding to serve more low-income and medically underserved individuals in Monroe and Owen counties.
- **Wheeler Mission Ministries** to install a fire suppression system, including sprinklers, to expand capacity from 50 to 130 men at the emergency shelter. Wheeler's shelter services are offered throughout the year to anyone regardless of religious preference, gender identification, race or background.
- **WonderLab Museum** for a STEM-focused museum experience for children ages birth to 3 years with the goal of establishing strong educational foundations for young children. The grant will help to fund the creation of "Science Sprouts Place," a new 600-square-foot exhibit area with science, technology, engineering and mathematics experiences for these children and their caregivers.

### Proactive Grants

Proactive Grants were made to:

- **Centerstone** for transitional housing and treatment for women in recovery. The grant will provide seed funding for a six-bed transitional housing and treatment program for women recovering from substance abuse and their children. This transitional housing and treatment center will be Bloomington's first to serve women who are pregnant or who have young children, and will provide child-care support and parenting education along with substance abuse treatment. Currently, there is no housing option for women in recovery that enables them to keep their young children with them, rather than in foster care.
- **Monroe County Community School Corp.** to support creation of an additional pre-kindergarten classroom at Grandview Elementary School that will serve 20 children. This will be the seventh tuition-free pre-K classroom at a Title I school that the

Community Foundation has helped establish in MCCSC. The goal is to increase access to affordable early childhood education.

- Monroe County United Ministries to support expansion of the Compass Early Learning Center. The grants will support critical infrastructure improvements and bridge funding for additional staff, allowing MCUM to increase the number of children served through the early learning center.
- Monroe County Community School Corp. and Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corp. to assist the parental engagement program for families of children in early learning programs by funding a preschool parent liaison position through MCCSC and supporting the RBBCSC preschool parent engagement program.
- Women Writing for (a) Change Bloomington to expand community creative writing programs. The grant will allow more outreach to vulnerable populations connected to nonprofits in Monroe County such as Stone Belt, Stepping Stones, Big Brothers Big Sisters and others.
- Additionally, the foundation is working with the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association and the city of Bloomington to explore the potential of Community Development Finance Institutions to generate economic growth and opportunity, in particular among underserved populations.