

May 26, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Community Foundation awards first grants under new Results Framework
\$974,000 total in 18 grants toward two Results: *People can lead healthy lives
& Children are successful along the education pipeline;***

The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham has awarded almost \$1 million from Community Funds as part of a new Results Framework designed to achieve two of four specific and measurable results:

- \$530,000 toward this Result: People can lead healthy lives.
- \$444,000 toward this Result: Children are successful along the education pipeline.

A second cycle of grants starts June 6, when nonprofit organizations serving Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, Blount and Walker counties have the opportunity to submit brief proposals about tackling the other two Results in the framework:

- Communities are sustainable, livable and vibrant.
- Individuals and families are economically secure.

“Our nonprofit community responded to this new framework for focusing our work by submitting strong proposals and creating exciting collaborations to take on our chosen strategies,” said James McCrary, Vice President Grants and Evaluation. “The quality of submissions has been outstanding and promises great results for our region in these important areas.”

“We are excited about the strategic partnerships that are now possible under the Results Framework,” said Gillian Goodrich, board member and chair of the Grant Review and Evaluation Committee, which includes both board and community representatives. “This intentional focus on four key Results allows us to have a profound impact on important areas of community life.”

Grants award in Cycle 1

RESULT: Children are successful along the education pipeline.

STRATEGY: Decrease high school dropout rates

GRANTS: \$264,000 to the following organizations:

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Birmingham, \$100,000 over three years** to support the School-based (SB) initiative in Jefferson County through a High School Drop-out Prevention Specialist who will continue to increase programming for youth and recruit youth participants as well as volunteers and partners in support. As the fastest-growing initiative of BBBS, this program usually gets referrals about children from school faculty members and provides weekly, one-hour match meetings on school grounds.
- **Birmingham Education Foundation, \$100,000 for a pilot project** on the dropout problem based on best practice strategies of the Institute of Educational Sciences’ What Works Clearinghouse Practice Guide on Dropout Prevention. Elements include:
 - Using data systems that support a diagnosis of the problems and help identify individual students at risk

- Assigning adult advocates to students at risk
- Providing academic support and enrichment to improve academic performance
- Implementing programs to improve classroom behavior and social skills
- Personalizing the learning environment and instructional process
- Providing rigorous and relevant instruction to better engage students in learning
- **Girls Incorporated of Central Alabama, \$25,000** for Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy (PAP), including partial salary support for the PAP Coordinator and Hispanic Specialist. Offered to ages 12-18 attending schools in Jefferson and Shelby County, the program provides girls with the skills, values, motivation and support to postpone sexual activity as well as to use effective protection to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Components include Growing Together, Babies are Basically Your Responsibility (B.A.B.Y.R), Will Power/Won't Power and Taking Care of Business.
- **Jefferson County Schools Public Education Foundation, \$25,000** for a summer program serving seventh and eighth graders with reading deficits and a history of school behavioral problems. In collaboration with Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority and Samford University, participants will receive six weeks of intensive reading instruction and group therapy to improve motivation, including behavioral strategies and improvements in reading skills. Support will cover stipends for seven teachers in two sites and transportation costs for students.
- **New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church Community Support Corporation, \$14,000** toward hiring additional teachers for 100 after-school students and 250 spring/summer campers in kindergarten through ninth grade. The additions will reduce class size, one of several proven dropout prevention techniques. Teachers also will help students prepare for high school success with homework assistance and enrichment activities in reading & math, programs to improve students' classroom behavior and by personalizing the instructional process

RESULT: Children are successful along the education pipeline.

STRATEGY: Increase high quality early learning opportunities for birth to eight-year olds

GRANTS: \$180,000 to the following organizations:

- **YMCA of Metropolitan Birmingham, \$100,000 over two years** to help expand the International Children's Initiative' (ICI) from YMCA branches in Alabaster, Greystone and Pelham to Avondale, Downtown, Trussville and Hoover (2012). The program prepares non-English-speaking pre-schoolers to thrive academically and keep pace with their peers in English-speaking kindergarten & elementary school classes.
- **United Way of Central Alabama, \$75,000 over three years** for the Blueprint for School Readiness, which will allow Success by 6 to continue its work in implementing best practices and measuring the results to assure children are ready to learn, families are engaged, quality early learning is accessible and transition to kindergarten is smooth for children.
- **Jasper Area Family Services, \$5,000** to help expand the Baby Talk Program to the Walker County Health Department by hiring an interpreter and buying bilingual books for Hispanic families. This nationally recognized program encourages and instructs parents in proven methods to establish a nurturing relationship with their children, including information about infant development and appropriate activities for family bonding.

RESULT: People can lead healthy lives.

STRATEGY: Improve nutrition/healthy food access and increase opportunities for physical activity

GRANTS: \$265,000 to the following organizations:

- **Jones Valley Urban Farm, \$75,000 over three years** to improve access to healthy food for children and for communities. Strategies include partnering with local and regional schools to support improvements in institutional food, such as hands-on nutrition education to cafeteria staff, policy recommendations to increase purchase of locally-produced healthy food, and support to develop and utilize school gardens, and providing education and support to increase the number of home and community gardens and develop a urban farming mentoring program.
- **UAB Department of Nutrition Sciences EatRight Program, \$75,000 over two years** for the EatRight Nutrition Guidance System, in order to leverage partnerships in the private and public sectors and create a unique collaboration designed to help Alabamians make more informed food choices.. With more than 70 percent of the population overweight or obese, nutrition rating systems need improvement in order to help people identify healthy foods and gain credible guidance on nutritional quality as well as calorie control.
- **Main Street Birmingham, \$65,000 over two years** for Project for Public Spaces, building on Healthy Action Partnership work in identifying food deserts and encouraging micro-enterprise in low-income neighborhoods. This support will assist in implementing the recommendations of studies, including market data, incentive proposals for attracting grocery stores and developing a Market Alliance for Birmingham that will foster public markets in underserved communities.
- **Urban Ministry, \$50,000 over two years** toward expansion of West End Community Gardens, part of a five-year plan to improve neighborhood access to healthy food and healthy living, while increasing opportunities for physical activity through gardening, yoga and walking. Funding in 2011 would support staff development and training with Growing Power, Inc.; youth intern initiative; curb market development; landscape and architectural design for gardens and community center, and, in 2012, building and operating the community center build, including developing a business plan.

RESULT: People can lead healthy lives.

STRATEGY: Improve access to care for vulnerable populations

GRANTS: \$265,000 to the following organizations:

- **Cahaba Valley Health Care, \$90,000 over three years** toward equipment, supplies, insurance and salaries to support this dental and vision care program for the underserved in Shelby County, primarily Hispanics. Dental, vision and blood pressure screenings, plus dental clinics and followup, lead to healthier lives as measured by dental hygiene, blood pressure, nutrition and smoking cessation.
- **Birmingham Children's Theatre, Impact Alabama and Sight Savers America, \$50,000 over two years** for a pilot collaboration to improve access to vision care for low-income children. Free vision screenings and followup care will be provided on site at BCT to audience members (ages 3-5 years) for Wee Folks productions. Funding will

support staff, equipment, renovations, education, marketing, screening analysis, followup care and an original script for young audiences focusing on proper eye care.

- **Kid One Transport, \$50,000 over two years** toward operating costs and capital match funds to meet the increasing need for service in greater Birmingham. In 2010 Kid One served 20 percent more clients than in 2009, while the number of children and mothers not served increased by 45 percent. Additional vehicles and staff are required to support this growing need.
- **M-POWER Ministries, \$50,000 over two years** for M-POWER Health Center, to support continued operation of the evening walk-in clinics, providing up to 4,000 patient visits annually, and startup of new PATH (Providing Access to Health Care) Clinic. The PATH clinic will provide long-term primary care for patients dealing with chronic health problems such as diabetes and hypertension as well as case management for patients to identify health care goals and become advocates for their own health. When fully implemented, PATH will provide an additional 8,000 patient visits annually.
- **Travelers Aid Society of Birmingham, \$15,000** toward the Medical Transportation program, which provides free transportation to medical care for low-income elderly and disabled individuals in Jefferson County.
- **Crisis Center, \$10,000** toward an on-line resource directory of mental health resources, created in partnership with the Mental Health Goal Group of the Health Action Partnership of the Jefferson County Department of Health and providing comprehensive detailed information to all citizens.

In submitting Brief Proposals for Cycle 2 of grants from Community Funds in 2011, nonprofit organizations should address the following Results and Strategies:

Result: Communities are sustainable, livable and vibrant.

Strategies:

- Expand and improve public green space.
- Further develop vibrant city center for Birmingham.
- Improve the natural environment.
- Expand access to arts and cultural opportunities.

Result: Individuals and families are economically secure.

Strategies:

- Improve housing stability.
- Increase public policy changes and direct services that positively impact low income individuals and families.

Representatives of nonprofit organizations should contact James McCrary at 327-3812 for more information. The deadline for Brief Proposals is July 15.