

IMPACT POLK

2016

A Program of the GiveWell Community Foundation



For Your Information

What is Impact Polk?

Impact Polk is the community grant program of the GiveWell Community Foundation. All submitted applications are reviewed by staff to ensure they meet grant program guidelines. Approved applications that meet publication criteria are included in the Impact Polk publication, which is distributed to all GiveWell Community Foundation fundholders and the community at large for their philanthropic consideration.

Who can apply for Impact Polk?

All nonprofit public charities that have current Section 501(c)3 status as determined by the Internal Revenue Service and whose project's service area has a Polk County zip code are eligible.

What if I want more information on one of the programs listed in the Impact Polk publication?

Our professional staff is well versed on the programs listed in this publication and is readily available to help you make funding decisions that make sense to you.

How can I fund Impact Polk?

If you are a current fundholder at the GiveWell Community Foundation, simply fill out a grant request, either online through DonorCentral or on a paper form.

If you do not have a fund with us, you can donate online at www.GiveCF.org or mail us a check with a letter stating the name of the program you would like to fund. You will receive an acknowledgment letter for tax purposes.

Can I donate anonymously?

Yes, please note on your check or grant request that you would like your donation to be anonymous.

How will I know that my donation is used properly?

Any nonprofit receiving funding from this grant program must provide follow-up reports to the GiveWell Community Foundation. This information is shared with the donor(s) of the specific project and, in the rare event that a nonprofit did not use gift monies as intended by a donor, the GiveWell Community Foundation has the ability to intervene until donor intent is met.

Can I help support the GiveWell Community Foundation?

The GiveWell Community Foundation provides many opportunities to the nonprofits in our community, but, just like the nonprofits we serve, we require funds to be able to provide these services. Because the GiveWell Community Foundation has a strict no fundraising policy, we rely on gifts from our fund holders and community donors to assist us in our work.

For more information or to discuss a listed project, contact us at 863-683-3131 or info@givecf.org.

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While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information supplied herein, the Foundation cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions. Project descriptions are solely those of the author of the nonprofit organization.

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Arts & Culture

Imperial Symphony Orchestra

School Day Enrichment

\$10,000

Studies show that students who were involved in music throughout high school had: 34% higher graduation rate, 15% higher GPA, 8.5% higher scores on the SAT math and 10.4% higher scores on SAT verbal. The Imperial Symphony Orchestra (ISO) is proud to be a partner in enriching existing fine arts curricula with Polk County Public Schools as well as many local private schools and home school groups by providing students an opportunity to experience live symphonic music. During each of the four performances, 2,300 students fill Youkey Theatre at The Lakeland Center for an introduction to musical instruments as well as a lesson in adapting behavior to surroundings.

Imperial Symphony Orchestra

Next Generation for the Arts Scholarship

\$12,000

Next Generation for the Arts Scholarships provide free admission to ISO Masterworks performances for students through college. Last year, the Next Generation for the Arts program provided more than \$25,000 in admissions to 1,000 students. The ISO's board of directors is committed to providing access to live performance which is critical to fostering student development by providing an experience with high-quality symphonic music as well as a platform for understanding behavior in a concert setting. These scholarships help families by overcoming barriers that prevent concert attendance and show the community that music truly is for everyone.

Lakeland Choral Society, Inc.

Lee and Carol Ross Memorial Scholarship

\$12,000

Each year, Lakeland Choral Society (LCS) gives back to the community through a series of concerts, as well as providing scholarships to local students through our scholarship program, named after two of our charter members, Lee and Carol Ross. LCS has been able to institute a Lakeland area children's chorus with the help of funding received through GiveWell Community Foundation. Subsequently, in addition to providing scholarships to high school and college students for college music studies, LCS is now able to provide scholarships to children and teen members of our children's choruses. Additional grant funds will further contribute to the musical education and participation of Polk area students.

Lakeland Community Theatre

"Out of The Box" Special Needs Theatre Troupe

\$9,500 FUNDED!

"Out of the Box" is Lakeland Community Theatre's "troupe with unique abilities." This troupe has grown to 50 special needs members (and counting!) ages 7 to 60. Working with the troupe are 20 high school and college volunteers and five instructors. We meet weekly to work on improvisation, scene work, dance, poetry, musical theatre, and more. Our goal is to continue weekly classes and perform a free show for the community every spring and fall. This program offers a very unique population a creative outlet, an educational experience, and a sense of belonging in our community at no cost to them.

The Orpheum Theatre and Academy of Performing Arts

The Orpheum Theatre Young Actors Workshop

\$9,249

The Orpheum Theatre Young Actors Workshop is a two-week summer camp geared towards school-age children, ages 8 to 18. Our goal for this workshop is to expose our youth, who may never have had an opportunity to experience theatre, the chance to learn about the performing arts. With the budget for the arts being cut in our school systems, our dream is that those interested in theatre will develop an appreciation of theatre and enjoy a comprehensive experience with all that theatre includes-on and off the stage. Regional instructors from Disney, New York, and other metropolitan areas, will provide the education for the workshop, and conclude with an evening performance starring our young artists.



Arts & Culture

Platform Art, Inc.

Platform KIDS Program 2016 - 2017

~~\$10,000~~ **FUNDED!**

Platform Kids showcases art created by students in grades 1-12. It develops a love for creating art and gives young artists an opportunity to showcase their talents at professional venues, helping grow the next generation of artists. In 2015, schools participating totaled 23 and student participants totaled 800. Teachers and art personnel totaled 80. Six high schools and 61 students participated in the second annual Veteran's Park Sculpture Competition. At the Platform Kids public event there were eight performance groups and more than 800 event attendees. Ten community partners took part in the program. There has been an overall increase in the program of 60 percent since its inception in 2008.

Theatre Winter Haven

Veterans Theatre Project

~~\$13,725~~ **Only \$6,225 left**

The Veterans Theatre Project works to deepen understanding of the military and veterans' experience through theatrical experiences. In partnership with local Veterans Affairs Office and advocacy groups, Theatre Winter Haven will mirror the process founded and executed throughout the country by the Telling Project. In this process, veterans are interviewed, the interviews transcribed, and a script is created. When the interview process is complete, those veterans and veterans' family members interested in performing, begin working with an experienced theatre director. The final step in the process is the show, where veterans perform a series of shows for our community.

Polk Museum of Art

Changing Lives Through Art: Creative Play Preschool Program

~~\$7,761~~ **FUNDED!**

The Polk Museum of Art's outreach initiative extends sustainable and enriching arts experiences to underserved communities throughout Polk County, including victims of homelessness. The Creative Play Preschool Program is designed to serve the needs of 3- to 5-year-olds enrolled in area shelter programs at Lighthouse Ministries and Salvation Army in Lakeland. This program has been designed to promote and stimulate emergent literacy skills through the arts and aid in preparing at-risk preschoolers with the mental, physical, social, and emotional foundation needed to succeed in kindergarten.



Sidestreet Art Beat, Inc.

Access Art

~~\$7,790~~

Creativity opens the door to self expression. This is even more true for people with limited skills and unique challenges such as people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, and autism and special needs. Access Art is a project that gives creative opportunities to the aforementioned groups of people. People who would otherwise not have social or artistic opportunities. Further, Access Art focuses on the needs of individuals faced with life challenges by providing opportunities for creative self expression in a non-judgmental environment.

Gospel, Inc.

RePurpose Art Studio's Job Training Program

~~\$8,640~~ **FUNDED!**

Gospel, Inc.'s RePurpose Art Studio provides a skills training program for at risk women where they make various products that are sold on their behalf. We are establishing a job training program that will provide an opportunity for these women to earn a supplemental income while learning necessary skills to obtain further employment in the community. They will participate in our six-month job training program where they will be paid hourly to continue to make repurposed products as well as learn practical skills such as sales, inventory, administration, etc. Participants will transition from our program into a regular job in the community with local businesses that have partnered with us.

Community Development

Community Development



Abby Graces Hope, Inc.

AGH Polk Swim Scholarship Program **\$8,000**

Drowning remains the leading cause of pediatric deaths in Florida. While multiple layers of protection are imperative in drowning prevention, swimming lessons alone provide an 88 percent reduction in drowning risks in the high risk ages 1 to 4. In collaboration and partnership with local city, community and privately certified swim facilities and instructors, Abby Graces Hope is launching its third season of the program providing scholarships to families in financial hardships and children with special needs across the county. Due to incredible success and demand, the program is growing exponentially with large interest already for the 2016 season, which doesn't officially open until late February of 2016.

P.E.A.C.E. Organization

Mental Health Crisis Prevention Project **\$10,000**

The mental health system in Polk County is in crisis. Prompt access and effective help is lacking, causing many people to cycle through the system repeatedly. P.E.A.C.E. has identified two programs, Florida Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) teams and Community Action Teams (CAT) that offer comprehensive, 24-hour treatment for adults with severe mental illness and children with severe trauma. These programs are effective in reducing hospitalizations, cost effective, and more satisfactory to clients than traditional care. Funding is requested for PEACE to facilitate the creation of additional teams in Polk County to address the vast number of people waiting to receive intensive treatment.

Better Tomorrows

Better Tomorrows After School Program **\$1,500 FUNDED!**

Abbey Lane youth of ages 5 to 18 are encouraged to meet challenges within their communities by exploring science, health, technology and math opportunities. Better Tomorrows provides safe, financially accessible, structured activities for the Abbey Lane children after school and during the summer. These supervised activities are designed to be engaging and educational while promoting civic involvement and independence. Moreover, they allow parents and guardians the time and opportunity to successfully complete responsibilities without worrying about the well-being of their children.

A Woman's Choice

Teen Impact Summer Abstinence Education Program **FUNDED!**

Teen Impact Summer Abstinence Program is presented to teens, by teens who are committed to saying YES to healthy relationships and a positive future, by saying NO to premarital sex, drugs, tobacco and alcohol. The Teen Volunteer Team Members share the message about the importance of healthy lifestyles in an engaging and interactive skit presentation, while serving as role models of this lifestyle themselves. This is the only program like this in our county serving teens during the summer. The program will be presented to approximately 250 teens from June 13 through August 5, 2016.

Bok Tower Gardens Foundation, Inc.

Discovery Days Summer Camp 2016 **\$5,000 FUNDED!**

Discovery Days is a summer day camp program incorporating the arts, environment and gardening activities as a forum to keep children ages 6 to 12 engaged and learning through the summer months. Each Discovery Day session will celebrate a different aspect of nature through themed activities, projects and garden exploration. The program will consist of four one-week sessions serving 30 children each session and will take place in July and August 2016. The cost of each session is \$100 per child and funding from the GiveWell Community Foundation will enable Bok Tower Gardens to offer 50 one-week scholarships to Polk County low-income families requiring financial assistance to attend.

Education

Education

CareerSource Polk *Gentleman's Institute* **\$5,000 FUNDED!**

The Gentleman's Institute is a week-long program designed to address the basic necessities every young man should practice. The curriculum is based on the book "50 Things Every Young Gentleman Should Know" by John Bridges, and teaches participants: how to tie a tie and how to iron; telephone and dining etiquette; proper grooming and hygiene; how to properly write a thank-you note; jobs, wages and education; and much more. Faculty consists of prominent businessmen including CEOs, attorneys and executive chefs, all of whom donate their time and talent to create a foundation for our young men to flourish.

Center for Independent Living in Central Florida *High School High Tech for Students with Disabilities* **\$14,422 FUNDED!**

Center for Independent Living's Florida High School High Tech (HSHT) program is designed to provide students with all types of disabilities the opportunity to explore jobs or postsecondary education leading to technology-related careers. The model incorporates four evidence-based design features: preparatory experiences, connecting activities, work-based experiences, and youth development and leadership activities. Students gain valuable insight and develop skills to make informed choices for life after high school. Through a broad range of academic, career development and experiential activities they will be enabled to meet the demands of the 21st century workforce.

Children's Homes Society of Florida *Tech Success* **\$12,000 Only \$6,000 left**

Imagine the world without technology. For many of the disadvantaged youth we serve, this notion is all too real and many have lost interest in learning and have given up the thought of having a career. Those fortunate enough to graduate high school and find blue collar jobs are still faced with the digital world. Children's Home Society of Florida seeks to close the technology divide for thousands of vulnerable youth through the program Tech Success Florida, a mobile lab. This program provides youth access to today's technology in learning labs designed with the student in mind and an opportunity to build relationships with professional mentors through the Young Entrepreneurs program.

Citrus Center Boys & Girls Clubs, Inc. *SMART Moves...Smart Kids ages 6-9 and Start Smart ages 10-12* **\$8,600 FUNDED!**

The SMART (Skills Mastery and Resistance Training) Moves prevention is a program that helps young people learn about and avoid some of the most immediate threats to their well-being: alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and teen pregnancy. The SMART Moves program is designed to teach children and teens through fun, high-yield activities how to abstain from, avoid and resist engaging in risky behaviors. Each component addresses: age-appropriate issues about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; self-awareness; decision-making, problem solving and goal setting activities. It also provides information and skills needed for youth to adopt the attitudes and behaviors necessary to lead healthy, fulfilling lives.



Education

Early Learning Coalition of Polk County

Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) Program ~~\$6,000~~

Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) Program partners with local child care providers, as well as area businesses, to raise funds to help cover the cost of care for the children of child care facility staff who work to provide safe and high-quality early education opportunities for the children served by the Coalition. These children are provided with early education focused on preparing them to enter school ready and eager to learn. In summary, this program helps child care providers retain staff, parents keep working, and children receive high-quality early education they need to succeed.

Faith Without Works, Inc.

CAMP COMPASSION ~~\$14,960~~ FUNDED!

The Camp Compassion project is summer day camp designed to specifically address the “Youth Risk Factors” and “Youth Character Education Needs”. This camp includes age appropriate activities in a variety of vital character areas that address the physical, intellectual and emotional needs of youth. Camp Compassion will build character, confidence and behavioral skills using kindness and volunteer services towards the elderly, veterans and the homeless. Camp Compassion incorporates high energy activities, structured learning, and abundant team opportunities.

Florence Villa Community Development Corporation

FVDC Youth Leadership Development Program ~~\$9,900~~ FUNDED!

The Florence Villa Community Development Corporation (FVDC) Youth Leadership Development Program offers an after-school and summer development program for youth between the ages of 13 to 16. The program is designed to enhance the life skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for participants to become successful in all aspects of their daily lives and future endeavors. Program components include Conflict Resolution, Cultural Awareness, Civic Consciousness, Effective Communication, Etiquette, Financial Literacy, Health and Hygiene, Pregnancy Prevention, and Workforce Readiness Skills Development.

Florida Southern College

Roberts Academy's Enhanced Learning Environments for Students with Dyslexia ~~\$15,000~~

One of the best predictors for success in life is early literacy. Since children with dyslexia have auditory and visual processing skill deficiencies, traditional classrooms can create additional educational challenges that greatly inhibit their reading ability. Our goal at the Roberts Academy is to utilize this outdoor space to create a flexible learning space to increase self-confidence and learning gains. The creation of this outdoor learning space is expected to provide physical and psychological benefits related to increases in physical development, capability, activity, classroom harmony and self-esteem while fostering interest in science and math through connecting with nature.



Florida West Coast Public Broadcasting Inc. (WEDU)

WEDU PBS Digital Education Workshops ~~\$3,000~~ Only \$2,000 left

Florida PBS LearningMedia, a free educational service, features more than 100,000 digital learning objects and teacher productivity tools to support teaching PK-13+. Content is drawn from PBS and more than 300 partners such as the Smithsonian and NASA. In 2014, the state legislature allocated funding to PBS for the customization of LearningMedia content to Florida education standards. As a result, the service aligns perfectly with the Florida mandate requiring 50 percent of classroom instruction to be delivered digitally beginning in 2015. WEDU is requesting funds to provide free workshops on the use of Florida PBS LearningMedia and complementary PBS resources to educators in Polk County.

Education

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida (GSWCF)

Get REAL! Mentoring Program

~~\$15,000~~ Only \$7,500 left

GSWCF requests funding for the Get REAL! Mentoring Program for 100 at-risk middle school girls. Girls face many challenges to academic and life success. Get REAL! is designed to combat negative influences, provide positive role models and a safe place to share experiences with other girls. The program focuses on literacy, self-esteem, social development and interpersonal relationships skills. Girls learn about advocacy and gain skills like networking, planning and learning to speak up for issues that impact themselves and others. Girls travel to Tallahassee to meet legislators and participate in a mock debate. The trip includes a college tour to inspire the girls' future academic success.



Girls Incorporated of Winter Haven

Let Them Eat Cake...or Fruit...or Veggies!

~~\$2,550~~ FUNDED!

Girls Incorporated of Winter Haven offers education-based programming to girls in kindergarten through middle school. On a daily basis, we have anywhere from 65 to 93 girls attending our after-school program. Studies show that healthy snacks help kids stay focused on tasks such as homework. Upon arrival and before delving into homework and programming, they are ready for a snack. This gives them the opportunity to take a break from academics and nurture their bodies. We are requesting funds to cover the cost of providing healthy snacks to our girls, such as fruits and vegetables and milk or juice, to keep them focused and on task.

Girls Incorporated of Winter Haven

Oh, the Places We Will Go!

~~\$2,700~~ FUNDED!

As the Dr. Seuss book says, "Oh The Places You'll Go!" - Oh, the Places We Will Go! will take a group of Girls Incorporated of Winter Haven teens to tour some colleges and universities in Florida. Girls Inc. of Winter Haven will rent a van, provide meals and lodging and be responsible for scheduling campus tours. This is an exciting opportunity to show our members that higher education is not out of their reach and they can achieve their dreams. We will encourage them to think about where they see themselves after high school - where do they want to go? This might not be a question they expect to hear, but we expect to change that perspective.

Gulf Ridge Council, Boy Scouts of America (BSA)

Traditional and Aquatics Boy Scout Camp for At-Risk Boys

~~\$10,000~~ FUNDED!

This program sends boys from at-risk neighborhoods to a week of traditional and Aquatics Boy Scout camp at Flaming Arrow Scout Reservation in Lake Wales during the summer of 2016. The boys will have an opportunity to learn teamwork, develop leadership skills, and participate in a variety of activities and classes that will teach them new life skills and give them the chance to have fun in a safe environment. One of the cornerstones of the program is to teach the boys about water safety and work with the boys that cannot swim teaching them the basics of water safety and swimming. They also learn about healthy diets and how to prepare healthy meals, physical fitness and self reliance.

Education

Heart for Winter Haven, Inc.

Jobs for Life: Winter Haven

\$14,848.88

Jobs for Life is a training course uniquely equipped to address the devastating effects of unemployment and poverty by helping men and women experience the dignity of work. Nothing attacks one's dignity like a lack of work. The suffering and consequences of unemployment and underemployment are pervasive and heart-wrenching. Joblessness contributes to poverty, crime, homelessness, hunger – it is self-perpetuating and tears at the fabric of society. This course is designed to be completed in a combination of classroom instruction and individual and group application activities with student-centered, interactive learning. We are requesting funding to prepare people for work.

Impact Development of Central Florida, Inc.

Impacting Youth for Tomorrow Mentoring Program

~~\$10,000~~ Only \$5,000 left

Impacting Youth for Tomorrow mentoring program will serve Polk County, Florida at-risk youth girls and boys from grades 6-11. The program inculcates the “five C’s” of youth development (competence, confidence, character, connection, contribution) by empowering mentors, mentees, parents and educators. Our goal is to reduce juvenile offenses and to increase positive outcomes in behavior, increase academic achievement, and improve social stability. We are seeking funding to purchase life skills material to enhance skills in our mentees, buy mentoring software to track mentee/mentor relationships, and underwrite group outings to expose our mentees to positive outings, such as colleges.

Junior Achievement of Tampa Bay

Achieve Success with JA JROTC Teen Teachers

~~\$9,500~~ FUNDED!

Junior Achievement (JA) Teen Teachers serve as positive role models to 444 elementary students. They will present hands-on learning activities by utilizing the JA economic education programs. Before volunteering, 50 high school students will participate in JA Career Success. After their training, teens teach economics, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and workforce skills in 22 kindergarten through third grade classrooms. Learning practical life skills together, teens and the children they teach will achieve educational and economic success, inspiring them to dream big and achieve their goals!

Junior Achievement of Tampa Bay

JA/Polk Schools Academy Partnership

~~\$9,500~~ FUNDED!

This program will give middle and high school students an opportunity to identify and practice entrepreneurship and business management skills needed to pursue the career of their choosing. Junior Achievement (JA) will partner with Polk County Schools Academies to not only train students for a specific career, but introduce them to entrepreneurial and business management concepts that will prepare them to successfully compete in today's highly competitive market place. JA will use five JA programs - Be Entrepreneurial, It's My Business, The Company Program, It's My Future, and Career Success- specifically designed to address these issues.

Junior League of Greater Lakeland

Reading is Fundamental (RIF)

~~\$10,000~~ Only \$5,000 left

Two-thirds of America's children living in poverty have no books at home. The most successful way to improve the reading achievement of low-income children is to increase their access to print. Reading is Fundamental (RIF) ensures that all children have access to books, particularly those children most at risk for educational failure. RIF volunteers distribute books, stage reading motivation activities, and promote the importance of literacy at targeted schools in Polk County. The Junior League of Greater Lakeland maintains this 41-year-old program as the oldest and longest running RIF program in the State of Florida.



Education

Keiser University

Microsoft Office Basics (MOB) Workshop

\$2,500

The workshop will provide an introduction or refresher to basic skills needed to use word processing and presentation programs. This training will attempt to bridge the technology gap for anyone who is unfamiliar with word processing programs or presentation programs. The use of Microsoft (MS) Word to fill out job applications, create resumes and cover letters, and write and edit papers will be covered. The basic skills to create a MS PowerPoint presentation will also be covered, including adding slides, pictures, inserting text boxes, and choosing a layout. The workshop is designed as a stand-alone course taught in one session, without follow-up sessions or multiple days of attendance needed.



Lake Wales Charter Schools Foundation

Lake Wales Charter Schools Young Leaders Program

~~\$12,470~~ Only \$7,470 left

The Lake Wales Charter Schools Young Leaders program works with at-risk students in high, middle, and elementary schools throughout the year to build their leadership abilities. The Young Leaders program was initially launched at the Lake Wales High School in 2008 with a focus on young at-risk men grades 10-12; during the second year, it was expanded to young women. It is a genderbased program that utilizes strategies in character building, leadership, and personal development skills that are geared specifically for each group. With the huge success of the Young Leaders program in high school, the Lake Wales Charter Schools have expanded the program to middle and elementary schools.

Lakes Education Action Drive, Inc.

Getting Kids Outdoors

~~\$3,000~~ FUNDED!

Schools are hampered from offering exploration beyond the classroom due to curriculum and budget restrictions. They don't adequately address science. Upon entering high school, students must pass the EOC (end-of-course) exam in Biology to graduate. If they choose to go to college, the ACT (American College Testing) exam is required which includes higher level science. Exposure to sciences early on is the key. Our program provides hands-on environmental summer programs to include interactive educational presentations and field trips where students will participate in exciting, educational activities. Students will have an opportunity to be outdoors, learn about living things, and develop an understanding of how nature works.

Lakeland Housing Authority

YouthBuild - Lakeland 2016

~~\$8,835~~ FUNDED!

YouthBuild-Lakeland (YBL) provides young adults, who have not succeeded in public mainstream schools, an opportunity to earn their GED/High School Diploma, gain employment skills and certifications, develop leadership skills, and confront personal issues that may limit their success. YBL offers programs that partner with Habitat for Humanity to build and refurbish low-income housing where participants earn a nationally-recognized certification in carpentry. Grant funds will enable YBL to provide additional certification training to our participants so they can gain employment as well as offer tuition assistance for special education students and students with learning differences.

Learning Resource Center of Polk County, Inc.

Camp READY! 2016 South Lakeland

~~\$14,950~~ FUNDED!

Learning Resource Center's (LRC) Camp READY! 2016 will improve kindergarten readiness in Lakeland where more than 40 percent of Kindergartners enter school lacking language skills needed for success. Camp READY! provides four weeks of interactive learning (reading readiness, cooking, movement, and crafts). On average, Camp READY! campers gain six months in language development. A parent wrote, "Amazing program! I am recommending it to every parent I know. The kids loved coming to camp every day." LRC respectfully requests GiveWell Community Foundation's help to bring Camp READY! 2016 to 50 Kindergartners in the Lakeland community.

Education

Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Committee, Inc.

Books for the College Students

~~\$2,000~~ Only \$1,000 left

College tuition rates are soaring and students are struggling to cover all costs associated with a college education. Surveys show the cost of textbooks can determine how many classes they take each semester. That means that if students choose to take a lighter course load to get around the financial burden of textbooks, they spend a longer time in college overall, which results in an expensive option. We propose to assist four minority students who are seeking a higher education, with funds to purchase books to help them achieve their college education.

The Museum of Science and Industry, Inc. (MOSI)

Robot Round-up

~~\$13,254~~ FUNDED!

MOSI presents the outreach robotics introduction program, Robot Round-up. MOSI will provide basic robotic information to elementary schools located in Polk County for a whole-day robotics tutorial, cumulating in a competitive sprint between robots. Students will learn basic concepts of robotics-what is and isn't a robot, and how to apply simple coding to make a robot follow directions. This program is often the first time a young student has ever held or interacted with a robot and has the potential to impact a student's interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) science. MOSI will provide this program to 15 Title I schools-an average of 125 students per school-impacting over 1,800 children.



Montessori of Winter Haven

Early Education Scholarship Fund

~~\$14,500~~ Only \$9,500 left

While we are a public charter school, free education is only available for grades K-8 plus three hours a day for VPK students. Scholarship funds will sponsor three students (ages 3 to 4) in our preschool program for the 2016-17 school year. Preschool is partially funded through VPK but tuition fees are necessary for full school day enrollment for the 3- and 4-year old programs. The scholarship fund will cover these costs, making full-day preschool attendance possible for more families. Needs-based scholarships are an effective way to introduce Montessori education to our community. Recipient families will serve as natural ambassadors, introducing Winter Haven to the valuable educational choice provided by our school.

Pace Center for Girls Inc.

Step Up the PACE in Math Through Art

~~\$14,950~~ FUNDED!

Involvement in the arts is associated with gains in math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking, and verbal skill. Learning art can also improve motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork. This program is an innovative approach to teaching foundational math skills to our students who struggle with this very important subject and the girls accomplished a 48 percent increase in reading and a 56 percent increase in mathematical skills based on progress monitoring assessments (STAR), and we want to continue this trend. The visual arts can help to achieve this goal of mastering math fundamentals.

Education

Parker Street Ministries

Closing Digital Divides

\$15,000

The digital divide is real in the under-resourced Parker Street community where the majority of our academic enrichment students have limited access to information technology and limited skills to use technology. This project empowers these talented youth to be skilled leaders rather than marginalized students who are increasingly disconnected from the Information Age economy. Closing Digital Divides keeps our current lab up-to-date, delivers hands-on computer literacy instruction, and provides new educational software and desktops.

Polk Education Foundation (PEF)

The Power of ONE

\$3,965.53 FUNDED!

Take Stock in Children provides scholarships, mentors and hope to underprivileged high school students in Polk County. In an effort to serve more students, we are seeking funds for ONE scholarship. This will allow our program to provide ONE more deserving Polk student the opportunity to receive a two-year scholarship. We believe the power of ONE impacts many lives including parents, siblings and the community. To ensure the success of our students we match them with a volunteer mentor. The role of a mentor is to help navigate the student through high school, assist them with college prep, while also being a positive role model. Our scholarship purchases are matched 100 percent by Florida Prepaid.

Polk Education Foundation (PEF)

Building Better Readers

\$8,716.25 FUNDED!

AmeriCorps Polk Reads, a program of PEF, is a tutoring and mentoring program designed to serve low performing K-3 students. The selected students exhibit deficiencies in reading skills by at least one grade level. These students have the skills to succeed, but lack resources and/or support at home to reinforce reading. Limited time during school makes it difficult for students to receive one-on-one attention from the classroom teacher. Our program helps during the school day which eliminates the burden of getting to and from before/after school programs. This grant request is to help fund five half-time tutors, providing three 30-minute tutoring sessions per week, to help at least 45 students succeed.

Professional Opportunities Program For Students, Inc.

Project LifeSaver

\$14,490 Application Withdrawn

Project LifeSaver will provide a six week, paid summer internships for 10 at-risk high school students participating in the Professional Opportunities Program for Students (POPS) Character and Leadership Program. The paid internships program provides the educational and hands-on career exploration experience that POPS looks to provide for their students. Each student will be placed at a business within the community. They will be assigned a professional mentor who will work with the student for the duration of the internship. The POPS program staff oversees the internship with periodic sight visits. A final evaluation is submitted to POPS by the employer at the end of the internship.

READ Lakeland, Inc.

Tech. in the 21st Century:

Transportable Literacy Connections

\$5,300 Only \$2,300 left

Technology literacy is a prime area of concern for those individuals who do not have access or skills in using technology in the community and workplace. The adult learners we tutor are anxious to improve their reading, math, writing, English language and computer skills to be able to function effectively in society and social situations of the day. READ Lakeland would like to continue to be an effective organization by keeping our resources current. The purchase of textbooks and other materials is expensive and this grant will allow us to purchase iPads and other technology-based resources for learning in the 21st century.



Education

Santa Fe Catholic High School ***Santa Fe Catholic High School Resource Program*** **\$10,000**

Santa Fe Catholic High School remains committed to enriching and developing the whole child and fully serve all those seeking a Catholic education. Over the past year the number of students qualifying for our Resource Program has more than doubled. Our resource teacher has continued to support her returning students and is now the focal point for students new to the school, who have special learning needs and various accommodation plans.



Scripture Union ***Strengthening the Heart, Mind and Spirit of Children at Risk*** **~~\$4,500~~ Only \$2,500 left**

Scripture Union Southeast Region is planning three after-school tutoring and club programs for the Polk County Area. The program will consist of tutoring and homework help for elementary school age children with a specific aim at children from more “at-risk” communities. The program includes tutoring, snack time, activity time, games and character development. A successful test program in Auburndale at the Lions Club in the 2014-15 school year helped us develop the current model using volunteers from area churches, teachers, high school students, college interns, and retirees.

St. Joseph’s Catholic Community ***Empowering Speakers of Other Languages*** **\$10,000**

St. Joseph’s Catholic Community, “Empowering Speakers of Other Languages”, serves the Polk County community and recognizes the diversity of population of its members. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESL) at St. Joseph’s Academy, provides a means for non-English speaking immigrants to learn the predominant language used in the United States. English language learners have the opportunity to learn and improve their English language skills in order to communicate more effectively with others in the community and in this United States. ESL Classes, led by volunteer professional educators, will serve approximately 60 adult men and women over the course of the 2016-17 program year.

United Way of Central Florida ***Family Fundamentals’ Bridge the Gap to School Readiness - My Own Library*** **~~\$7,400~~ Only \$1,400 left**

Bridge the Gap to School Readiness is a five-day a week program specifically designed to teach and model outcome-based activities preparing children to enter school ready to succeed. In a quality, developmentally appropriate environment, children and their caregivers experience a literacy rich environment in the classroom itself and within the “play” experiences provided. The “My Own Library” provides the children with age-appropriate books to take home as their own. They are building their home library while their caregivers now have access to quality resources to continue the learning/teaching process and become the best first teacher they can for the child.

United Way of Central Florida ***Success by 6’s Imagination Library*** **~~\$6,000~~ Only \$3,000 left**

The Imagination Library provides children, who might not otherwise have any books, the opportunity to explore new books with their parents, building school readiness skills. Children ages birth through their fifth birthday receive a free, age-appropriate book mailed directly to them every month. Imagine the excitement on the child’s face when they receive their very own book with their own name and address on it. Reading with young children improves language proficiency which is the primary predictor of academic success/failure in kindergarten. This program truly is a gift to the at-risk children in our community, while helping families prepare their children to enter school ready to succeed.

Education

The Vanguard School of Lake Wales, Florida, Inc.

Focused Education for Polk Students

Who Learn Differently

\$9,935 Only \$7,412 left

Learning Disabled is the largest category of students receiving special education services in the public school system. The majority of schools in Polk County lack the resources to provide the individualized education these students require to succeed. With your help, a Polk County student with learning disabilities will receive a need-based, day school scholarship to The Vanguard School's program for middle and high school students who learn differently. Our college-style campus has 77 acres, small class sizes, project-based learning, and zero tolerance for bullying. We acknowledge differences, celebrate strengths, and prepare students for college, careers, and independent living.

Webber International University

Hand in Hand We Learn:

Academic Success Tutoring Program

~~\$11,100~~ Only \$5,550 left

Webber International University is committed to increasing the number of academically-oriented students in Polk County's high schools by offering tutoring to those who are at risk of not advancing to the next grade level. Students at Lake Wales High School will be the initial target population served for the Academic Success Tutoring Program. Tutoring will be conducted twice a week during the school year to assist students who may otherwise have no intention of completing homework assignments if no assistance is provided. Qualified tutors will be selected from the student body at the University to provide tutoring, as well as mentoring guidance, to encourage long-term academic success.

YMCA of West Central Florida

Adaptive Programming - Unique Actions

~~\$5,000~~ FUNDED!

Unique Actions is a program that is specially designed for youth with disabilities and is open to all children ages 3 to 17. This program allows children to participate in activities at the YMCA with their peers, while working on their social/play interaction--turn-taking, sharing, parallel play plus, etc. The program will serve approximately 350 youth and families. Low student/teacher ratios will be used in order to maximize the learning process. Activities will include: Family Nights at the Y, specialty swim and gymnastics programming, family support and day programming in the summer.

Alliance for Independence

Making Our House Homier

\$10,000

The Carleton Group Home is becoming an Aging in Place Home for eight adults with Developmental Disabilities. All areas of the home are now compliant except the kitchen. This project will enable individuals with aging and mobility issues to access everything in the kitchen and continue to be integral members of the home. The remodel will include installation of lowered counters and stove top, accessible appliances, and an open accessible sink. This will allow full access to all kitchen functions even for individuals who use a walker or are non-ambulatory. Being an active member of the household is important to the residents. This project will remove the remaining barriers.

Alzheimer's Association - Florida Gulf Coast Chapter

REACHing Polk

(Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer's Health)

\$14,500

REACHing Polk brings the Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer's Caregiver Health (REACH) program to Polk County Alzheimer's caregivers. It is an evidence-based, psychosocial and behavioral training intervention for caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. It is designed to reduce caregiver burden and depression, provide caregivers with social support, and help caregivers learn how to manage difficult behaviors in care recipients. REACHing Polk participants will be provided with educational information, skills to manage behaviors, social support, cognitive strategies for reframing negative emotional responses, and strategies for enhancing healthy behaviors and managing stress.



Health & Human Services

Health & Human Services

American Red Cross

American Red Cross - Home Fire Campaign

~~\$10,000~~ Only \$5,000 left

The American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign helps residents prepare for and recover from home fires. The Red Cross provides financial assistance to residents who have been affected by a home fire. That assistance provides funding for food, clothing, temporary housing, medication replacement and in some cases rental assistance. The Home Fire Campaign also targets neighborhoods to install smoke detectors at no cost to residents. The Red Cross partners with local fire departments and walks door-to-door in these neighborhoods to check existing smoke detectors, install new smoke detectors, and educate residents about fire safety and the importance of having an escape plan.

Catholic Charities of Central Florida - Western Region

Family Empowerment Program

~~\$15,000~~

The Family Empowerment Program (FEP) prevents homelessness and hunger among individuals and families experiencing a financial crisis in Polk County. Through our nationally recognized program, we help clients attain financial self-sufficiency and avoid future dependence on assistance through intensive financial education and comprehensive case management services. These services are provided by certified credit counselors, a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) certified foreclosure counselor, and meet national standards. The goal of the FEP is to break the cycle of poverty and empower our clients to take back control of their own lives.

Central Florida Speech & Hearing Center

Helping Children with Cochlear Implants

Improve Language

~~\$3,491.84~~ FUNDED!

The proposed project will bring cochlear implant services to Polk County by providing two programming computers and speech language pathology test materials. Currently, those with a cochlear implant must travel to surrounding metropolitan areas to receive these essential services. Many children go without the necessary follow ups and services, keeping them from succeeding in school. These materials will enable Audiology and Speech/Language Pathology experts at Central Florida Speech and Hearing Center to provide cochlear implant programming and therapy services to our area. While the program will provide services to anyone with a cochlear implant, children will receive priority scheduling.

Central Florida Speech & Hearing Center

Helping Seniors Maintain Independence

~~\$15,000~~ Only \$7,500 left

Central Florida Speech and Hearing Center would like to introduce a new program in collaboration with Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE) to help seniors improve their ability to hear and communicate. The overall goal of the program is to prolong a senior's ability to stay independent. The Center's use of these funds focus on minimizing the isolating effects and health implications of hearing loss and the inability to express oneself to others for safety, necessary brain activity and emotional stability. We will provide audiology and speech/language care as well as devices and necessary training to optimize their use. The devices will consist of eight iPads and a bank of hearing aids.



Child

Rescue Coalition Inc.

Help Protect More Children From Predators in Polk County

~~\$15,000~~ Only \$10,000 left

In addition to providing support and training for our technology for law enforcement investigators, forensic examiners and prosecutors in the region, Child Rescue Coalition will host advisory workshops and/or town hall briefings for residents of Polk County in partnership with the Polk County Sheriff's Office, the Central Florida Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) TaskForce, and prosecutors from the State Attorney's Office 10th Judicial Circuit. The purpose of these briefings is to broaden awareness about the prevalence of predators who do not fit the stereotype and who live among us, and to educate parents and the general public about what is being done to address the issue and how they can help.

Health & Human Services

ElderPoint Ministries

1-2-3 Meals for Seniors

\$15,000

Polk County is the eighth most food insecure county in the nation and existing senior hot meals programs are at capacity with significant waiting lists. ElderPoint Ministries developed 1-2-3 Meals to meet seniors at the point of that need. Our meals use high quality dried vegetables, grains and spices to create a flexible system of microwave meal preparation that is both healthy and appealing. 1-2-3 refers to three packaged products of soup base, pasta or grain, and flavor profile. The three packages combine to create easy to store, cook and distribute hot meals at a fraction of the cost of other hot meal programs. The project goal is 40,000 meals packaged and distributed.

Good Shepherd Hospice

Camp Brave Heart

\$13,275 FUNDED!

The death of a loved one is difficult for anyone, but especially for children. Children simply don't have the words to describe their feelings, but sadness, anger, guilt and fear often overwhelm them. Good Shepherd Hospice operates a once-a-year bereavement camp for children and teens. Camp Brave Heart is a three-day camp experience that lets children know they're not alone in their grief and offers outlets for therapy and recreation. It is held each spring for over 100 children. It is planned and run through the bereavement department at Good Shepherd Hospice. We are requesting funding for 45 children to attend camp in 2016.

Guardianship Office of the Tenth Circuit Inc.

Guardian Angels of Polk County

\$12,000

Our goal is to continue to provide Guardian Angels for frail, indigent disabled adults in Polk County who are alone and have no one to visit them or make sure they have basic human needs and good medical care. These vulnerable citizens may suffer from neglect, abuse, homelessness, mental illness, developmental disabilities, or dementia. They were once husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; educators; businessmen; nurses; and military members; who are living in the community, assisted living facilities, nursing or group homes, but have now been abandoned. We want to give these disabled adults back their dignity through regular visits, good medical care and guardianship when necessary.

Destiknee Place, Inc.

Pursuit of Your Destiknee

\$15,000

Destiknee Place, Inc. assists currently incarcerated women and aid female ex-offenders (a dramatically underserved segment of our population) successfully re-enter society. We offer tutoring, mentoring and classes using the nationally accredited curriculum "Tackling the Tough Skills" which includes skills for life and work, and components on addiction, mental health counseling, GED prep, and Education Scholarship for higher education. Weekly support meetings based on the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) model are encouraged. This program will serve up to 35 persons per cycle and be measured by their completion of life skill classes and, where applicable, lack of recidivism.

Education & Empowerment, Inc.

Education & Empowerment Health & Wellness Program

\$12,306 Only \$7,306 left

The Success for All Education & Empowerment Center in Dundee provides an opportunity for people living in East Polk County with disabilities to participate in meaningful day time activities. During our first two years, we successfully implemented a supplemental food box program that consistently reaches people with disabilities experiencing "food hardships". Our next step is to develop our Health and Wellness program to improve access and support, through sustainable activities, designed to increase healthy lifestyle choices based on knowledge and experience, and reduce obesity and other secondary health conditions presented by people with disabilities.

Health & Human Services

The Haley Center

Patient Health Education Outreach Program

\$14,400 FUNDED!

Patient education is a key to good health. The Haley Center, a free medical clinic serving patients who are at or below 200 percent of the poverty level, is proposing a Patient Health Education Outreach Program. This program will provide patients with education and guidance to understand and take responsibility for a portion of their individual health care needs. This request is to fund a Medical Assistant (MA) to work in conjunction with Haley Center's in-kind support team (certified dietitians and physicians) to develop a comprehensive patient medical education outreach program designed to teach proper health care thus reducing the need for continued medical attention.

Lakeland Vision, Inc.

Lakeland Bikeshare Program

\$9,000

Bicycle sharing is a public-accessible short-time bike rental program where users share a bicycle fleet located at multiple stations. A fully funded phase one of a local program initially launches with six to seven initial stations (three in Downtown, one at Florida Southern College, one in Dixieland, one in Midtown, and one at Lake Morton Public Library). Stations consist of 10 bike parking spaces and five bikes. This request is for a station in one of Lakeland's low-income neighborhoods in order to connect residents with other areas of the city already served by bikeshare stations. This would help residents connect to the Farmers Curb Market's Fresh Access Bucks Program to purchase Florida grown produce.



Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine (LVIM)

Early Detection Saves Lives

\$15,000

Annual women's health screenings are a critical factor in prevention of various types of cancers. Early detection and treatment will save the lives of many of LVIM's female patients. Many incoming patients report not having an annual women's exam in many years. Even more alarming, some have never had an annual women's exam. This program provides annual PAP tests; clinical breast exams; lab work; screening mammography; prescription services; ultrasound, if required; colonoscopy, if required; Leetz procedure, if required; patient education; and referrals for advanced and specialized treatment.

Lakeland Habitat for Humanity

A Brush with Kindness/

Emergency Home Repair Program

\$15,000 FUNDED!

Lakeland Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build/repair homes, communities and hope. Habitat asked the question that we should always ask: How can we serve more people? Our answer is the Brush with Kindness Home Repair Program. Building houses is, and always will be, a major part of who we are as a ministry. But, through repair programs, we are serving so many more people living in run down, dangerous or blighted homes. In the last 12 months we have provided home ownership for 15 families, and provided emergency home repairs for 60 low-income owner occupied senior citizens and 12 low-income owner occupied veterans, as well as 101 ramps in partnership with Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE) for seniors.

LifeChoice Community Pregnancy Center

"Earn While You Learn" Education Program

\$3,000 FUNDED!

Earn While You Learn (EWYL) is an education-based resource program for young, first-time expectant parents. The largest EWYL program in Eastern Polk, EWYL offers tangible resources through parenting classes and education that impact future generations. Clients earn credit to "buy" diapers, strollers, cribs, and car seats in the Baby Boutique. Clients choose classes from over 130 subjects i.e. prenatal to postpartum care, infant safe-sleep, car seat safety, shaken baby syndrome, and infant first aid.

Health & Human Services

Paint Your Heart Out Lakeland

Paint Your Heart Out Lakeland 2016

\$5,000 FUNDED!

Paint Your Heart Out (PYHO) Lakeland has a two-part mission: assisting low-income elderly and disabled Lakeland homeowners, and promoting volunteerism in the community. With help from community volunteers of many ages, we provide free painting and property clean-up services to qualified homeowners. For these efforts, PYHO not only delivers these much needed services to homeowners, but also encourages and celebrates volunteerism in the community. We plan to involve approximately 700 volunteers to paint at least 25 homes by the end of March 2016. This grant will help alleviate costs from our efforts.

Peace River Center

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

\$15,000 FUNDED!

How can you help someone experiencing a panic attack? What would you say to a person you know who says they are thinking of committing suicide? Mental Health First Aid is for anyone who wants to learn how to provide help to someone experiencing symptoms of a mental illness or crisis. The course is designed for the general public and gives people tools to help friends, family members, colleagues or others in their community. This nationally recognized program is helping people across our country learn how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and addictions before tragedy strikes. If funded, Peace River Center will establish this program and offer it to the community.

Patchwork Memory Bridges, Inc.

Impacting Quality of Life in Alzheimers Disease

\$15,000

Utilizing a uniquely developed set of brain exercises to enhance brain function, it is the goal of Patchwork Memory Bridges, Inc. to prolong the Alzheimer's participant's ability to remain in the home setting. Each month a participant remains in the home setting saves the family \$3,500 to \$6,448, depending on chosen facility type. Referrals from Polk Senior Services Agencies, grouped in one of five sessions based on Mini Mental Status Evaluation (MMSE) results, will meet alongside their caregiver on a weekly basis for a specially designed brain exercise program. Quarterly evaluations will be based on improved MMSE scores and caregiver improvement assessments.

The Salvation Army Serving West Polk County

The Road to Hope - Bus Shelter and Transportation

\$14,870

Often times, people wait a while for a bus to pick them up thus having to deal with the Florida elements. The George W. Jenkins Community of Hope Bus Shelter will provide a safe and comfortable waiting area for families and children to wait for public transportation on the Citrus Connection Bus. Homeless families residing with The Salvation Army often do not own a car. In order to provide a way for them to get to work or seek employment, we have partnered with Citrus Connection to provide a bus route that stops in front of our campus. This bus currently stops twice a day with plans to make five stops a day beginning in January 2016 to better serve our clients.

Peace River Center

Artist in Resident - Therapeutic Art Project

\$12,000

Peace River Center's Therapeutic Art Project will provide art instruction and supplies to clients working toward recovery from traumatic life experiences, such as domestic violence or rape, or who are recovering from and coping with mental illnesses, such as depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, ADD/ADHD or other similar mental disorders. The project will serve both adults and children, providing a variety of therapeutic art experiences designed to lead to healthy emotional expression and improved self-image. Approximately 300 adults and children will benefit from this project over a one year period.



Health & Human Services

The Seed Sowers Evangelistic Association

Bread for the Westgate Neighborhood

~~\$15,000~~ Only \$10,000 left

Seed Sowers Evangelistic Association owns a community center in the low income area of Lakeland's Westgate Neighborhood called "Harvest Time Ministry Center". The Ministry Center provides programs to those living in the area to help them obtain much needed food, provide mental/emotional security, and teach employable skills. Breakfast is provided every Saturday morning followed by a community development meeting to provide needed encouragement, motivation and information to assist those in need. After the meeting every attendee receives a bag of groceries for his or her family. We are requesting funds to help cover the cost of food items for those in need that may otherwise go without.

Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.

Recreational Sports for Blind and Visually Impaired Teens

~~\$14,885.43~~ FUNDED!

We are requesting funding to purchase needed equipment and materials for use by the blind and visually impaired children and teens enrolled in our programs in order for them to have the opportunity to participate in sports and recreation programs as do their sighted peers. Specifically, there are two different activities we are seeking funding for. The first is sports equipment for Goalball, a highly competitive sport played three-against-three, indoors on a gym floor--primarily by blind and visually impaired athletes and is an international Paralympic sport. The second is for a Showdown table and supplies. Showdown is a fast-moving sport similar to table tennis for the blind.

Tri-County Human Services

I Want to Be Just Like the Other Kids

~~\$10,000~~ FUNDED!

Children of substance abusers are often emotionally neglected while their parents abuse alcohol and drugs. Their lives are chaotic. When placed with relatives or in foster care, there is little consistency. They want to be like other kids by attending school regularly and participating in activities such as soccer, dance class, be a scout or join Future Farmers of America (FAA). We want to help the children's lives be as normal as possible and help them set and achieve personal goals. The activities can be costly, such as renting instruments, buying uniforms, etc. The children will propose an activity they want to enjoy, develop personal goals, and a simple budget. We will support their efforts and praise their achievements.

Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE)

24/7 Emergency Monitoring for Seniors

\$15,000

Having a medical emergency at home is one of the greatest fears many seniors face, especially those living alone. Falls are the leading cause of injury among older adults. This project provides emergency monitoring pendants and 24-hour monitoring services to 55 of VISTE's most frail and isolated clients. All of VISTE's clients are aged 70 and older, and live in Lakeland, Bartow, Fort Meade and Mulberry. Of the 3,879 seniors served in 2014, 531 of them were over the age of 90. This project is a critical component of accomplishing VISTE's mission in that it enables our elderly clients to remain safely and independently in their own homes.



Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE)

VISTE Ramps for Seniors

\$15,000

On occasion, VISTE encounters elderly clients with a need for safe access in and out of their homes. Many are confined to a wheelchair or use a walker, making it difficult - or impossible - to get in and out of their house. It is not unusual to receive a call from an elderly person or their caregiver in need of a ramp because they cannot be discharged from a rehab facility without one. Almost all of these clients do not have the financial means to pay for someone to build them a ramp. They are literally trapped inside - or outside of their home - until someone helps them find a way in. We are requesting funds to provide ramps to approximately 50 clients.

Health & Human Services

We Care of Polk County

We Care's Paperless Initiative

~~\$5,240~~ Only \$1,240 left

In an effort to aid uninsured patients in receiving specialty care, We Care of Polk County is in need of a high efficiency multifunction printer/scanner. Currently we process referrals from various free clinics averaging 300-500 pages a day. Our current equipment is not capable of withstanding the high volume. In conjunction with the County, We Care is also moving towards an electronic referral system. This equipment will aid in the integration of that project. Besides the printer, we are also asking for the toner required to properly operate the printer as well as the funds to contract Boring Business Solutions to maintain the service needs of the equipment for the first year.



The Wilson House

Peer Recovery Program

~~\$15,000~~

The Peer Recovery Program delivers peer-to-peer support services to help prevent relapse and promote sustained recovery from alcohol and drug use disorders. When a recovering substance abuser experiences problems on their road to recovery they will require social support. Our Peer Leaders serve as mentors to assist participants with setting recovery goals, developing recovery action plans and solving problems directly related to recovery. Funding is requested for Peer Leaders to lead support groups to provide clients with a sense of acceptance and belonging, as well as the opportunity to practice new social skills to turn their lives around.

Youth and Family Alternatives, Inc.

Assistance Request

~~\$7,500~~ FUNDED!

Family Help Program is a prevention program that assists families and youth with a child who is truant from school, running away from home, ungovernable or at-risk. Youth and Family Alternatives (YFA) is requesting funding to assist and support families and youth by helping them achieve both short and long term goals that address the problems that bring youth through our doors. We provide a safe and nurturing environment through crisis counseling; conducting individual, family, and group counseling; linking youth and families to community resources; and providing daily life skills and education groups, as well as work with the Polk County School System to ensure that the youth's academic needs are met.

Women's Resource Center of Florida, Inc. (WRC)

Off to Work You Go

~~\$9,900~~ FUNDED!

Off to Work You Go! This program offers the support our clients need to keep the job once they get it. It provides child care assistance and transportation assistance as the lack of these often prevent the regular on-time attendance required to keep working. The worry and distraction caused by these two issues can impact concentration and performance on the job as well. Off to Work You Go will assist 16 women enrolled in one of WRC's job readiness or financial independence classes. It will ensure a positive new job experience by providing a support system and a hand-up that pays for either 25 percent of three months or the first month of child care and weekly transportation supplements.

Youth for Christ of Polk County

Summer Camping with Our Polk County "At Risk Youth"

~~\$15,000~~ Only \$3,000 left

Summer Camping with our Polk County "At Risk Youth" is a program for youth who have had a brush with the law or live in neighborhoods that dictate delinquency to spend time during the summer learning how to deal with issues in their lives. Counselors will work on issues, such as anger problems, abuse issues, abandonment, drugs, family and related problems that our hurting youth are experiencing, in a fun atmosphere where youth feel comfortable opening up. Multiple activities are planned to engage youth to learn from others in similar situations. We are requesting funds to provide scholarships for youth that would not otherwise have the means to attend a summer camp.

Other

71:17 Ministries, Inc.

2016 Oh My Baby

\$15,000 Only \$7,500 left

At least two to three moms are discharged from Lakeland Regional Medical Center (LRMC) every week without any supplies for their newborns. Oh My Baby offers help and hope by providing Starter Kits for these mothers who are financially at risk. Distribution is determined by an LRMC social worker. Each bag contains diapers, wipes, blankets, towels, bath supplies, apparel, bottles, pacifiers, thermometers, etc. Each bag costs about \$125 to fill and we deliver approximately 144 bags to LRMC every year. We would love to be able to continue to share our mission in our community in this tangible way.

Camp Gilead CBM Ministries of Florida, Inc.

Camp Scholarship Fund

\$14,945 FUNDED!

Camp Gilead is a non-denominational summer camp geared toward helping underprivileged young students learn to develop spiritually, physically, mentally and socially through a multitude of exciting games, experiences and activities. We create an atmosphere for individuals to evaluate where their life is currently and then teach and challenge them to make better decisions resulting in changed lives. Unfortunately many families are not in a position where they can afford this experience for their students, therefore we are requesting funds to help provide scholarships for those families who want their children to learn and thrive. Our motto is "Changing lives... one heart at a time!"

Speak Up for Children in the

Tenth Judicial Circuit, Inc.

Giving a Voice to Polk's Children

\$3,000 FUNDED!

Speak Up for the Children of the 10th Judicial Circuit, Inc. (Speak Up) is run by volunteers to support abused children in the foster care system. Speak Up exclusively supports the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) program, which assigns these children a volunteer Guardian who ensures their voice is heard. The GAL program is volunteer-based, with core staff funded by the State of Florida. However, there are costs that state funding does not cover, and where Speak Up steps in. This project will train 150 more new Guardians, provide in-service training for 30 existing Guardians and Mentors, and provide items for children in need.



Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

See a project you are interested in supporting? Here's how to get involved and donate:

GiveWell Community Foundation Fundholders

- Make a grant online through DonorCentral. Go to www.GiveCF.org, select Log In and DonorCentral. Log In using your username and password, then go to Make a Grant. Search for and select the nonprofit. Under Designation, include “(Name of Program) - Impact Polk.”
- Mail, fax or drop off a paper grant request form. Write the name of the nonprofit under the Name of Organization to Grant to, with the designation being “(Name of Program) - Impact Polk.”

Non-fundholders

- Donate online by going to our website, www.GiveCF.org and selecting Donate Now. Under the “Please Direct My Donation To:” dropdown, select “I Know the Name of the Fund.” Under “Please Enter the Name of the Fund,” type “(Name of Program) - Impact Polk.”
- Mail or drop off a check to our office, 1501 South Florida Ave, Lakeland, FL 33803. Please make checks to GiveWell Community Foundation, with Impact Polk in the memo line.

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