



Community  
FOUNDATION

for the  
Central Savannah  
River Area

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Community Grants Fund awards over \$660,000 to 48 Nonprofits in the CSRA**

The Board of Directors of the **Community Foundation for the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA)** is pleased to announce that it is **awarding grants totaling more than \$660,000** through the **Community Grants Program** to support the impactful work of **48 nonprofit organizations** serving Richmond, Columbia, Burke and McDuffie counties in Georgia and Aiken and Edgefield counties in South Carolina.

“This signature program of the Community Foundation has been awarding grants for almost 30 years. Over that time, the program has grown and evolved, but a few things remain steadfast,” says Shell Berry, President and CEO, “The process is broad and allows us to hear directly from the nonprofits in our area regarding the most pressing needs in our community. That connection to listening to community voices continues through the perspective of over 140 volunteers who review the grant applications, conduct site visits and ultimately decide which programs and services should receive this year’s funding.”

Grant awards support arts, cultural, and historical organizations, improve health and protect the environment, provide enrichment and educational opportunities to disadvantaged children, youth, and adults, and help grow program services for people in need.

Since 1997, the **Augusta National Golf Club**, community partners, and individual donors have contributed to the Community Grants Fund Endowment making it possible for the Foundation to invest **more than \$24.3 million in the community**. To learn more about this and other grant programs of the Community Foundation for the CSRA, such as our Literacy Initiative and the Hurricane Helene Community Crisis Fund, please visit [www.cfcsra.org](http://www.cfcsra.org).

The 2025 Community Grant Award recipients are as follows:

### **100 Black Men of Augusta – \$12,740**

The mission of the 100 Black Men of Augusta is to improve the quality of life within our communities and enhance educational and economic opportunities for all African Americans. The STEAM and Robotics programs aim to increase African American children's interest and confidence in pursuing careers in STEAM fields by providing hands-on educational experiences. The grant will help purchase necessary educational kits and equipment to enhance the program's accessibility and effectiveness, fostering a stronger pipeline of African American students into the growing STEAM workforce in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA).

### **Aiken Technical College Foundation – \$12,750**

Aiken Technical College (ATC) provides citizens of greater Aiken County with opportunities for educational and workforce development. ATC has established a student-centered food pantry on campus in partnership with Golden Harvest Food Bank (GHFB) to provide free, nutritious meals and essential food items to students who are experiencing food insecurity. Funds will be used to expand the services of the food pantry to support low-income and first-generation students in overcoming financial hardships and ultimately helping them complete their education and break the cycle of poverty.

### **Augusta Dream Center – \$12,000**

The Augusta Dream Center is a local resource center dedicated to bringing immediate relief to low-income, homeless, and underserved individuals and families in the Central Savannah River Area. The center's mission is to assist those in need by addressing some of life's most basic necessities, fostering relationships, and helping individuals reach their fullest potential. This grant will support the Youth Enrichment Program, which is focused on keeping children in the CSRA engaged in their education through strategic events and initiatives. These efforts seek to alleviate financial burdens on families while offering enriching experiences.

### **Augusta Heritage Academy – \$15,000**

Heritage Academy is a leader in urban education delivering a rigorous education while shaping children's spirit and character. The school focuses on providing a holistic education with core subjects, extracurriculars and specialized programs for students with learning difficulties, serving primarily low-income families. The grant will offset costs associated with purchasing a new 15-passenger van to expand transportation opportunities for Heritage Academy's K-8 students, allowing them access to diverse experiential learning endeavors, such as field trips to museums and historic sites, and supporting their participation in sports activities.

### **Augusta Museum of History – \$12,705**

The mission of the Augusta Museum of History is to collect, preserve, and interpret history in relation to the past of Augusta and its surrounding counties for the education and enrichment of present and future generations. The Museum has many initiatives to enhance its ability to educate and engage the community by making history accessible and meaningful. It also manages resources efficiently through specific allocations for interviews, shelving and workshop expenses. The grant request is designed to support the Museum's mission by collecting oral histories from the CSRA's significant historical periods, expanding storage capacity to better preserve collections, and offering hands-on workshops to interpret history through crafts.

### **Augusta Rescue Mission – \$12,750**

The Augusta Rescue Mission exists to help break the cycle of homelessness in our community by offering the opportunity for life transformation through Christian discipleship and life skills. The grant will enable them to integrate a physical health and wellness component into the existing Life Transformation Program, which currently focuses on life skills, job readiness, work therapy and addiction recovery. By updating a portion of the warehouse into an activity space and introducing instruction from trainers, the program aims to enhance clients' physical, nutritional, and emotional well-being, ultimately fulfilling its mission of offering "total life transformation" for homeless individuals.

### **Augusta Symphony – \$15,000**

The mission of the Augusta Symphony is "to share the joy of great musical performance with our community - together, we are music." The Symphony offers diverse programming such as the Symphony Series with distinguished guest artists, the Pops! Series with genre-spanning performances and the Community Chords programs that provide educational and therapeutic resources, all contributing to the cultural vibrancy of the Augusta community. This grant will be used to sustain and grow the Symphony's impact as it celebrates its 70th season in exciting and life-changing ways.

### **Burn Foundation of America – \$15,000**

The Burn Foundation of America supports families through the healing and then transition home of patients served at the Joseph M. Still Burn Center. As a full-service agency, they remove barriers to a successful recovery through critical support services for uninsured and underinsured burn patients and their families. Through this grant, they aspire to alleviate the financial burden on the increasing number of affected families, by providing lodging, meals, transportation, medical supplies and therapeutic resources, as they navigate the arduous journey of recovery and transition back to their communities, ensuring no one faces their recovery journey alone.

### **Cancer Support Services – \$12,750**

Cancer Support Services (formerly The Lydia Project) assists cancer patients with their financial and emotional needs during treatment, including lodging and transportation services, to facilitate healing and create better outcomes. Cancer Support Services is the only agency in the area providing comprehensive lodging care that includes transportation, meals, prescription costs, ongoing monthly emotional support, and most importantly, access to healthcare. This grant will ensure patients can consistently access necessary medical treatments without the burden of distance or financial constraints.

### **Child Enrichment – \$15,000**

Child Enrichment's mission is to provide and coordinate comprehensive intervention, stabilization, advocacy, and prevention in the best interests of abandoned, abused, neglected, sexually abused and sex-trafficked children. The therapy program at Child Enrichment's Child Advocacy Center offers specialized therapeutic services to children who have experienced abuse or trauma, providing them with essential emotional and psychological support. Funds will be used to hire an additional therapist, ensuring that more children can receive the timely and effective care they need to heal and thrive.

**Community Medical Clinic of Aiken County – \$15,000**

The Community Medical Clinic of Aiken County is dedicated to improving the quality of life of impoverished, uninsured residents and the working poor of Aiken County by providing ongoing healthcare and guidance in a professional setting. The Pharmacy Program offers access to an in-house pharmacy that provides free medications to patients, helping them access life-saving treatments they otherwise couldn't afford. The funding from this grant will help pay for essential pharmacy management software, acquire medications and medical waste disposal containers and the cost of an annual membership to the Dispensary of Hope, which provides unlimited access to insulin, antibiotics and other medications essential to managing different chronic diseases.

**Community Ministry of North Augusta – \$12,750**

The Community Ministry of North Augusta (CMONA) fulfills its mission of addressing needs and improving lives by serving as the hands of Christ in the community. To achieve this, CMONA offers holistic support services, including food assistance, personal care and spiritual guidance, allowing clients to allocate their resources towards other essential expenses, such as rent. This grant will enable CMONA to expand its utility assistance program by increasing the maximum payment available for utility assistance and providing more comprehensive support to low-income families in maintaining essential services like electricity, water and gas.

**Cooper Ridge Incorporated – \$15,000**

The mission of Cooper Ridge Farm is to connect, nurture, and heal people with disabilities through the powerful human-animal bond. Utilizing Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT), Cooper Ridge provides developmental, educational and emotional support through structured farm activities to improve the mental, physical and emotional welfare of its participants. Grant funds will be used to enhance and support their AAT services not covered by insurance, purchase essential programming and therapy materials, and invest in ongoing training and development, ensuring the well-being of therapy animals.

**Family Connection of Columbia County – \$12,750**

Also known as Columbia County Community Connections, Family Connection works to make children safe, healthy, educated, and part of a stable, self-sufficient family. The Dream Academy offers free, comprehensive after-school programs to students from North Harlem and Euchee Creek schools, focusing on tutoring and life skills for families facing economic challenges. While enrolled, students receive tutoring, nutrition education, daily exercise, life skills training, financial literacy, engineering projects and participating in arts and crafts. This grant will support the overall program, ensuring these services remain available to all students in need.

**Fighting to Win, Inc. dba Day One Fitness – \$12,750**

At Day One Fitness, they partner with individuals battling neurological conditions by equipping, challenging, and empowering them to lead their best life possible. Day One Fitness provides high-intensity therapeutic exercise aimed at improving the quality of life for those living with Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, other dementias, mild cognitive impairment, multiple sclerosis, post-stroke recovery and other neurological conditions. This grant will enable them to maintain high program standards and accessibility to tailored exercise regimens for their fighters.

### **Fireside Ministries and Industries – \$12,750**

Fireside is a local, faith-based organization dedicated to restoring people and places. We strive to aid at-risk families and children in the city of Augusta. Fireside Ministries' Harrisburg Foster Homes Project is committed to building 20 new homes, each designed to accommodate four foster children and a host family. One house at a time, they are utilizing the vacant lots and abandoned buildings in the Harrisburg area to create homes for children in need, while simultaneously revitalizing the neighborhood. This grant will support the completion of their first home in 2025 by providing funds for construction supplies and services.

### **FORE! Augusta Foundation – \$12,750**

First Tee - Augusta enables kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with life skills curriculum, they create learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience that kids can carry to everything they do. Funding will enable them to partner with elementary schools in underserved communities, providing students with affordable and accessible golf instruction combined with essential life skills education.

### **Foundation for Public Schools in Edgefield County – \$15,000**

Foundation for Public Schools in Edgefield County is dedicated to providing resources to improve and enhance the educational opportunities available to its students. The Teacher's Vision Grants (TVG) program recognizes and rewards outstanding teachers who have innovative and creative ideas for enriching their curriculum to provide students with additional learning experiences. This grant will provide classroom resources for students that augment what teachers are able to provide through basic school funding.

### **GameChangers Foundation – \$12,750**

GameChangers is a residential recovery center for men struggling with substance use disorder, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, incarceration, and homelessness. The foundation provides recovery support, job training, and job placement for its residents. This grant will be used to purchase a tree spade, a tractor attachment necessary for efficiently harvesting trees from their tree farm, to generate additional revenue to support men recovering from addiction. With about fifty percent of the residents receiving scholarships, the grant will enhance their capacity to provide more scholarships, educate residents in horticulture, and offer employment opportunities, therefore increasing their community impact.

### **Georgia Justice Project – \$15,000**

Georgia Justice Project (GJP) strengthens our community by demonstrating a better way to represent and support individuals in the criminal legal system and reduce barriers to reentry. The Second Chance Desk is a community-based resource where individuals can have their criminal history reviewed by an attorney, receive a free consultation, and obtain assistance submitting materials to clear eligible history. Through this grant, GJP will assist 110 individuals through the Second Chance record clearing desk in the Augusta Judicial Circuit in overcoming employment, housing, and educational barriers due to outdated criminal records.

### **Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art – \$12,750**

The mission of the Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art is to provide opportunities for visual arts education and to develop visual arts awareness and appreciation throughout the greater Augusta community. The Institute provides free outreach to underserved youth, studio art classes, and a wide range of exhibitions throughout the year to accomplish its mission. This grant will assist with costs associated with the Artist in Residence Outreach program and offset the costs of updating gallery lighting and modernizing outdated technology.

### **Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia – \$12,750**

Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia believes in the power of every girl to change the world and offers a safe space for girls to take healthy risks, explore interests and connect with a powerful, supportive community of friends and mentors. The Direct Delivery outreach program is a specialized initiative aimed at bringing Girl Scouting experiences to girls who may not have easy access to traditional troop settings. This grant will enable them to reach girls in underserved communities, remote areas, or those facing socio-economic challenges that limit their participation in regular scouting activities.

### **Golden Harvest Food Bank – \$14,868**

Golden Harvest Food Bank's mission is to transform lives by feeding our hungry neighbors today and build a healthy, hunger-free tomorrow. Hunger affects over 15,240 children in Richmond, with many relying on school meals to meet their nutritional needs. When the weekend comes during the school year, they often go home to empty pantries and refrigerators. This grant will provide child-friendly food packs to 118 students every weekend for a semester, addressing this gap and helping children return to school nourished and ready to learn.

### **IMPACT Melanoma – \$15,000**

The mission of IMPACT Melanoma is to save lives by reducing the incidence of melanoma. They accomplish this through public awareness campaigns and educational messaging about sun protection, and by providing early detection programs as well as support and advocacy for those struggling with melanoma. In partnership with the Medical College of Georgia/Georgia Cancer Center, they will implement a preventative medicine initiative and community project. This grant will support the Practice Safe Skin campaign by installing sunscreen dispensers along popular trails in Augusta, providing both sun protection and educational resources to the community.

### **Inspire Studio Center for Performing Arts – \$15,000**

The mission at Inspire Studios is to inspire excellence, foster character, strengthen confidence, and build community through theatrical arts training, performance and fellowship in a safe and healthy environment. Inspire Studios offers a comprehensive theater program that nurtures cognitive, emotional, and social growth, welcoming children of various abilities and backgrounds, including those with disabilities, military families, and those facing personal challenges. Funding will enable them to provide scholarships and supplies for their expanding theater program so that disadvantaged children can have access to high-quality performing arts programs.

### **MACH Academy – \$15,000**

MACH Academy's mission remains inspired by the late Arthur Ashe's vision to utilize tennis and education as catalysts for character development and provide pathways for young people to achieve success. They are committed to mentoring and encouraging the youth they serve, helping them become better individuals who are inclined to assist others and stay on track for a brighter future. This grant will bolster their initiatives to deliver high-quality programs to youth, including recreational tennis and fitness training, competitive tennis development, computer coding, information technology, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math (STEAM) events, and other educational enrichment activities.

### **Mental Health America of Aiken County – \$15,000**

The mission of Mental Health America of Aiken County is to serve as an advocate and a community resource by promoting positive mental health in Aiken, Barnwell, and Edgefield Counties. Welcome Baby is a comprehensive support program designed to assist new mothers by addressing postpartum mental health needs, providing educational resources, and offering tangible assistance such as diapers and formula, particularly to those experiencing financial strain. This grant will enable the program to expand its services, hire additional staff, and continue its mission of promoting healthy parenting and family well-being across diverse communities.

### **Miracle Making Ministries – \$12,750**

Miracle Making Ministries' (MMM) mission is to be "a vehicle" that moves people from their desire – to volunteer, serve, and give back to the community – to an actual person or place in the inner city. Their Emergency Financial Assistance program brings stability to the lives of Augusta area women and their children who live below the poverty line and find themselves on the verge of homelessness, and without electricity, gas, and food. Funding will help 575 households avoid disconnection of gas and electricity, homelessness, and food insecurity while MMM Case Managers provide guidance back to a path of financial independence and stability.

### **Morris Museum of Art – \$12,750**

The Morris Museum of Art exists for the purpose of collecting and exhibiting the art of the American South and interpreting it in regional, national, and global contexts. "Morris Cares" is a collaborative outreach program between the Morris Museum of Art and the Children's Hospital of Georgia, designed to enhance the well-being of children in long-term care through art-centered activities. This grant will enable them to purchase adaptive art-making tools and additional supplies needed to expand the program, providing more opportunities for children to engage in therapeutic art activities.

### **Murphy-Harpst Children's Centers – \$15,000**

The mission of Murphy-Harpst Children's Centers is to provide a safe and nurturing environment where severely abused and neglected children and teenagers can thrive and heal. The Evolve Project is a small, community-based program to divert children in foster care from hotels and psychiatric treatment in order to stabilize their behaviors and transition them to a traditional foster home or reunite them with family. This funding will support children in five Augusta sites, focusing on clinical services, basic needs, and recreational activities, thereby improving the overall outcomes for foster youth and strengthening Georgia's foster care infrastructure.

### **New Life Worship Center – \$15,000**

The mission of the New Life Worship Center Youth Department is to build youth of purpose and power by introducing them to the love of God, providing an atmosphere for them to grow and develop emotionally and spiritually, and by providing resources and recreational activities to assist them in developing into wholesome young adults. Their community support initiatives have adapted to serve more families impacted by poverty, especially in areas lacking transportation, by hosting accessible events and providing resources to ensure children have the necessities for success at home and school. This grant will be used to offset program expenses, ensuring that every child has the tools they need to thrive, regardless of their family's financial situation.

### **North Augusta Forward – \$12,670**

The mission of North Augusta Forward is to foster sustainable community development and enhance the quality of life for residents by focusing on key areas such as economic growth, quality of life, and health and recreation. Creighton Park is being transformed into a "destination park" for downtown North Augusta, with plans to add a Greenway trailhead, restroom facilities, and a natural park using repurposed hurricane debris for educational purposes. The park aims to enhance community engagement and accessibility through new crosswalk murals and inclusive playground features, creating an inviting and inclusive space for all residents and visitors.

### **Overflow Foundation – \$15,000**

Overflow Foundation exists in memory of Phillip Lee Jr., to promote mental health in the community, Pouring Hope Into Life (#PHIL) by leading individuals to take next steps towards greater resilience, independence, and recovery. The Clubhouse Community of Hope is designed as a voluntary, community-based program specifically for adults experiencing persistent mental illness, gaining access to opportunities for employment, socialization, education, skill development, housing, and improved overall wellness. Grant funds will support the Nutrition and Wellness Unit, where members will budget, plan, prepare and serve nutritious meals and snacks, manage a garden, and develop life, employment, and social skills for greater independence and recovery.

### **Prevent Blindness Georgia – \$15,000**

The mission of Prevent Blindness Georgia (PBGA) is to preserve sight and prevent blindness for all Georgians. Their Circle of Vision Care Initiative offers certified vision screening, comprehensive eye exams, 2 pairs of prescription eyeglasses, and referrals to eyecare professionals at no cost for 1st, 3rd and 5th graders. This Initiative takes place in the school during school hours to ease family burdens and ensure no child is overlooked. Funds will support critical vision care and educational resources at seven Title 1 schools in Richmond County served by RISE Augusta, ensuring children are "Vision Ready to Learn."

### **Project Refresh – \$15,000**

As pioneers in introducing mobile shower services to the CSRA, Project Refresh, exists to provide hope one shower at a time to those experiencing homelessness/home insecurity in or around Augusta, GA. Through the gift of a shower, they aim to provide a fresh start for individuals to improve their sense of dignity and thereby provide a pathway to better hygiene and more opportunities. This grant will offset costs associated with expanding accessibility and addressing hygiene-related challenges, enabling them to serve more individuals and amplify their positive impact on the community.



### **Public Education Partners – \$12,750**

Public Education Partners' (PEP) mission is to develop and facilitate programs to supplement the work of the Aiken County Public School District. Through the Diana Floyd "My Own Book" Literacy Initiative, they provide every 3rd-grade student with a voucher to choose and purchase their very own chapter book at their school's book fair. Funding will cover the costs of books, encouraging a love for reading and enabling children to take pride in owning their own books while alleviating the burden of choosing between educational resources and other essential expenses.

### **Reach Out and Read Georgia – \$12,750**

Reach Out and Read Georgia (ROR) gives children a foundation for success by incorporating books into pediatric care and encouraging families to read aloud together. By partnering with medical providers and targeting underserved communities, they provide families with books and guidance on early literacy to empower parents as their child's first teachers. The grant will offset costs associated with providing high-quality, diverse books for children from birth to age five, ultimately helping children build literacy and oral language skills earlier to better prepare them for school and learn the joy of reading.

### **ReStart Augusta – \$12,750**

ReStart Augusta provides beds to facilitate the good sleep that improves individual learning ability, job productivity and long-term health helping to break the generational cycle of poverty. By supplying beds to at-risk families, the organization aims to combat poverty and improve the long-term physiological and emotional well-being of individuals. Grant funds will enable them to continue providing beds to significantly impacted vulnerable populations such as children, single-parent households, and veterans, helping to break the cycle of poverty through improved sleep quality and overall family health.

### **Romans PFR Dogs – \$12,750**

Project Freedom Ride's mission is to be the connection between unwanted dogs in high-kill areas of Georgia and Texas and loving families in the Northwest, Midwest, and Northeast. Initiated by a compassionate four-year-old, Project Freedom Ride provides their rescue partners and animal shelters with funding assistance, networking, and adoption assistance, helping them to increase the number of lives saved by giving dogs a second chance with families and receiving partners outside of their high-kill states. This grant will enable them to continue saving lives by covering transport and medical costs, while alleviating the strain on overwhelmed shelters in Georgia and South Carolina.

### **St. Vincent de Paul Society of Aiken County – \$12,750**

The mission of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Aiken County is to join together in a bond of friendship and to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering. Their programs ensure Aiken families have access to basic needs, helping those they serve to try to "make ends meet". This grant will allow them to purchase food from Golden Harvest, essential items from local discount stores, and provide utility assistance to those at risk of losing critical services, ensuring a minimum quality of life for the needy in Aiken County.

### **Suzuki Strings of Augusta – \$11,475**

Suzuki Strings of Augusta strives to provide excellence in the teaching and performance of bowed stringed instruments to students of the CSRA by Suzuki method-trained instructors working cooperatively with Suzuki method-trained families. Through workshops and music activities, students enrich their education and personal growth, while teachers refresh methods and collaborate. Funding will enable students to engage in community-building activities and advanced musical training without the burden of high tuition, in addition to providing teachers with valuable professional development opportunities, enhancing the quality of music education and fostering a vibrant, inclusive community.

### **The Bridge 2 Home – \$12,750**

The mission of The Bridge 2 Home is to provide a safe and loving home for girls who have experienced child sex trafficking. The Bridge 2 Home provides a two-year residential program where these young female residents can find healing and growth. The funds will offset the cost of trained staff to provide comprehensive, trauma-informed support for girls aged 12-17 who have experienced trauma and abuse, requiring specialized, collaborative resources not available in traditional group homes, so they can learn coping skills to navigate the world outside of trafficking.

### **The Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County – \$12,750**

The Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County provides intervention, treatment and prevention services that promote healing for children and families who have experienced abuse. The Problematic Sexual Behavior Cognitive Behavioral Therapy program provides children and their caregivers with the skills and resources to address problematic behaviors. If a child and caregiver are accepted into the program, children will learn rules about sexual behavior privacy and boundary rules, coping skills and impulse control skills, social skills, empathy and impact of behavior on others. This grant will remove financial barriers by covering costs for critically needed outpatient therapy treatment, ensuring comprehensive support and engagement.

### **The Jessye Norman School of The Arts – \$15,000**

The mission of The Jessye Norman School of the Arts is to improve the quality of life for the communities we serve through the transformative power of the arts. The broad-ranged fine arts program challenges students academically, integrates technology, critical thinking and responsibility, and lays the foundation for extraordinary life experiences. Funds will be used to support the after-school arts program and two summer camps, ensuring accessible, professional arts education for underserved communities.

### **The Missing Link Foundation – \$15,000**

The Missing Link Foundation changes the lives of teens by providing access to resources using a holistic approach to end youth incarceration, promote positive youth self-actualization, and prepare them to become who they are meant to be. Their goal is to decrease youth incarceration by improving academic performance, reducing behavioral incidents, and enhancing mental health and well-being. This grant will be used to expand services to reach more at-risk youth, increase the days of operation, and enhance programs such as life skills training, career exploration, gang education, and mentoring, ensuring comprehensive support for all participants.

**The Senior Citizens Council of Greater Augusta and the CSRA, Georgia – \$15,000**

The Senior Citizens Council's mission is to provide a diversity of services to senior adults and to enable them to apply their experience as a resource for meeting community needs. The Foster Grandparents Program pairs trained senior adults with low-income, at-risk students enrolled in Title 1 schools in the CSRA, for tutoring and mentorship. Through mentorship and the development of meaningful relationships, students gain a greater sense of self-esteem, thus increasing their desire to succeed. With this grant, Foster Grandparents will help facilitate learning and build opportunities for greater educational gains by providing 3,750 hours of tutoring.

**Turn Back the Block – \$15,000**

The mission of Turn Back the Block is to revitalize the Harrisburg neighborhood through homeownership and the creation of quality housing. The Turn Back the Block Tool Library is a program for homeowners in Harrisburg who want or need to borrow a home or garden tool for a specified period of time at no cost. The Turn Back the Block Tool Library reduces the cost barriers of home and yard improvement, provides training, and strengthens community sharing and engagement for neighbors in Harrisburg. This grant will alleviate costs related to acquiring additional tools, along with covering essential expenses such as regular tool maintenance, fuel, and necessary repairs.

**Veterans K9 Solutions – \$15,000**

Veterans K9 Solutions brings canine and disabled veterans together in five counties in and around Augusta, GA, with the simple goal: to rehabilitate a canine to rehabilitate a veteran. They believe all veterans suffering from service-related trauma deserve to live a normal life with as little pain as possible. Their Service Dog Training program pairs veterans and canines to become a team, saving two lives at a time. The canine learns how to identify when their veteran needs extra support and the veteran gains freedom to live more independently. Funds will allow for an expansion of their current Service Dog Training program and ensure they can pair even more veterans with canines.