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**Powered by Community Generosity, Madison Community Foundation  
Awards \$1.34 Million in Grants**

**MADISON, Wis., Oct. 29, 2024** – Philanthropy has the power to make change, and every year people join together to support Madison Community Foundation’s Community Impact grantmaking. Annually, MCF awards more than \$10 million in grants, of which \$1.34 million are Community Impact grants in 2024.

These grants, directed to organizations working in critical areas such as learning, community development, arts and culture, and the environment, underscore MCF's commitment to supporting the nonprofit organizations working to enhance the quality of life and make Greater Madison a more vibrant and equitable community.

"The work these organizations do is vital. They are providing support to our youth and our immigrant neighbors. They are working hard to ensure their own financial stability, while trying creatively to meet the needs of the people they serve," Angela Davis, MCF's Director of Grantmaking, remarked. "We are so pleased to be able to provide support to organizations that are working to create new programs, increase their capacity and build long-term financial stability."

Davis and her colleagues on MCF's Community Impact team meet with hundreds of organizations each year, working to understand their needs, and the needs of the community overall.

"This has been a challenging year for many organizations in our community," Davis continued. "With the support provided by the federal Coronavirus Relief Funds ending, organizations are having to be creative to meet their needs and many are working to diversify their funding sources to provide a more solid future."

**Supporting Nonprofits as They Move Toward the Future**

Building nonprofit capacity through growth and enhanced stability is an important way MCF's grantmaking has an impact on our community. It helps support organizations like Literacy Network and Omega School, whose merger will provide even greater support for community members working to achieve their high school diplomas or master English language skills.

Building capacity also means supporting organizations as they work to diversify their funding sources or increase their fundraising abilities, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County, Community Shares of Wisconsin, Madison Circus Space, OutReach LGBTQ+ Community Center and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra are doing.

And sometimes MCF's grantmaking helps support big dreams as organizations explore new ideas or develop programs that don't exist elsewhere. MCF is happy to add its support to the Madison Public Library Foundation's Imagination Center in Reindahl Park on the city's northeast side and Nuestro Mundo as it launches an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme to bridge the opportunity gap many of its students face and to help close the achievement gaps early in their academic careers.

### **Powered by Community Generosity**

The seeds for MCF's Community Impact Fund were planted in 1986, when the foundation created the Founders' Fund, giving community members an opportunity to contribute to an endowment fund that would be used for current and future grantmaking. The goal for the fund was \$100,000. Today the Community Impact Fund distributes more than \$1.3 million each year.

Bob Sorge, MCF's President and CEO, said, "Our donors make it possible for MCF to award these grants. And our staff work diligently to award these resources in efficient and effective ways to strengthen the nonprofits that serve our community."

As the community's foundation, Madison Community Foundation does more than just award grants, it brings people together to amplify the power of their giving and helps them create a plan to provide permanent support for the organizations and causes that matter most to them.

The complete list of grant recipients includes:

#### **Badger Prairie Needs Network**

\$100,000 toward the expansion of its warehouse space, increasing capacity to accept and distribute six times more food for families struggling with food insecurity.

#### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County**

\$35,000 to collaborate with a grant writer to increase and diversify funding sources to better mentor and support the youth it serves.

#### **CEOs of Tomorrow**

\$65,000 to relocate to The Black Business Hub, which will provide a more vibrant, racially diverse environment, and to build capacity for strategic growth.

#### **Children's Theater of Madison**

\$40,000 to expand its development staff to increase sustainability, maintain strong donor engagement and support its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary fundraising campaign.

#### **Community Shares of Wisconsin**

\$60,000 over three years, to continue to expand and support The Big Share online day of giving, and to help participating nonprofits develop their fundraising capacity.

#### **Felicia's Donation Closet**

\$75,000 to support growth by increasing staffing, finding a permanent location for its inventory and purchasing a van to help deliver these items to the increasing number of families left homeless by domestic abuse.

#### **Friends of San Damiano**

\$50,000 to hire an executive director to lead the organization through its next stage of growth and deliver the vision for the San Damiano property as a revitalized space for public recreation, events and peaceful reflection.

**Gathering Waters**

\$50,000 to support its advocacy campaign for the renewal of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, which provides valuable resources for conservation projects across the state.

**Literacy Network**

\$50,000 for its merger with Omega School, providing long-term sustainability for Omega School's services and expanding instruction and support options for those working toward their GED or HSED.

**Madison Area Rehabilitation Centers**

\$50,000 toward a new building that will increase capacity, improve community building and enhance quality of services it provides to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Madison College**

\$150,000 for the Early Learning Campus, which will provide reliable, high quality, affordable childcare to students at the Goodman South Campus and help address the lack of infant-care options.

**Madison Circus Space**

\$50,000 challenge grant to help build financial stability and increase organizational capacity to continue to provide people of all ages and abilities the opportunity to train in wide range of circus arts.

**Madison Public Library Foundation**

\$250,000 toward the construction of the Imagination Center, Madison's newest library, which will be built in Reindahl Park off East Washington Avenue.

**Madison Public Schools Foundation**

\$50,000 to increase capacity for marketing and raise awareness of its programs and impact in the Madison Metropolitan School District.

**Nuestro Mundo**

\$35,000 to help close its students' post-pandemic learning gaps by become an International Baccalaureate World School offering the world-renowned Primary Years Programme.

**Operation Fresh Start**

\$20,000 for a 15-passenger van to transport the Legacy Conservation Crew to various conservation project sites across Dane County and increase the number of participants it can serve.

**OutReach LGBTQ+ Community Center**

\$60,000 challenge grant to help build a healthier balance of funding by increasing the number of individual donors and developing a planned giving program.

**The Salvation Army of Dane County**

\$100,000 toward its Together We Build campaign to replace its current aging shelter with a new shelter and community center to bring its programs and services under one roof.

**Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra**

\$50,000 to build capacity and strengthen sponsorship and donor relations for Concerts on the Square, increasing the concert series' sustainability.

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**About Madison Community Foundation:** Madison Community Foundation's mission is to engage Greater Madison in philanthropy to advance a more vibrant and equitable community. Community Impact grants are made possible by donors who support the Community Impact Fund, MCF's competitive grantmaking program. For more information, visit [www.madisongives.org](http://www.madisongives.org).