

GIVE HELP. GIVE HOPE. GIVE WELL.



impactPOLK

2017

AN ANNUAL GRANT PROGRAM OF **giveWELL**
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

What is Impact Polk?

Impact Polk is an annual community grant program by the GiveWell Community Foundation. Any 501(c)(3) public charity serving Polk County may apply for an Impact Polk grant. Applications are reviewed for credibility, capacity, project feasibility, and community importance. Applications are then presented to the foundation's fundholders, grants committee, and to the general public for funding consideration. Organizations receiving funding through Impact Polk must provide measurable results of their program. Visit GiveCF.org/ImpactPolk to learn more about the Impact Polk grant process.

This Impact Polk publication is a collection of applications requesting up to \$15,000. Project descriptions are submitted by the nonprofit organizations with only minor edits made by the foundation. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information supplied herein, the foundation cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

Why are some nonprofits organizations listed in *blue text*?

Nonprofit organizations with agency funds within the GiveWell Community Foundation are displayed with blue text. Agency funds offer nonprofits the opportunity to invest and protect their charitable dollars for the future of their work and mission.

Who can fund an Impact Polk program?

Anyone can fully or partially fund an Impact Polk program. If you are a current fundholder with the foundation, simply fill out a grant request form or request a grant online through DonorCentral. If you do not have a fund, you can donate online at 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. If you have any questions, call us at (863) 683-3131.

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.

About the GiveWell Community Foundation

The mission of the GiveWell Community Foundation is to help fundholders and charitable organizations build a better community. As a tax-exempt, nonprofit, publicly-supported philanthropic organization, our long term goal is to enhance the quality of life in Polk, Hardee, and Highland counties. We offer a variety of funds that help connect donors with the needs of the community. For more information, call (863) 683-3131 or visit us at GiveCF.org.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free, 1-800-435-7352 (800-HELP-FLA) within the state or visiting www.800helpfla.com. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. The registration number for GiveWell Community Foundation is CH11626.



ARTS & CULTURE

“In a gentle way, you can shake the world.”

Mahatma Gandhi

Fluid: 2017 Summer Dance Concert Series \$5,050

Imperial Symphony Orchestra

In collaboration with Florida Dance Theatre (FDT), the Imperial Symphony Orchestra (ISO) seeks support to launch "Fluid," a summer concert series featuring modern dance set to symphonic music. The partnership of FDT's professional dancers with the ISO's talented musicians will expose each organization's traditional audience to new art forms and the intentional summer timeline will provide cultural experiences for residents during a slow summer season. Funding from Give Well Community Foundation will support the launch of this new collaborative arts project by providing musician and dancer stipends, marketing support for ticketed events and venue rental.

Youth In Music Scholarships \$10,000

Lakeland Choral Society

The Youth In Music Scholarship program is a competitive scholarship opportunity sponsored by the Lakeland Choral Society supporting high school and college students. The process is determined through its volunteer Scholarship Committee. In recent years, with the support of the GiveWell Community Foundation, the Lakeland Choral Society established a Children's Chorus and Girl's Chorus for local school-aged students. In addition to providing scholarships to high school and college students, the Lakeland Choral Society is now able to provide subsidy scholarships to members of the Florida Southern Children's Choir and the Florida Southern Girl's Choir. Through this effort, the Lakeland Choral Society strives to contribute to the musical education and participation of Polk County students.

Young Men's Choir \$10,000

Lakeland Choral Society

This project will allow the Lakeland Choral Society to organize and establish the Florida Southern Young Men's Choir for male students in 6th through 12th grades within Polk County. The Young Men's Choir will offer outstanding musical enrichment, learning opportunities, and public performances for local students who wish to sing and further develop their talent and education in vocal music. There will be several concert performances throughout the year in the Lakeland / Polk County area to showcase this group and their accomplishments. Research has shown that music education improves children's academic abilities in reading and math and also teaches discipline, perseverance, teamwork, dependability, and pride in hard work.

"Out of the Box" Special Needs

Theatre Troupe

Lakeland Community Theatre

"Out of the Box" is Lakeland Community Theatre's "troupe with unique abilities." This troupe has grown to 60 special needs members (and counting!) ages 7 to 60. Working with the troupe are 20 high school and college volunteers and 5 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.

~~\$14,500~~
FUNDED!

Preserving The Beat

Lakeland Concert Band

The percussion section of the Lakeland Concert Band is the most visible and adds creativity, excitement and interest to the music we share. We would like to replace the older percussion instruments, with new instruments and rhythm accessories. We also need to purchase a portable storage cabinet, protective cases and covers for the new and existing instruments. The investment made in quality instruments will allow the amateur musicians, to provide a quality musical experience for our audience. Our free admission insures accessibility for people from all walks of life, including under-served populations that may not otherwise be able to enjoy musical performances.

~~\$5,758~~
\$4,630.50 Left

Platform Kids 2017 / 2018

Platform Art

Platform Kids' successful Veterans sculpture competition drew public attention, and in 2016 Tracy Moore, Highline Hero Foundation, learned about our project. Tracy's husband, a Linesman for Lakeland Electric, was killed in the line of duty, leaving behind two young sons. Highland Heroes promotes safety and supports families who have lost loved ones. She approached Platform about adding a fourth sculpture, honoring these heroes, with enthusiastic endorsement from the community, including the Veteran's Association, the City of Lakeland and Lakeland Electric. Platform will model the Lineman Sculpture project after the Veterans project, inviting local high school students to produce the design and work with an artist to produce and install the sculpture in a public setting.

~~\$10,000~~
FUNDED!

Access Art

Sidestreet Art Beat

Creativity opens the door to self expression. This is even more true for people with limited skills and unique challenges such as Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, autism and special needs, and their caregivers. Access Art is a project that gives creatives opportunities to these groups of 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 the non-judgmental environment.

\$12,950

Awareness Months Series

Theatre Winter Haven

Our "Awareness Months Series" will include a series of stage reads to promote awareness months on a deeper level, offering stories that highlight under represented areas of our community. As a community theatre, we exist to serve our entire community. We want to do shows that every individual can relate to throughout are season. By highlighting the segments of our community that are often left in the dark, we will be making strides in the right direction to reach this goal.

\$10,000

Community Stages

Theatre Winter Haven

Community Stages works to provide opportunities for our under-served population to experience the performing arts at no cost to them. In collaboration with our community and local schools, we will produce relevant productions that will "tour" community venues. This program will specifically target students and seniors who may not have the means financially or the ability physically to see a production at our theatre. Instead of asking them to come to us, we will bring the show to them.

~~\$10,000~~
\$6,000 Left

EDUCATION

*“If you want to touch the past, touch a rock.
If you want to touch the present,
touch a flower. If you want to touch
the future, touch a life.”*

Unknown



Teen Impact Summer

Abstinence Education Program

~~-\$7,950~~

A Woman's Choice

\$2,950 Left

Every year there is a high number of reported births in Polk County among teens ages 10-19, as well as up to 28 STD's, including Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Genital Herpes, HPV, and HIV, that are affecting our youth. To reduce these numbers and make a positive impact in our community, A Woman's Choice created the Teen Impact Summer Abstinence Program. This program is presented to teens, by teens, who are committed to saying YES to healthy relationships and a positive future, by saying NO to pre-marital sex, drugs, tobacco, and alcohol. The message about the importance of healthy lifestyles is presented in an engaging and interactive skit format by teens who are serving as role models of this lifestyle themselves. The program will be presented to approximately 250 teens during the summer.

Camp Career for Girls - STEM

~~-\$14,600~~

Abounding In Faith

FUNDED!

Camp Career for Girls goal is to get more girls involved in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) learning and careers through a summer camp. The percentage of teenage girls pursuing sciences in college and careers in this field is typically less than of the total admissions. However, there is a new aggressive STEM career outreach towards girls. Therefore, there is a need to provide extra-curricular activities to increase the interest of girls for careers in STEM and support those girls that are already interested. This program is geared for Middle School girls. Transportation will be provided to and from the home removing the burden from the parents. The program is run during the summer months only.

After School Program

~~-\$1,500~~

Better Tomorrows

FUNDED!

Abbey Lane Apartments in Winter Haven house low-income families where youth lack access to the resources their more affluent peers enjoy. Better Tomorrows' After School program engages Abbey Lane youth & provides resources, support & tools to enable them to succeed in school & life through an after School Program to provide homework assistance. Abbey Lane youth ages 5 to 18 years are encouraged to meet challenges in their communities by exploring science, health, technology & math opportunities. Better Tomorrows provides safe, financially accessible, structured activities for the children after school & during the summer. These supervised activities are designed to be engaging, educational, and promote civic involvement & independence.

Discovery Days Summer Camp 2017

~~-\$5,000~~

Bok Tower Gardens

FUNDED!

Discovery Days is a summer day camp program incorporating the arts, environment, gardening and healthy living activities as a forum to keep children ages 6-12 year of age engaged and learning through the summer months. Each Discovery Day session will celebrate a different aspect of nature through themed activities, projects, and exploration throughout the Bok Tower Gardens campus. Campers are separated into age groups so that we can offer more age appropriate activities during the week. The two age groups are 6-8 years old and 9-12 years old. The program consists of four 1-week sessions serving approximately 20 children each session per age group taking place in June and July of 2017. The cost of each session is \$110 for non-members of the Gardens and \$100 for members.

In School Club Day Low Income Scouting ~~-\$11,650~~

Boy Scouts of America Greater Tampa Bay Area Council **\$1,650 Left**

Many low income youth cannot attend traditional Cub Scouting programs in the evening because they do not have the means to travel back to the school or to a meeting location once they get home from school. In 2013, the GiveWell Community Foundation provided funding for a 15 passenger van to help transport kids in the Lakeland area to scouting events. That gift has made a huge impact on our ability to bring more kids into scouting but due to the number of boys that are in this position it is impossible for us to transport all that need this service. To help provide boys the opportunity to participate in Scouting, in 2015 we began a program with Janie Howard Elementary School where we conducted the Cub Scouting program during the Club Days at the school. This is a request to fund that program.

Vacation Station

\$11,660

Camp Fire USA Sunshine Council

Camp Fire is seeking support to expand its existing Vacation Station program in Greater Lakeland. Vacation Station programs are educational, hands-on social studies themed sessions for kindergarten through fifth graders designed to enhance language and necessary social skills which directly affect a child's likelihood to succeed in school. Fifty unduplicated youth (60% from financially at-risk families) will attend at least one session of Vacation Station during the 2017-2018 school year. Average daily attendance will be 25-30 youth for the approximate 20 sessions that will take place on weekdays when students are out of school. All sessions will be held at the Camp Fire Program Center.

Gentleman's Institute

~~-\$5,000~~

CareerSource Polk

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, how to accept/reject a gift, telephone and dining etiquette, proper grooming and hygiene, how to properly write a thank-you note, jobs, wages and education, and much more. Faculty and community partners consists of prominent businessmen including business and community leaders that provide insight and guidance to the participants.

Entrepreneurship Experience

~~-\$10,554~~

Center for Independent Living in Central Florida **\$5,054 Left**

CIL's Florida High School High Tech (HSHT) program will be enhanced by adding an entrepreneurship experience that will bolster students' chances for future success - the start up of their own microbusiness on a manufacturing theme. Through HSHT, students with all types of disabilities explore jobs or post-secondary education leading to technology-related careers. The model incorporates four evidence-based design features; preparatory experiences, connecting activities, work-based experiences, and youth development / leadership activities. Students gain valuable insight and develop skills to make informed choices for life after high school. A broad range of academic, career development and experiential activities empower students to meet the demands of the 21st century workforce.

Speech and Language Acceleration **\$4,517.68** **FUNDED!**

Central Florida Speech & Hearing Center

Central Florida Speech and Hearing Center's speech-language pathologists currently see over a hundred patients each week, both in Center and out in the community. As we increase the number of speech pathologists and patients seen to over 275 per week, the number of available materials, in good condition are scaling down. In addition, children that have been receiving therapy for many years are using the same tools consistently, thus decreasing interest and good behavior during therapy. The speech-language pathology department is in need of new, updated, "grab and go" tools and testing materials in order to continue to provide the best quality care to its patients.

Early Education Scholarship Fund **\$15,000** **\$7,500 Left**

Cypress Junction Montessori

Public funds to provide free education as a charter school are only available for students in grades K-8. Scholarship funds will sponsor four students (ages 3 and 4) in our preschool program for the 2017-18 school year. The scholarship fund will go toward tuition costs, making full day preschool attendance possible for more families. Needs-based scholarships are an effective way to introduce Montessori education to our community. Last year's recipient families are already serving as natural ambassadors, introducing Winter Haven to the valuable educational choice provided by our school. We are excited to open our preschool up to more families.

Child Care Executive Partnership Program **\$6,000** **FUNDED!**

Early Learning Coalition of Polk County

Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) is a program that partners with local child care providers and area businesses and donors to raise funds matched by the state to provide early education and child care services to children who would otherwise be placed on a wait list for these services in Polk County. The program provides safe, affordable, high quality, early education opportunities for the children of low income families whose parents are working or going to school. The children of these low income families receive high quality early education and care that will set them on the best possible path for future success in school and in life by focusing on preparing them to enter school ready and eager to learn.

Where Families Build Their Future Through Education **\$15,000**

Family Literacy Academy at Lake Wales

The project will promote and improve adult and childhood education, lifeskill training to enable families to achieve their career potential, realize their economic goals, enhance and improve the family unit, and foster greater community involvement. Through adult, childhood and lifeskill training families can break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy restricting individual and family growth. Our parents become better first teachers of their children. It costs approximately \$2,500 a year to provide these comprehensive educational services free to one family. Requested funds will enable 6 more families to continue their education to gain their GED / ESOL, improve their families' economic well-being while enabling their children to be successful in school and be better prepared for life.

Youth Leadership Development Program **\$10,962** **\$5,962 Left**

Florence Villa Community Development Corp.

The FVDC Youth Leadership Development Program offers an after-school and summer development program for youth between the ages of 13-16. 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, social etiquette, financial literacy, health and hygiene, pregnancy prevention, career exploration and workforce readiness skills development.

Destination Aviation Flight Simulators **\$8,000**

Florida Air Museum

The Florida Air Museum, a wholly owned subsidiary of SUN 'n FUN, is requesting funding to replace the 20 computers utilized during its Destination Aviation Summer Camp. The current computers which house critical flight simulator technology have become inoperable after 13 years and are unable to support the simulation software. Flight Simulation is a vital training tool for young people who are interested in pursuing careers in aviation. Utilized every day for 6 weeks of camp programming by close to 140 youth (as well as during the Fly-In event), these simulators teach skills that students then translate into piloting an actual aircraft at the end of their camp experiences.

College is 4 Everyone **\$10,000** **\$5,000 Left**

Florida Prosperity Partnership Polk

The college access network formed under the umbrella of Florida Prosperity Partnership and in collaboration with FLORIDA C.A.N. (Florida College Access Network). College is 4 Everyone exists to create a college-going culture in our communities for predominantly under-served, first-generation, and students of color; to increase post-secondary education attainment in Polk from 28%; to leverage community experts and partners towards collective impact - K-12, Higher Ed, Career Source, Polk Vision, Central Fl Dev., and other leaders; to provide a volunteer network of navigators to assist in helping students in high school and at community centers through the process of college applications and financial aid applications; and to improve financial stability through college access and attainment.

WEDU PBS: Digital Innovation for Education Workshops **\$3,000**

Florida West Coast Public Broadcasting (WEDU) **FUNDED!**

As a part of American Graduate, a PBS national campaign to provide communities with strategies for addressing the dropout crisis, WEDU offers free workshops on the use of PBS curriculum resources particularly, Florida PBS LearningMedia an innovative, free service featuring more than 120,000 digital objects that support PK-13+ instruction. Content is drawn from PBS and more than 400 partners such as the Smithsonian and NASA. The state legislature has allocated funding to PBS for the alignment of LearningMedia content to current Florida education standards, making the service a valuable tool for meeting the Florida mandate requiring 50% of classroom instruction to be delivered digitally. WEDU is requesting funds to help offset the cost of providing workshops to educators in Polk County.

Get Real! Mentoring Program - Polk County **\$10,000**
Girl Scouts of West Central Florida **FUNDED!**

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida is requesting \$10,000 to support our Get Real! Mentoring Program in Polk County that currently serves 100 at risk middle school girls at R.W Blake Academy and Kathleen Middle School. The Get REAL! Program targets middle school girls who are struggling academically and acting out socially who need positive, caring adults to support them and provide intervention in order to improve girls' behavior on an academic and social level.

Strong, Smart, Bold. . .
Learn, Develop, Code! **\$4,435.94**
Girls Incorporated of Winter Haven **FUNDED!**

Today's generation is exposed to technology the day they are born. On average, children are getting their first smartphones around age 10, according to the research firm Influence Central (Chen, NY Times, 2016). Technology is an integral part of the educational system and business, with tech jobs among the fastest growing in the country. Our goal is to provide our children with the access to current technology, as we do not have any computers available for the children's use. Our secondary goal is to provide the children an opportunity to learn the basics of coding. Providing this type of opportunity will supplement the children's primary education with useful, sustainable, and applicable skills that they will carry with them throughout their lives.

Impacting Youth for
Tomorrow Mentoring Program **\$10,000**
Impact Development of Central Florida

Impacting Youth for tomorrow mentoring program will serve Polk County, Florida at-risk youth girls and boys from grades 6th through 11th. The program inculcates the "five C's" of youth development (Competence, Confidence, Character, Connection, and 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, mentoring software to track mentee / mentor relationships and group outings to expose our mentees to positive outings.

School Day Enrichment Concerts **\$8,500**
Imperial Symphony Orchestra

Studies show that students who were involved in music through high school had better graduation rates, stronger GPA's and higher SAT scores. Together with Polk County Public Schools, the ISO will present four School Day Enrichment concerts designed to supplement the curriculum of elementary school music departments and provide first hand experiences with musical instruments. In Polk County Public Schools, students participate in general music education through fourth grade and are given the opportunity to choose a specific instrument to study beginning in fifth grade. So, the timing of the School Day Enrichment concerts for fourth and fifth grade students is intentional, allowing teachers to provide students with a new experience as they learn about the families of instruments.

Enrichment to Power Up
Polk Summer School **\$9,600**
Junior Achievement of Tampa Bay **FUNDED!**

Struggling third grade students will participate in the JA Our City Program during their summer school classes. 900 third grade elementary students will learn the characteristics of cities and how people and businesses in cities manage their money. They will learn important life skills by participating in fun hands-on learning activities, utilizing Junior Achievement economic education programs. At the teacher training, the summer school instructors will receive the classroom materials, games and activities that they will use to teach their students important economics, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and workforce skills.

Teen Leaders Making a Difference! **\$9,500**
Junior Achievement of Tampa Bay **FUNDED!**

JA Teen Leaders are making a difference in their community, teaching 450 Title 1 elementary students important life skills, while serving as positive role models! JA Teen Leaders present fun hands-on learning activities, utilizing Junior Achievement economic education programs. Before volunteering, 50 high school students will enhance their leadership and work readiness skills by participating in the JA Career Success program. After their training, teens teach economics, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and workforce skills in 23 kindergarten through third grade classrooms. Learning valuable leadership & important life skills together, both the teens & the children they teach, will achieve educational and economic success, inspiring both groups to dream big and achieve their goals!

Reading is Fundamental (RIF) **\$10,000**
Junior League of Greater Lakeland

The Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program combines three essential elements to foster children's literacy: reading motivation, family and community involvement, and distribution of free books directly to children. Each year through RIF, the Junior League of Greater Lakeland provides new, free books to children in kindergarten through fifth grade in low-income neighborhoods. The most successful way to improve the reading achievement of low-income children is to increase their access to print. RIF ensures that all children have access to books, particularly those children most at risk for educational failure. The Junior League of Greater Lakeland maintains this 42-year-old program as the oldest and longest running RIF program in the State of Florida.

Ready to Read **\$2,500**
Junior League of Greater Lakeland **FUNDED!**

Ready to Read is a comprehensive program servicing students and their families at Title One schools in the poverty pockets of Lakeland. This program provides family literacy nights, classroom teacher support and overall school support. Historically, this program serves one school for two full years and then rotates. Each year books and programs are chosen specifically to help students make learning gains inside and outside of the classroom. Families participate in hand-on activities and gain new understanding on how to engage their children in reading.

Microsoft Office Workshop Series

\$2,500

Keiser University

The series of workshops will provide an introduction or refresher to basic skills needed for the Microsoft Office suite or programs. This training will attempt to bridge the technology gap for anyone who is unfamiliar with MS Word, MS PowerPoint, MS Excel, and MS Publisher programs. The widespread use of the Microsoft Suite of programs within the workforce to create documents, presentations, spreadsheets, and marketing material will be covered. The series of workshops will allow participants to attend one or all of the sessions, working on the program of their choice to focus on their primary educational needs and goals.

YouthBuild - Lakeland 2017

~~-\$11,050~~

Lakeland Housing Authority

\$6,050 Left

YouthBuild-Lakeland (YBL) provides young adults, that are disengaged from their communities, with an opportunity to earn a high school credential, learn important employability skills, and gain certifications that make them competitive in the workforce. Participants earn a national certification in Carpentry awarded by Home Builders Institute, Inc. by partnering with a non-profit agency to build a home for a family in need. Grant funds will enable 20 YBL students to gain nationally-recognized certification in the Manufactured Construction Industry as a Certified Production Technician and State of Florida Licensing as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Both of these career tracks have excellent long-term employment projections and are expected to grow rapidly over the next 10 years.

Stuff the Bus

\$10,000

Lakeland Kiwanis Charitable Foundation

\$5,000 Left

Stuff the Bus is a back to school campaign coordinated by The Lakeland Kiwanis Charitable Foundation, Inc. This project is in its 15th year and has been replicated by many other community organizations throughout Polk County and beyond. Stuff the Bus provides relief for struggling families who can't afford to purchase school supplies and also improves the classroom environment by allowing the teachers to focus on teaching at the start of the school year instead of trying to find the supplies for students in need. Supplies are collected in donation boxes displayed in local businesses and cash donations are used to purchase school supplies in bulk. All of these supplies are distributed to 28 local elementary schools before the school year begins, so teachers can assist their students.

SlingShot Polk

\$15,000

Lakeland Vision

Young entrepreneurs in Polk County have a chance to win cash and mentoring from experts thanks to a competition spearheaded by local education and business leaders. New and improved, SlingShot Polk is STEM focused in 2017. Middle, high school, and college students and entrepreneurs under the age of 30 are invited to enter business plans outlining a new idea or venture that provides measurable benefit to the Polk County region and relates to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This request is to fund the project, which includes cash prizes for first, second, and third place winners in two categories and training sessions for semi-finalists to assist them in writing a business plan and fine-tuning their communication / presentation skills.

Getting Kids Outdoors

\$3,200

Lakes Education Action Drive

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 exam in Biology to graduate. If they choose to go to college, the ACT 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 how nature works.

Camp READY! Summer 2017 -

South Lakeland

~~-\$14,974~~

Learning Resource Center of Polk County

FUNDED!

Over 40% of Kindergartners enter school in Lakeland, Florida without the readiness skills to succeed the very first day. The Learning Resource Center's Camp READY! Summer 2017 will aggressively and intentionally address that educational need for 50 young students. Camp READY! provides jam-packed four weeks of interactive learning activities (reading readiness, cooking, movement, and art). On average, Camp READY! campers gain five to six months in receptive and/or expressive language development, essential for skilled reading. At the end of Camp READY! Summer 2016, a proud grandparent wrote, "Camp READY! has been a great program to introduce the children to not only letters, numbers, and colors, but to the experience of taking turns, standing in line, and learning from others."

More Montessori for More Kids 2

\$8,000

Magnolia Montessori Academy

FUNDED!

Magnolia Montessori Academy looks to add two additional classrooms to its school next year as we have a waiting pool of 300 children who would like the opportunity to come to our school. This grant would help fund the cost of supplies for two new classrooms with a minimum of materials intrinsic to a Montessori education. The new classrooms would be a primary class for Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4 & kindergarten with approximately 30 new students & a lower elementary classroom for 1st, 2nd & 3rd grade for 36 kids. Our two lower elementary classrooms would flow into one larger upper elementary classroom which completes the Elementary Montessori cycle with 4th, 5th & 6th grade.

Books for the College Students

\$2,000

Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Committee

FUNDED!

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.

Robot Round-Up

Museum of Science and Industry

MOSI continues to expand the outreach program in Polk county schools by offering the robotics introduction program, Robot Round-up. MOSI will provide basic robotic information to 18 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 STEAM science. MOSI will provide this program to 18 Title I schools-an average of 125 students per school-impacting over 2,250 children.

\$15,000

\$7,500 Left

Johnnie Martinez Scholarship Fund

New Dimension of Faith Ministry

A Lakeland hero, Pastor Johnnie Martinez, dedicated her life to helping the under privileged youth of Polk County to fulfill their educational goals. This was her dream. This fund was started in honor of Pastor Martinez to keep her dream alive. Our organization would like to award scholarships to college students who demonstrate a need for financial assistance to attend college. The scholarship fund may be used for the purchase of books and payment of courses.

\$15,000

Expanding Adult Literacy

Northeast Polk Literacy Council

"Help! I'm 37 and can't read!" The Northeast Polk Literacy Council strives to meet this need by providing one-on-one tutoring to adults. Our students are typically adults, living in low socioeconomic conditions, plateaued in their lives. This project will fund much needed materials for tutor training to address the low literacy rate; consumable student books; clerical support to provide funds accountability, data collection, & student progress assessment; and for student incentives to recognize achievements. Adult illiteracy poses risk factors related to employment, health and wellness, child-rearing, and the socioeconomic development of the adults and their families. The council is small; however, the geographical area is large, serving nine communities.

\$4,000

\$2,000 Left

Technology for Children with Special Needs \$13,000

Our Career Centered Academy

Technology is the gateway to access curriculum for children with special needs. Our Career Centered Academy dba Our Children's of Winter Haven (OCWH) is a private McKay scholarship school where 100% of the students in Pre-K through 12th grade have an IEP and are considered ESE. OCWH serves both low incidence (severe to profoundly physical and communicative handicapped children) as well as high incidence children who have not been able to learn and socialize within the mainstream Public School System. Computers, adaptive keyboards, audio books, visual and hands on learning are necessary to provide Our Children with an opportunity to both receive information and to communicate what they know.

Making Things Grow!

Pace Center for Girls

Making Things Grow! PACE Polk and Platform Art are partnering to allow girls to experience the process of growth in the Community Garden. Gardens offer dynamic, beautiful settings in which to integrate many disciplines, such as science, math and reading - deficit areas for our girls. These interdisciplinary approaches cultivate student's talents and skills while enriching their capacities of observation and thinking. Our girls can experience deeper understanding of natural systems and become better stewards of the Earth by designing, cultivating, and harvesting a garden with their own hands. Additionally, school garden projects nurture community spirit, common purpose, and cultural appreciation by building bridges among students, families, and local businesses and organizations.

\$11,400

FUNDED!

Preparing Under-Resourced Workers Through Micro-Internships

Parker Street Ministries

Lack of soft jobs skills, financial fitness instruction, career guidance, and work experience condemn our under-resourced residents to lives of poverty and its corresponding depression and isolation. These micro-internships move at-risk participants, ages 17 and up, toward self-sufficiency by utilizing a blend of individualized career mentoring, soft job skills training, and financial fitness in the context of an eight to ten week work experience at Parker Street Ministries. The hope is to provide guidance to broaden workplace and job growth opportunities in participants who are identified as at-risk.

-\$6,143

\$3,071.50 Left

Citrus Ridge Academy -

County Government Discovery Day

Polk County Board of County Commissioners /

Polk County Historical Museum and Genealogical Library

The Polk County History Center is creating a partnership that will bring the entire roster of 7th grade students at Citrus Ridge Academy in Davenport to the county seat in Bartow for an exploration of the political process in Polk County. Students in attendance will benefit from historic and educational programming at the Polk County History Center, the Courthouse for Florida's Tenth Judicial Circuit and the administrative building for the Polk County Board of County Commissioners. Each location will feature activities and interpretations for students that will enhance the curriculum topics being covered in their classrooms and provide a behind the scenes look at how the political process serves citizens across Polk County.

\$4,225

FUNDED!

Building Better Readers

Polk Education Foundation

AmeriCorps Polk Reads is a tutoring program to serve low performing K-3 students. The students selected 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 1-on-1 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 program is offered each year, and the schools served may change, so the need for the services or the funding for them never diminishes. This grant request is to help fund 5 half-time tutors to help at least 40 students succeed.

\$8,579.20

FUNDED!

Free Teacher Market

Polk Education Foundation

The Free Teacher Market serves Polk public and charter school teachers by giving them a place to “shop” free of charge, for student and classroom supplies. The Market is stocked with donations of new and gently used items from the community and is open during the school year. Cash donations are primarily needed to replenish popular items, such as basic school supplies which tend to run out quickly. Funding also allows the purchase of desirable teaching manipulatives used to enhance instruction and engage students. All materials available in the Free Teacher Market provide supplies which students need to be successful and to minimize the amount of money teachers spend out of their own pockets.

\$5,000

FUNDED!

Polk Girls in STEM:

Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges

Polk State College Foundation

The Polk Girls in Science project is a collaborative out-of-school STEM program connecting 4th – 8th grade girls from underrepresented, low income backgrounds with female students at Polk State College who will serve as STEM mentors. Participants will work with female scientists and engage in hands-on, experiential science exploring microplastics water pollution. The project will help participants understand the nature of science, see science as a potential career path, and view college as an attainable goal. To raise community awareness, participants will create a short digital video and posters in English, Spanish, and Creole to be distributed throughout Polk County. Faculty will create a facilitator guide, materials list, parent tips and informational brochures to encourage replication.

-\$8,614

FUNDED!

Tech. in the 21st Century:

Transportable Literacy Connection

READ Lakeland

Technology and other resources available using books and workbooks, is a prime area of learning for adults with low literacy and English language skills. For those who do not have access to these resources, computers, i-Pads, books and supplies, we wish to provide help in these areas as a literacy organization. READ Lakeland supports adult learners by providing the necessary resources to improve learning in reading, writing, math and English language skills in order to be a functional member of the community and society. We encourage commitment to the program for a minimum of nine months and becoming technology literate. READ Lakeland’s purpose is to help learners reach goals they set and most importantly to gain employment, maintain employment and contribute to the family structure.

\$4,500

FUNDED!

ESE / Skills Program

Santa Fe Catholic High School

Part of a parent’s responsibility is choosing the best learning environment for their son or daughter. For parents of children with special needs this becomes an even greater consideration. Santa Fe Catholic High School offers a choice for those parents who are looking for the benefits of a Catholic education along with a skills program structured to fit their child’s learning challenges. Santa Fe Catholic’s ESE/Skills program embraces students with varying degrees of Autism spectrum disorders as well as other learning differences. Our new ESE teacher brings a fresh approach and a depth of experience to the program as the commitment to tend to each student’s needs, to develop fully as a child of God, continues to be our mission.

\$15,000

Empowering Speakers of Other Languages **\$8,000**

St. Joseph’s Catholic Community

FUNDED!

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 2016-2018 program year.

Bridge the Gap to School Readiness -

My Own Library - Family Fundamentals

United Way of Central Florida

-\$7,400

FUNDED!

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.

Imagination Library - Success By 6

United Way of Central Florida

\$6,000

FUNDED!

The Imagination Library provides children who might not otherwise have any books, the opportunity to explore brand 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 their home every month. Imagine the excitement on a child’s face when they receive their very own book with their very own name and address on it! Reading with young children improves language proficiency, which is the primary predictor of academic success or 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.

Hand in Hand We Learn:

Academic Success Tutoring Program

Webber International University

-\$11,100

\$5,100 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 are the initial target population served for the Academic Success Tutoring Program which is being implemented in September 2016 due to generous funding by Impact Polk 2016. Tutoring will be conducted twice a week during the school year to assist students who are at risk of advancing in their classes due to below grade level reading abilities. 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.

HEALTH

*"We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give."*

Winston Churchill



Alzheimer's Respite Care Program

~~\$7,500~~

Alzheimer's Association Florida Gulf Coast Chapter FUNDED!

The Alzheimer's Respite Care Program (ARC) will provide Alzheimer's caregivers with temporary relief from the intensive responsibility of caring for their loved one with Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's Caregiving can be a highly demanding and stressful responsibility, and no one is equipped to do it without some help. Just like the loved ones they care for, caregivers also need support and attention to maintain their own health and well-being. Respite care, which provides caregivers with the opportunity for a temporary rest from their caregiving duties, is designed to do just that. The ARC Program will provide short-term breaks for caregivers that can relieve their stress, renew their energy and restore a sense of balance to their lives.

Polk County Marrow Drives

\$15,000

Be The Match

Blood cancers have met their match! Be The Match gives patients with blood cancers like leukemia and other diseases a second chance at life. We offer hope for a cure by making marrow transplants possible. Our mission depends on community members who are willing to donate their cells to a stranger. 70% of patients DO NOT have a matching donor in their family and turn to Be The Match to find a genetic match and for support, from diagnosis through recovery. Many patients don't have a match, so we must add potential donors to Be The Match Registry. Polk County Marrow Drives, led by Marc Silver, will hold local events to educate and register residents. \$100 covers DNA testing and registration for one donor, and 100% of the participants will be Polk County residents. Our goal is 1,500 people.

Improving Quality of Life for

COPD & Diabetic Patients

\$12,386.50

First Baptist Church of Winter Haven / The Haley Center

Both COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and diabetes are chronic progressive diseases that can have devastating outcomes. However, with proper medications / equipment, education and monitoring this class of people can live a longer and more productive life. COPD patients require at a minimum in the first month of care a PFT (pulmonary function test), a nebulizer machine, a peak and flow meter, a rescue inhaler, and a maintenance inhaler. In subsequent months they will require both a rescue inhaler and maintenance inhaler. There will be the occasional flair that will require even more treatments. 15% of The Haley Center population have COPD. Diabetic patients require frequent labs, medications / insulin and monitoring devices. 24% of the Haley's population are diabetics.

Early Detection Saves Lives

\$15,000

Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine

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 and prescription services. In addition, when needed services such as ultrasounds, colposcopies and procedures to remove per-cancerous cells are performed. Patient education and referrals for advanced and specialized treatment are also included in the program. This program ensures that low-income women, who tend to be most at risk for specific cancers, are tested and treated.

Managing Diabetes

\$10,000

Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine

LVIM provides care to working uninsured residents and helps them manage their diabetes by providing medications and glucose testing for free. Diabetic supplies and testing is costly and funding is needed to cover ongoing expenses. Approximately 31% of LVIM's active patients have diabetes, some being insulin dependent. These patients require intense management, more frequent appointments and numerous medications to keep their conditions under control. These supplies and medications help ensure patients stay compliant with care leading to less hospital stays and less strain on government dollars.

Options for Women Patient Medical Services ~~\$8,700~~

Options for Women Pregnancy Help Clinic

\$6,200 Left

Each year, Options for Women Pregnancy Help Clinic provides free health evaluations, information and resources to hundreds of low-income women who are uninsured or under-insured and facing unplanned pregnancies. Our services, which are all free of charge to our patients, include pregnancy testing, voluntary counseling, preventive health care screening, as well as improved access to health information, lifestyle practices and choices, and other services to ensure the reproductive health of women. Our nurses work diligently with each patient to ensure that every woman is informed of health risks associated with medical choices she may be considering and of any health concerns the patient should be aware of.

Seeing Our Bright Future

\$9,500

Preserve Vision Florida

Preserve Vision Florida proposes to provide vision screenings for 600 individuals, with free medical examinations and eye wear for 600 adults and children in the Polk County area. We will work in partnership with the Polk County Health Department and Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine to offer on-site screenings, educational information and linkage to eye care professionals. The individuals financially qualified will receive vouchers for vision care.

HUMAN SERVICES

"We rise by lifting others."

Robert Ingersolli



2017 OH MY Baby

71:17 Ministries

At least 2-3 moms are discharged from LPMC 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 LPMC social worker. Each bag contains diapers, wipes, blankets, towels, bath supplies, apparel, bottles, pacifiers, thermometers, etc. as well as a toddler Bible. Each bag costs about \$150 to fill and we hope to deliver at least 120 bags to LPMC this year. We would love to be able to continue to share our mission in our community in this tangible way.

\$15,000

\$7,400 Left

Home Fire Campaign: Polk County Community Supporter

American Red Cross

In Polk Co. the Red Cross is rallying community partners and residents to help prevent casualties by home fires, going door-to-door in high-risk neighborhoods, installing smoke alarms and batteries, helping families create escape plans and spreading the message "2 steps, 2 minutes" encouraging residents to practice a 2-minute drill and test smoke alarms monthly. The second part in this campaign takes place whenever a home fire occurs. Our volunteers respond any time of the day to assist residents who have lost most or all their possessions, providing financial assistance to help those residents begin to recover after the fire. When clients have clothing, food and shelter, their lives are not put on hold and they go back to work or school without disruption, beginning to rebuild their lives.

\$15,000

Kids with Special Needs:

Volunteer Training Videos

Bright Threads Ministries

The problem: In children's programs, volunteers may not know how to respond to unusual behaviors of children with special needs. This leads to misunderstanding, fear, and the exclusion of those families from community programs and churches. Our answer: Bright Threads Ministries plans to develop, film, and distribute short training videos teaching volunteers to respond to particular behaviors exhibited by children with disabilities, particularly autism spectrum disorders. This grant proposal requests funding for the filming of two of these videos.

~~\$7,200~~

FUNDED!

Mobile Food Pantries

Catholic Charities of Central Florida - Western Region

The Mobile Food Pantries of Agape Food Bank work to eliminate hunger by delivering truckloads of nutritious food to areas of need across Polk County. The target population is Polk County residents who are facing a "meal gap:" food needs which are beyond their financial resources and not met via SNAP (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program), the school breakfast and lunch programs, local food pantries, or other resources. Last year we distributed over 300,000 pounds of food through 26 mobile food pantries across the area, feeding about 16,000 people.

\$11,400

Kid Blitz

Central Florida Speech & Hearing Center

Hearing problems, which include otitis media, are extremely prevalent and affects nearly half of all young children. For children under four, studies show that it is the leading cause of physician visits. Lack of identification and further treatment can be catastrophic and even life threatening. Our solution, "Kid Blitz", using the ERO Scan Pro device will provide us with more accurate testing, and decrease our test time of young children by more than 50%, which allows us to provide more services. Delayed hearing evaluations result in delayed treatment, which decreases access to speech information, putting children on a trajectory towards academic failure. The equipment requested will address the growing need for fast, accurate hearing evaluations for young children in our area.

\$9,202

Polk County Child Protection Initiative

Child Rescue Coalition

Child Rescue Coalition will train and certify Polk County law enforcement investigators to use Child Rescue Coalition's innovative Child Protection System (CPS) technology platform to identify and apprehend child predators. This system is designed to allow law enforcement to identify, track, and apprehend those engaging in online child sexual exploitation in Polk County. This law enforcement initiative includes costs for three days of training for up to ten investigators. Project costs also include support for Polk County law enforcement investigators, forensic analysts, and prosecutors on an ongoing basis.

~~\$10,000~~

\$5,000 Left

Foster Care Visitation Needs

Children's Home Society of Florida

Just the act of entering the foster care system, being taken away from your family, is traumatic. Imagine having to go live with strangers, not knowing when you will get to see your parents again. The Visitation Rooms at Children's Home Society of Florida allow that opportunity for children to visit with their parents during this very scary time. The Visitation Program provides supervised visitation to families with a history of high-conflict. Our goal is to assist in carrying out continued contact between parents and children in a safe environment. Funds will be used to purchase healthy, nutritious food items for those parents who cannot afford to bring their own to the visits.

\$5,000

\$500 Left

Giving Tree

Cypress Greens Christmas for Kids

"Christmas for Kids" Giving Tree Program is a broad based Collaborative community initiative in Lake Alfred that assists low-income families with children by providing food, clothing and toys during the Christmas season. The project fills the void for food for the weeks school is not in session over the holidays. The target population is children and youth between 0-19 who are experiencing a need identified by counselors, teachers, principals and police. Annually the project sponsors approximately 100 children and 30 families. The program will benefit the children and youth by providing an opportunity to have a traditional holiday, own clothes, shoes and items that are personally theirs and experience the feeling of fitting in when school starts up again.

\$7,450

Pursuit of Your Destiknee

\$9,875

Destiknee Place

Destiknee Place mentor women who are incarcerated and assists them to re-enter society successfully. Female ex-offenders are a dramatically under-served segment of our population. We see women with little hope, begin to see themselves in a different light which leads to choosing a better lifestyle! We build trusting relationships with the ladies. Services include mentoring to build confidence and self-worth; tutoring; parenting classes; Get Your GED Now Prep classes and Education Scholarships for books. Also, we offer "Tackling the Tough Skills," a nationally accredited curriculum which includes skills for life and work. We supply the ladies with toiletries, clothing, shoes & transportation needs for class & church (upon request). Identification cards are purchased for those seeking jobs.

Mobile Produce CO-OP for Seniors

\$3,500

ElderPoint Ministries

FUNDED!

Our Portable Pantry Program is a mobile produce CO-OP market for food insecure seniors in our community that delivers high quality produce directly to these senior communities empowering them with affordable healthy food options. The CO-OP started in one location in February 2016 and has now grown to 6 locations/week with new locations being identified in Winter Haven and Lakeland. Produce is purchased from wholesale markets, then divided into \$1 portions to sell at the CO-OP. Surveys of our customers show that low cost, high quality produce is preferred over our past model of free canned goods and produce. Seniors appreciate the quality, input on selection, convenience of shopping at their home and dignity of the program. SNAP (food stamps) benefits can be used to purchase produce.

In The Loop: A Summer Program for Kids at FBCH

\$15,000

Florida Baptist Children's Homes

\$5,000 Left

In the Loop is a summer program for residents in care at Florida Baptist Children's Homes (FBCH). The Lakeland campus of FBCH is home to approximately 50 boys and girls ranging in age from 5 to 18. This program, held in the summer months, offers unique opportunities for residents to grow educationally and physically while also bonding as a family unit. FBCH is a faith-based organization providing services to children and families in need since 1904.

Young Adult Life Camp

\$12,500

Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services

Teen foster children need special attention, time and opportunities to develop quality life skills beyond what a foster parent, teacher or "the system" can provide. This grant will help provide summertime week long camp experiences along with quarterly half day mini camps for 25 male and 25 female teens who are unable to live with their families due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. The goal of the program is to stay engaged in the community and in education while discovering career paths for a bright future.

Hearing Aid Recycling Project

\$10,000

Hearing Loss Association of America - Lakeland Chapter

We are a chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), located in Lakeland, Florida, with just over 70 members. Our purpose is to support the hearing impaired through education, advocacy and support. Our educational efforts are generated through chapter meetings, website content, brochures, event booths and presentations to any interested group, all in an effort to achieve community betterment. Our goal is to extend our existing hearing Aid Recycling and Distribution Program that will be able to provide efficient hearing aids to qualified community residents who cannot afford to purchase new hearing devices. Sponsorship of this program will facilitate: ear molds, batteries, professional services by audiologist or aid specialist, and marketing / advertising of program / materials.

"Earn While You Learn" Education Program

\$3,000

LifeChoice Community Pregnancy Center

FUNDED!

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 that buy diapers, strollers, cribs, and car seats in the Baby Boutique. Clients choose classes from over 130 subjects (i.e. prenatal to postpartum care, family finances and budgeting, infant safe-sleep, car seat safety, shaken baby syndrome, and infant first aid).

Homeless to Wholeness

\$12,600

New Life Center for Family Preservation

FUNDED!

The New Life Center for Family Preservation is requesting funds to assist in the continuation of the community programs they are currently providing to homeless and low-income single pregnant women & teens in Polk County. The New Life Center provides free services including long term supportive housing in our residential facility, case management services, referrals to other community organizations, access to maternity & baby items, life skills & parenting skills training, education & job placement assistance, transportation, Doula Services (birth coaching) and more. The New Life Center is specifically requesting funds to pay the monthly rent for our residential facility for one year. A total amount of \$12,600.

Community Urban and Family

Garden Programs

\$5,000

ONE3

There is a clear need for access to healthy food alternatives especially in low income neighborhoods. This request is for implementation & expansion of garden programs for our community. The Community Urban & Family Gardens Program will address the lack of healthy food outlets; health education; safe alternative for youth; & community engagement. Barriers to healthy eating include transportation, finances, family struggles, domestic issues & more. The gardens will provide affordable organic produce within walking distance from neighborhoods, educational opportunities through gardening classes, healthy cooking classes, & nutrition camps & a safe place for youth. Providing fresh, healthy food & nutrition education alternatives will help improve the overall health & wellness of the community.

Preventing Mental Health Crises for Adults and Children

P.E.A.C.E. Organization

~~\$7,000~~

\$3,500 Left

PEACE is an organization that brings stakeholders together and raises community support to address the root cause of problems in Polk County. By annually focusing on a specific problem to tackle, the community and public leaders can work together to make our county a safer, healthier, and more educated place to live and do business. This year's focus came about after PEACE members sharing that loved ones with a severe mental illness have limited access to prompt, affordable, and consistent mental health care. As a result, over 300 people on an annual basis are sent to the emergency room 3 or more times for a mental health crisis (50 of those are children). PEACE seeks to work with mental health providers and other stakeholders in the community to prevent this vicious, and expensive cycle.

Paint Your Heart Out Lakeland 2017

Paint Your Heart Out Lakeland

\$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 within the community. With help from Lakeland 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. This year, we plan to involve approximately 500 volunteers to paint a total of 20 homes. In previous years, the money from GiveWell Community Foundation helped to alleviate cost of paint and paint supplies, and the request this year is for the same need.

Parenting with PRIDE

Peace River Center

\$10,500

FUNDED!

Parenting with PRIDE is an exciting program within Peace River Center using the evidence based practice known as Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) in a "play laboratory" where parents and children learn positive interaction from playing together under the direction and coaching of a therapist. PCIT is used to treat children, parents, and the dynamic between them and is very effective for treating children and adolescents affected by abuse and harsh parenting, at-risk children, disruptive behavior disorders, ADHD and other troubling behavior disorders and corrects parents with abusive tendencies. We have seen amazing success in surprisingly short periods of time. The project seeks funding for therapist training, equipment and supplies to create a "play laboratory."

Organization Needs Help Getting Organized

Polk Senior Games

\$500

FUNDED!

We are requesting \$500 for a project to improve the storage and organization in our small 9' x 9' storage room which houses a lot of the sports equipment, paperwork and committee materials used to present the Games. The items are now stored in assorted donated cabinets and an old computer desk. We would purchase four Hirsh Boltless Open Shelves at \$99.99 each and use the remaining \$100.04 to purchase assorted plastic storage containers. The shelves will not only provide convenient open shelving but also increase the floor space in the small room. The shelving will help in the planning, preparations and productivity of the personnel, mostly volunteers, who present the annual event for 2,500 senior adults.

The Gator / Ranger / Determined Mule Crew \$9,000

Polk Training Center

Polk Training Center provides developmentally disabled adult students a safe place to attend for inclusion, learning, fun, and the opportunity to earn wages. Some students live with caregivers other than parents. Independence is even more vital. Students work in the nursery or landscaping as part of their daily training and work routine. We are in need of an RTV or similar type of machinery to haul our big plant trailers, our large pump sprayer, and transport students and staff. This will help make the moving of trailers full of plants more time saving and less strenuous to students and staff. Working in the field to produce plants to sell to the community allows our students to earn income thereby becoming independent as well as giving back to our customers and the community they live in.

Using Assistive Technology to Improve Quality of Life

\$14,013

Sunrise Community of Polk County

Sunrise Community, Inc. believes one of the core tenets of our mission is to improve the quality of life and increase the level of independent functioning for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Many of the individuals we serve receive total care for their daily needs such as toileting, bathing, and eating. Assistive Technology is a positive approach that provides the individuals the ability to have greater control over their lives and actively participate in activities in their home and communities. We plan to increase our use of assistive technology in our Adult Day Program, through the purchase of a variety of devices that include items such as reading pens, switches and environmental controls, tablets, expanded keyboards, and touch screen computers.

Education Materials to Help Homeless Recover

\$6,854

Talbot House Ministries of Lakeland

FUNDED!

The Renewal Program offers Polk County's homeless population a chance to make life long changes to improve their wellbeing by providing classes taught by qualified staff that help to encourage goals, motivate change, understand addiction/mental illness, as well as provide tools such as budgeting, money management, education opportunities, job skills development, and therapy services to help lead program participants back on the path to being independent members of society. We are asking for funding to replace computer equipment, tables and other items used in our programming, as well as to purchase educational items that will enhance our offerings.

Client, Family, and Community Events

\$1,988.98

Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind

FUNDED!

The Lighthouse serves individuals aged infant through senior and provides events regularly at the facility for the client and the family. The facility has a large activities room that houses the teens (ages 13-22) enrolled in the transition program and school age children (5-13 years old) in addition to the adults attending rehabilitation programs. The room is also available to the community for various meetings including United Way for volunteer training, etc. Historically, the Lighthouse has to rent chairs in order to seat everyone for the larger events and would like to request funding to purchase 120 vinyl seated chairs and 4 6-foot tables to reduce costs associated with the events.

Journey of the Spirit Horse - Equine Facilitated Learning

\$3,000
TiAnViCa Riding Academy
FUNDED!

TiAnViCa provides educational, recreational and therapeutic riding activities to individuals with physical, mental and emotional disabilities. This program will target students ages 12-18 and follow the Developmental Assets® Program, 40 research-based, positive experiences and qualities that influence young people's development, helping them become caring, responsible, and productive adults. Research shows that youth with the most assets are least likely to engage in patterns of high-risk behavior, including alcohol use, violence, illicit drug use, and sexual activity. When they have higher levels of assets, they are more likely to do well in school and be civilly engaged. Our horses will be used to reinforce the skills the students learn along with journalism and discussion.

Hot Meals for Seniors

\$15,000
Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE)

VISTE volunteers deliver freshly prepared Hot Meals to an average of 255 frail, elderly residents every Tuesday and Thursday. Recipients are men and women that can no longer cook for themselves, lack the physical stamina to stand at the stove, or have cognitive issues that put them at risk when they cook. Hot Meals are freshly prepared at Florida Southern College by Guest Services and delivered to First Presbyterian Church for packaging and distribution. Menus offer seasonal produce and choice cuts of meat, are heart-healthy and diabetic friendly, providing a healthy alternative to salt- and preservative-laden canned and processed foods. This funding is sufficient to purchase 3,371 hot meals at a cost of \$4.45 each. No overhead or administrative costs are included in this request.

Personal Hygiene Assistance

\$9,000
Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE)

The Personal Hygiene Assistance Project will allow VISTE to assist 50 frail, elderly men and women throughout the year with a steady supply of absorbent undergarments and a clean underpad for their bed each night. Over half of the 3,852 clients Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE) served in 2015 were 80 years of age or older. Increasing numbers of clients request incontinence products (underpads for the bed and adult undergarments). Over 3/4 of VISTE clients live below the median income level for the local area. Whether caused by age, infirmity or disease, the growing need for these products strains their already stretched, fixed incomes. This project will help clients maintain their personal hygiene and their dignity while coping with a serious and often embarrassing problem.

On the Road to Recovery

\$9,070
The Wilson House

On the Road to Recovery encompasses the body, mind and spirit. We are requesting funding to provide direct transportation services to our program participants. We supplement our substance abuse counseling services by encouraging our clients to also address their physical and mental health needs. Working with our community partners we are able to direct our clients to an array of available services, most at no cost or with very minimal co-payments. These services include primary healthcare, mental healthcare, dental and vision care. We would also provide transportation for job interviews, 12-step meetings and conferences, volunteer service work in the community as well as other social events.

Independence PLUS

\$9,500
Women's Resource Center of Florida

The Women's Resource Center requests funds to better serve the women in Polk County by updating the highly successful Independence Program. The Independence PLUS Program will provide comprehensive services to women who have a lack of resources for everyday living. Services include weekly workshops, counseling sessions, a personal job coach, electric/rent assistance, employability skills training and more. Clients enrolled in this program must commit to a 12 week commitment of attending weekly workshops. Clients establish short and long-term goals which they work toward achieving. The outcome is to have the women on the road to self-sufficiency by the time each client graduates. WRC is proud of a well established and respected 35-year history helping women and families in Polk County.

WRC Job Training Program

\$8,990
Women's Resource Center of Florida

WRC is in the unique position to provide on-the-job training for individuals about to graduate from one of our programs at the Cheep Boutique Thrift Shop. The Job Training Program offers part-time jobs, starting at minimum wage to WRC clients that qualify. Training consists of retail sales and service, as well as, inventory control, receiving and sorting donations with an emphasis on providing exceptional customer service. Basic training in Microsoft Excel and data entry completes the job-training program. Clients gain experience that increases the success in seeking permanent employment.

Adaptive Programming: Golf and Unique Actions

\$8,000
YMCA of West Central Florida
FUNDED!

The Adaptive Program: Golf and Unique Actions is an inclusive program for youth and adults with special needs. This program allows children and adults to participate in activities at the YMCA with their peers, while working on their social / play interaction. The program will serve approximately 400 individuals and families. Whether on the golf course, in the pool or gymnastics center each participant is unique in their ability, but one thing they have in common is their passion for doing their best. Low student / teacher ratios are used in order to maximize the learning process. Activities include: Family Nights at the Y, specialty swim and gymnastics programming, family support and day programming in the summer, specifically designed golf instruction and participation in the Special Olympics.

Every Kid, Everywhere, For Eternity

\$10,000
Young Life of Polk County
\$4,000 Left

In the difficult adolescent years, Young Life comes alongside teens offering hope, encouragement, and for many, light in a dark place. YL introduces kids to a faith-based community of adults who will mentor them and be a steady force in their lives. Our leaders build bridges of trust and friendship in order to earn the right to be heard. YL is for EVERY kid regardless of their background. YL allows kids to learn about faith in a non-threatening environment, shared in terms that they can understand. We are requesting funds for our camping program in order to provide scholarships to teenagers in financial need. In turn, kids will do service projects in the area. Kids often refer to YL camp as "the best week of my life" and we never want to turn anyone away based on lack of financial resources.

Family Help Assistance Program

\$10,000

Youth and Family Alternatives

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 & Family Alternatives (YFA) is requesting funding to assist and support families 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; link youth and families to community resources; provide daily life skills & education groups, as well as work with the Polk County School System to ensure that the youth's academic needs are met.

Summer Camps with "At Risk Youth"

~~\$10,000~~

FUNDED!

Youth for Christ of Polk County

Summer Camping with our Polk County "At Risk Youth" will be accomplished through five camps with kids who have had a brush with the law or living in neighborhoods that dictate delinquency. Offering a chance to spend time during the summer camps with adult leaders. Counselors will work on issues such as anger problems, abuse issues, abandonment, drugs, family and related problems that our hurting youth are experiencing. We will offer them safe, fun atmosphere where they will feel comfortable in sharing with adult counselors. Multiple activities are planned for each camp to engage youth to learn from others that have dealt with like issues. We are requesting funds to provide scholarships for youth that would not otherwise have the means to attend a summer camp experience.

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*GiveWell Community Foundation
Agency Fundholders

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Unless someone
like you cares a
whole awful lot,
it's not going
to get better.
It's not.”

- dr. seuss

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