



More than \$1.1 Million in Collective Giving for our Community!



2021 Impact Grant Awards Total \$233,000

\$100,000 Impact Grant Recipient

Feed the Hungry Pantry | Solar-Powered, Refrigerated Container Project

Feed the Hungry Pantry of Palm Beach County provides nutritious groceries to 10,000+ families every week by rescuing millions of pounds of healthy food each year. The pandemic created an even more dire need in our community to feed the more than 200,000+ people who are regularly hungry. This program will assist the agency in providing food to the neediest people in Palm Beach County as efficiently and effectively as possible through the purchase of five solar-powered shipping containers. A lack of dry and cold storage is one of the main issues that most of the 200+ food pantries in the county have, as 80% serve out of a room or from a parking lot and transportation is often in the back seat or trunk of a volunteer's car. The refrigerated container project will solve this problem for the 100+ churches and organizations they supply food to as well as their own pantry. The containers will be used for storage, and each will be fitted with a garage door on two sides to easily locate pallets.

\$100,000 Impact Grant Recipient

Vita Nova | Transport for Success

Vita Nova assists former foster care, LGBTQ, and other homeless youth aged 18-25 with comprehensive support including housing, education, employment, and life skills training. This program reduces barriers to education and employment for youth experiencing homelessness by providing two 12-passenger staff driven vans, allowing youth to attain their education and career goals while provide a supportive adult in their daily routine to school and work. A lack of transportation is the leading barrier that homeless youth face when attempting to enroll in school and attend regularly. Often, this population can be years behind in their education and the absence of a stable living arrangement can have devastating impact on educational outcomes. Their goal of completing high school/GED or attend trade-school/college are further barred by lack of transport. These youth rarely have a car or even a driver's license, and often, public transport schedules do not align with education/job schedules, and extensive use of rideshare services are simply unaffordable.

\$16,500 Merit Grant Recipient

Literacy Coalition | Building Better Readers

Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County seeks to improve the quality of life in our community by promoting and achieving literacy, with the vision of every resident becoming a reader. This program recruits, trains, places and supports approximately 100 volunteers who tutor 250 to 300 children who are reading below grade level. According to the most recent Florida Standards Assessment data, 46% of third graders in Palm Beach County are reading below grade level. Consistent one-on-one tutoring is powerful because it allows children to receive individualized instruction while they develop a secure bond with a positive adult role model who get to know them, cares about them, and give them opportunities to succeed. In addition, the learning loss that has occurred during the pandemic will be mitigated substantially with the program expansion in up to 21 additional schools, which represent approximately 1,338 third grade students reading below grade level. The Literacy Coalition staff, in conjunction with the School District, has determined the schools with the greatest need for one-on-one tutoring.

\$16,500 Merit Grant Recipient

Project LIFT | Pathway Academy

Project LIFT addresses mental health issues with youth who are in the throes of substance abuse, depression, anxiety, abuse and family conflict. Staff uses evidence-based best practices of substance abuse treatment, trauma-informed care, cognitive behavioral therapy, and motivational therapy combined with learning of skilled trades. This program offers teens in Belle Glade the opportunity to obtain an accredited high school diploma while learning a skilled trade. Details include 1) providing blended online curriculums that are facilitated by a certified teacher on site, providing one-on-one guidance and instruction to each student, 2) academic instruction combined with experiential learning in a high-demand skilled trade in a real-time industry shop setting, for which students receive a paycheck, and 3) participation in individual and group therapy address underlying mental health concerns that contribute to academic failure and other unhealthy behaviors. By customizing each student's learning process and connecting them with a passion to learn, the program moves students towards high school credit recovery and graduation much faster than in a traditional school setting and gives hope for a successful future that does not necessarily include college.



2020 Impact Grant Awards Total \$216,100

\$100,000 Impact Grant Recipient

Clinics Can Help | Mobile Unit

Clinics Can Help is an agency that accepts the donation of durable medical equipment and supplies, refurbishes, and then redistributes those items to others who need it most, always with the goal to dramatically improve the everyday lives of people in the community. This program brings a simple new solution to an escalating need. The Mobile Unit is staffed with a Physical Therapist to provide immediate response to those who have no access to transportation. To have equality in healthcare, people need access to appropriate medical equipment and supplies, allowing them to heal faster, provide a greater chance of recovery, and help them lower their risk of injury, giving them mobility, independence, and dignity for a greater quality of life. When a trained Physical Therapist can travel to the home of child or adult in need of equipment to perform basic assessments and provision of durable medical equipment, the scales can be tipped in medical care, assisting clients, especially children, to get out of bed, back to school, to work, and to be a part of the community.

\$100,000 Impact Grant Recipient

West Jupiter Community Group | Community Garden

West Jupiter Community Group serves low-income communities in North Palm Beach County, primarily providing children in grades K-8 with educational support as well as resources for parents and seniors. This program focuses on two gardening/nature sites associated with The Edna W. Runner Tutorial Center, including 1) Simon's Giving Garden, and 2) Edna's Community Park. Simon's Giving Garden is a small plot of land adjacent to the Tutorial Center that was converted into a community garden with raised gardening beds, a paver pathway, outdoor seating, and a pergola. In the garden, students learn the benefits of healthy eating and how to grow affordable fruits and vegetables with an environmental curriculum created in partnership with University of Florida and STEM activities to improve scientific knowledge. Additionally, container vegetable and herb gardens are shared with the community to be planted at home. Edna's Community Park is a small plot of undeveloped land located down the street from the garden that is full of thick brush and native plant species. This component includes the planting of Florida native plants and a butterfly garden for the community's enjoyment and environmental education. Together, these green spaces aim to have a transformative impact on the mental health and wellness of the community's students and residents.

\$8,050 Merit Grant Recipient

Loggerhead Marinelife Center | Building a Blueprint for Healthier Waters and a Healthier Community

Loggerhead Marinelife Center (LMC) is a 12,000 square foot certified “green” facility that promotes the conservation of ocean ecosystems with a special focus on threatened and endangered sea turtles. The facility features a state-of-the-art full service veterinary hospital, outdoor classroom, research lab, and resource center. This program aims to solve environmental health-related problems caused by water pollution in the Lake Worth Lagoon by identifying their sources and empowering individuals in surrounding communities with the knowledge and positive experiences that inspire and lead to environmental stewardship. In collaboration with the Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA), this project uses cutting-edge science and equitable community engagement strategies to 1) create intuitive data visualizations called “Pollution Maps” that serve as a baseline reference to inform future conservation projects and policy change, and 2) provide families residing in under-represented and underserved communities with an opportunity to connect with iconic wildlife in the Lake Worth Lagoon. A 15-passenger van is dedicated to transporting youth, families, and community groups from the coastal communities to LMC for an experience which includes a guided exploration of the center and the Healthy Waters, Healthy People exhibit.

\$8,050 Merit Grant Recipient

Florida Atlantic University Brain Institute | MobileMinds

The FAU Brain Institute was created in 2016 to launch a new era of neuroscience discovery and education in Palm Beach County, including programs to expose youth to the frontiers of brain science and its lessons for brain health. This program is an expansion of the Institute’s ASCEND program (Advancing STEM-Community Engagement through Neuroscience Discovery) and aims to close the Title I STEM gap in Northern Palm Beach County by taking science and scientists to middle school students who are falling far behind in this area. Although science proficiency is at the national average for 8th grade students in Florida, students in North Palm Beach County Title I schools average 29% below the state and national average. This need is addressed by bringing educators, scientists, and resources directly to youth to ignite interest in science through the fun of learning about their own brains with engaging, technologically advanced demonstrations. With the recent acquisition of the Institute’s *MobileMinds* van, the program can now bring hands-on, packaged STEM lessons and high-tech demonstrations to underserved communities.



2019 Impact Grant Awards Total \$159,000

\$100,000 Impact Grant Recipient

Center for Trauma Counseling | The Hope Mobile Clinic

The Center for Trauma Counseling provides a variety of intervention mental health services for individuals, families and groups that address specific trauma-related events, symptoms, and disorders. Their services are provided on a sliding scale. This project requires the purchase of a customized vehicle for use as a mobile mental health clinic to increase the availability of services to residents who face substantial barriers to care. Difficulties includes geographical, economic, transportation and language. A primary focus of the mobile mental health clinic is the homeless and indigent population. The clinic also acts as an immediate resource for services following crisis, catastrophic and/or violent events for both law enforcement, first responders, and Palm Beach County residents.

\$29,500 Merit Grant Recipient

Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County | Aging in Place

Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County partners with families in need to build affordable homes together. This project helps Habitat assist additional low- and very low-income homeowners during the two year funding period. The effort targeted age-related upgrades that allow homeowners to “age in place” more safely and affordably. Habitat recently expanded into Belle Glade, a very under-served area, and hopes to expand this program in the Belle Glade area, as well as in the rest of its service area in Palm Beach County.

\$29,500 Merit Grant Recipient

The Lord's Place | #NextGen Digital Literacy Skills for the 21st Century Economy

The Lord's Place transforms lives by providing solutions that break the cycle of homelessness for the most vulnerable and neglected in Palm Beach County. Their innovative, compassionate, and effective services are constantly evolving to end local homelessness for good. This program helps kick-start a digital literacy project to provide homeless and formerly incarcerated jobseekers with next generation digital literacy skills to prepare them for the technologically driven 21st century economy. Automation is projected to displace low level jobs at an unprecedented rate and will have a significant impact on impoverished households – especially those among this target group, who experience traditional barriers to employment such as housing instability, former incarceration, and a lack of education.



2018 Impact Grant Awards Total \$148,000

\$100,000 Impact Grant Recipient

Center for Child Counseling | Transforming Schools One at a Time

The Center for Child Counseling (CfCC) specializes in providing services for children and caregivers impacted by trauma, violence and abuse through quality counseling at local childcare centers and schools in high-risk neighborhoods. Their programs and expertise are grounded in scientifically-sound research about early brain development and the impact of adversity and trauma on young children. Their model program brings a fresh new solution to an escalating issue. Rates of depression, violence, and school shootings are rising. CfCC's program helps children succeed by equipping them with skills needed to self-regulate, encouraging autonomy and resilience. By training teachers and caregivers in how to build these skills, they can help students' social-emotional growth, ensuring an environment where all are free to learn. In 2017, CfCC began providing mental health services and training at Bethune Elementary School in Palm Beach County, an F-rated school. By spring 2018, the school was two points from an A rating. This grant allows CfCC to expand the innovative program to two additional schools, both located in at-risk communities.

\$24,000 Merit Grant Recipient

Meals on Wheels of the Palm Beaches | Increasing Service to Hungry Homebound Seniors

Meals on Wheels of the Palm Beaches (MOWPB) was incorporated in 2010 as a result of unmet needs of the homebound seniors in Palm Beach County. Seven years later, 230 volunteers delivered over 52,000 freshly cooked meals to homebound seniors in the community. Meals are delivered five days a week through a three-part program that ensures clients receive a warm smile, a nutritious meal, and a well-being check and follow-up if needed. This merit grant allows MOWPB to expand their program.

\$24,000 Merit Grant Recipient

Community Partners' Parent-Child Center | Child Tele-Psychiatry

The Parent-Child Center (PCC) of Community Partners provides child and family mental health counseling services. Services include a comprehensive array of prevention and treatment services for children and families experiencing emotional/behavioral problems due to issues of trauma, abuse and neglect. To address the ongoing deficiency of psychiatric services in Palm Beach County, PCC implemented tele-psychiatry services for its clients. This merit grant moves PCC closer to their goal of bringing tele-psychiatry to children in need in Palm Beach County.



2017 Impact Grant Awards Total \$127,000

\$100,000 Impact Grant Recipient

Project LIFT | Belle Glade Expansion

Project LIFT addresses mental health issues with youth who are in the throes of substance abuse, depression, anxiety, abuse and family conflict. Staff uses evidence-based best practices of substance abuse treatment, trauma-informed care, cognitive behavioral therapy, and motivational therapy combined with learning of skilled trades. This program combines job training, community service and behavior modification with pioneering community solutions during difficult economic times. "At-risk" teens of Project LIFT can affect the lives of hundreds of individuals in a positive way through innovative interventions and service-learning experiences. This sense of self-management and community responsibility equips at-risk youth with problem-solving capabilities to provide insight into why they choose certain negative behaviors and how to successfully intervene to avoid those behaviors in the future.

\$27,000 Impact Merit Grant Recipient

The Pediatric Oncology Support Team (POST) | Less Pain, More Gain

POST enhances the social, emotional and financial wellness of children, teens and young adults with cancer. Pain affects children physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually, resulting in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, night terrors, depression, anxiety, body shame, interference in life activities, and isolation from peers. Pain is multidimensional. Therefore, an innovative multidimensional approach is needed to address this complex problem. This is the first time that traditional pain approaches will be combined with state-of-the-art Virtual Reality (VR) technology to create multidimensional help for children with cancer in our community. VR is a technologically advanced system that allows users to be transported into a virtual world. Users are fully immersed in VR experience through a combination of technologies, including a head-mounted display, headphones with sound/music and noise reduction, a rumble pad, joystick or another device for manipulation/navigation of the virtual environment. The program is designed to shift the balance of care from one of a passive patient to an empowered, engaged, and well-trained patient.



2016 Impact Grant Awards Total \$123,000

\$100,000 Impact Grant Recipient

Palm Beach Dramaworks | One Humanity Tour

Palm Beach Dramaworks seeks to engage and entertain audiences with provocative and timeless productions that personally impact each individual and "enhance the quality of life through the transformative power of live theatre." This project is designed for 6th-grade students and was conceived from the growing tensions that our community and nation are experiencing between citizens and law enforcement. A professional playwright created a 40-minute, live drama play that addresses the issues of respect, dignity, empathy, and the value of all life. A team of consultants, including psychologists, law enforcement, teachers, other experts in education and theatre collaborated to inform the process and the development of the play. The program is in partnership with the West Palm Beach Police Department and Palm Beach County Schools.

\$11,500 Merit Grant Recipient

Memory Trees | Gramercy Park Revitalization

Memory Trees is a social impact organization with a mission of "Giving back life...with abundance." The organization is moving the social needle on food insecurity, inspiring healthy communities. It offers better community access to resources for health and wellness by focusing on "ten puzzle pieces": Education, social change, food donation, female empowerment, sustainable food, public/private collaboration, urban farming, self-sufficiency, and micro-lending. This project seeks to create a neighborhood gathering place in Gramercy Park, a low-income area considered

a food desert by the USDA. Using the urban garden as an attraction, along with basketball courts, a playing field and playground equipment, this community center provides an educational garden, a pavilion/outdoor classroom and ongoing empowerment through education. Combined, these components provide a variety of learning and skill development opportunities for the community.

\$11,500 Merit Grant Recipient

The Lord's Place | Transforming Lives in our Community Initiative (TLC)

The Lord's Place transforms lives by providing solutions that break the cycle of homelessness for the most vulnerable and neglected in Palm Beach County. Their innovative, compassionate, and effective services are constantly evolving to end local homelessness for good. This program aims to prevent children from a lifetime of adversity and stigma by healing trauma early, before diagnosis, and working with parents and caregivers not only to recognize and heal their own trauma but provide them with the skills to support their child's social-emotional wellness and growth. TLC, in a new partnership between the Lord's Place and the Center for Child Counseling, addresses intergenerational homelessness among families by providing intensive, evidence-based wraparound mental health services for children.



2015 Impact Grant Awards Total \$117,000

\$100,000 Impact Grant Recipient

Live Fresh Palm Beach County | Mobile Shower Unit

A first of its kind in Florida, Live Fresh Palm Beach County is a mobile operation providing access to showers to homeless individuals and families in underserved areas of Palm Beach County. During any 24-hour time-period, there are more than 1,400+ homeless individuals and families in Palm Beach County. Working in partnership with several area agencies, it seeks to provide dignity to a growing homeless population, one shower at a time. The program is designed to address a gap in the availability of services to shower and address personal hygiene needs for our homeless community.

\$8,500 Merit Grant Recipient

Take Stock in Children (TSIC) | College Retention Services to At-Risk Youth

Since 1995, TSIC has awarded low-income students a scholarship, a mentor, and college readiness services during the student's middle/high school years. Upon graduation, each student receives a 2-year full-tuition scholarship. TSIC acknowledges that success is not college attainment; real success is college completion. Fewer than one in five low-income college students complete their degree and in Palm Beach County an estimated 4,804 (4.5%) of students in poverty will obtain a college degree. This project seeks to establish a College Retention Program to successfully support and assist 500+ students and provide comprehensive support services designed to ensure academic success by hiring an additional College Retention Coach.

\$8,500 Merit Grant Recipient

The Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc. | Educational Advocacy Project

Legal Aid Society is making sure all Palm Beach County residents have equal access to the basic rights they deserve and strive to bring real justice to real people. Every year, they provide more than 7,000 disadvantaged residents with no-cost legal assistance as well as a variety of community education and outreach programs. This project helps resolve disputes over children of low-income families in need of special education or accommodations. Legal Aid Society seeks to create a tool kit for parents and other caregivers to teach them their rights under several state and federal laws directly affecting education. The goal is to greatly expand the number of low-income students who receive appropriate, legally mandated accommodations and services by educating, empowering, and supporting a disadvantaged segment of the community to successfully advocate for their children.