

Funded 2018 Impact Polk Application Request Summaries

Organization Name	Project Name	Amount Received	Brief Project Description
1st Veterans' Kids Care, Inc.	Y.E.S. Vision and Literacy Initiative	\$ 5,000.00	Y.E.S. Vision & Literacy is a mobile eye screening network to provide services to children & adults in underserved communities who would not otherwise have access to exams or afford glasses. Vision screenings identify children with eye impairments and if findings are positive they are referred to a community network Optometrist for the comprehensive exam and furnished lenses/frames free of charge. Our initiative raises awareness of the importance of eye care, training, tracking & techniques to show that sight is directly related to literacy skills. Students who may need special education services because of visual impairments are identified. Providing new prescribed eyewear opens the doors to literacy and educational opportunities that have been compromised by poor eyesight.
71:17 Ministries, Inc.	2018 OH MY Baby - Directed by Gwen Diaz	\$ 7,500.00	At least 2-3 moms are discharged from 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 LRHC 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 100 bags to LRH Center this year. We would love to be able to continue to share our mission in our community in this tangible way.
A Woman's Choice	Teen Impact Summer Abstinence Education Pro	\$ 5,000.00	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 approx. 250 teens during the summer.
Abounding In Faith Inc.	CAMP CAREER FOR GIRLS-STEM	\$ 15,000.00	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 that are interested in sciences in college and career in this field is by far less than those of males who are admitted to college. However there is a new focus that is aimed on allowing girls to explore their options in these areas. This is creating a need for girls to be provided with extra-curricular activities that will increase awareness in these careers and provide additional resources for those who may currently have an interest. This program is geared for girls ages 8-15. Transportation will be provided eliminating the burden on the parents to assist with this camp during the summer only.
American Red Cross	American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign	\$ 5,000.00	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.
Anchor House Ministries	Transition to Success	\$ 10,000.00	Transition to success is a program that assists youth who have aged out of foster care with become independent and obtaining sustainable employment. For every young person who ages out of foster care, taxpayers and communities pay \$300,000 in social costs, such as public assistance, incarceration, and lost wages over that person's lifetime. While living in a group home with a job/life coach, these boys will spend on average 6-12 months learning how to apply for and maintain a job, work, manage work relationships, and manage finances and home responsibilities as well. They will be given the tools to be productive men in our community. Our request is to provide the salary for the job coach to sustain our past success.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay	Mentoring Children of Incarcerated Parents	\$ 15,000.00	Our Mentoring Children of Incarcerated Parents Program (MCIP) serves children who have one or both parents or an older sibling incarcerated in a local, state, or federal prison, typically for one year or more. We provide high-quality, life-enhancing mentoring relationships to at-risk children, ages 5 to 17, by recruiting, screening and training volunteers to serve as mentors for a minimum of 15 months under the guidance of our professional staff. According to the US Department of Justice, there is a 60% likelihood that a child of a long-term incarcerated parent, will be incarcerated as well someday. This can be prevented, however, through an effective, evidence-based mentoring program such as ours.

Funded 2018 Impact Polk Application Request Summaries

Bok Tower Gardens, Inc.	Discovery Days 2018 - Enhanced Enrichment	\$ 5,000.00	Discovery Days is a day camp program incorporating the arts, science, team building, gardening and healthy living activities as a forum to keep children ages 6-12 engaged and learning through the summer months. Bok Tower Gardens is requesting support for scholarships for children from families with limited incomes. We would also like to add a second week of the extremely popular Grow it, Cook it! Eat it! camp, including targeted support for the resources needed for both weeks of this session. Lastly, our organization has created a Teen Ambassador program and requests support for 4 paid summer internships for high school students from the program to help with Discovery Days. Discovery Days consists of five 1-week sessions serving approximately 40 children per week in the summer.
Boy Scouts of America Greater Tampa Bay Area	Good Citizen Retreat and Awards Academy	\$ 10,000.00	The Scouting program has taught youth how to be better citizens for over the past 100 years. The Greater Tampa Bay Area Council (GTBAC) would like to take our youth members from Polk County, especially those that are in at-risk neighborhoods and provide them with an opportunity to get to know our police force, sheriffs department, elected leaders in Polk County by attending weekend retreat where they would be able to interact with these officials and get a better understanding of their role in the community. The event would involve earning their citizenship badges, Crime prevention badge, fingerprinting and Fire safety badges, but also fun activities that the Scouting program would partner with the police and fire fighters to put on for the youth and their parents.
Camp Fire USA Sunshine Council	"In Defense of Food"	\$ 10,000.00	Trained Camp Fire staff will teach 800 middle school students, more than 56% of which are from financially at-risk families, to use new tools to think critically about the food they eat. While new research is constantly underway regarding nutrition and long term side effects, the messages that reach young people about healthy eating have become increasingly complex and contradictory. Through a partnership with four different middle schools and using "In Defense of Food" curriculum, teens will participate in a series of ten, hour-long sessions during the school day. Together, they'll learn why it is important to eat healthy, investigate how companies influence their food choices, and create action plans for changing their personal eating habits.
Camp Gilead CBM Ministries of Florida Inc.	Summer Camp Scholarship Fund	\$ 15,000.00	Camp Gilead is owned and operated by CBM Ministries of FL, Inc. and is a non-profit, faith-based, non-denominational children's Bible camp. Our programs are specifically designed to help children and teens develop spiritually, physically, mentally and socially. It is our desire to help parents raise healthy, responsible, purpose-driven children. We create a fun and peaceful atmosphere free of outside pressures and distractions where young people can be encouraged and challenged resulting in changed lives. Unfortunately many families cannot afford this experience for their children, therefore we are requesting funds to help provide financial assistance for children in Polk County who otherwise would not be able to attend a week of camp.
Center for Independent Living in Central Florida	High School High Tech for Students with Disabi	\$ 3,000.00	This project will strengthen CIL-CF's Florida High School High Tech (HSHT) program's ability to assure students with all types of disabilities have an internship giving them 'real world' work experience critical to their chances of future career success. The HSHT model incorporates four evidence-based design features; preparatory experiences, connecting activities, work-based experiences, and youth development/leadership activities. Students gain insight and develop skills to make informed choices for life after high school through a broad range of academic, career development and experiential activities. Specifically, foundation funding will improve access to year-round 30-hour internship opportunities by funding transportation to/from internship sites crucial for students in rural areas.
Children's Home Society of Florida	Parent Support Group	\$ 15,000.00	The Children's Home Society of Florida- Greater Lakeland Division (CHS) is requesting funding for a Parent Support Group that prepares parents to be reunified with their children that have been in foster care. Education in a supportive environment prepares parents to provide a safe and secure home for their children. Parents attend the groups voluntarily, and on a monthly basis. Babysitting for children in their care is provided as well as a nutritious meal for parents and children. The purpose of the program is to support parents so that their children that have been in the child welfare system are not re-victimimized, and do not return to the system.
Citrus Center Boys & Girls Clubs Inc.	Academic Success & Workforce Development	\$ 3,000.00	Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Academic Success strategy ensures all members progress to the next grade level and graduate from high school on time with a college or career plan. CCBGC will implement 3 programs for teens as part of our Academic Success & Workforce Development initiatives: CAREERLAUNCH is a job-readiness and career-preparation program offering a variety of activities to hone teens' decision-making, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. JUNIOR STAFF is a program which guides young people in preparing for a career by developing interpersonal skills, strong work ethic and sense of community engagement. MONEY MATTERS provides behavior-changing financial education to help teens get on a path toward budgeting, saving, planning for college & financial freedom.

Funded 2018 Impact Polk Application Request Summaries

Cypress Junction Montessori, Inc.	Early Education Scholarship Fund	\$ 5,000.00	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 three and four) in our preschool program for the 2018-19 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 expand critical early education in 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.
ElderPoint Ministries, Inc.	Reducing Food Insecurity For Seniors	\$ 3,000.00	The Lakeland Winter Haven area is the second most food insecure in the nation. Food insecurity is defined as lacking the access to affordable, healthy food. For a senior, the lack of access can be defined by transportation challenges, physical ability, or economic resources. Affordability is not only the cost, but also the ability to use SNAP (food stamps) to stretch their budget. Focusing on reducing insecurity, ElderPoint created mobile markets bringing quality produce directly into senior communities for a low cost. The modest charge brings dignity to the seniors as they provide for themselves and determine the items offered in the market. The quality and reliability of the market is also key to creating a stable option which translates into food security.
Explorations V Children's Museum, Inc.	ACE Achievers Camp at Explorations 2018	\$ 20,000.00	ACE Achievers Camp at Explorations encompasses Storybook Camp (ages 4-6), STEAM Camp (ages 6-12) and Financial Fitness for Families (all ages) each demonstrating measurable results. The component for which this funding is requested will provide up to 15 elementary students from low income homes in the Polk County area with 8 weeks of free or subsidized hands-on adventures in learning at STEAM Summer Camp AND tutoring. Students will engage in weekly themed art & science activities, Museum exploration and daily remediation/tutoring in small groups using fun, interactive, exciting games and activities. Highly qualified staff, using current technology and supplemental resource materials aligned with Florida Standards, will support the educational process.
Faith in Action North Lakeland Inc.	Great Opportunity to Serve	\$ 15,000.00	Faith In Action (FIA) serves the elderly, frail and the home bound, living below the poverty level, with services they can no longer perform or afford to have done. FIA provides food, house cleaning, small meal prep, respite, telephone assurance, personal care and transportation to appointments, shopping, and neighborhood functions. We deliver hot meals and staples to those that are not able to pick them up. We host a monthly meeting "Lunch & Learn" to inform our clients about proper use and dosage of their medications, general health information, diabetes, Alzheimer's, Dementia as well as financial dealings. Faith in Action is requesting funding to continue to serve the elderly and homebound in this area, with added services as needed.
Faith Without Works Inc.	Camp Compassion 2018	\$ 15,000.00	The "Camp Compassion" project is a summer day camp that is specifically designed to address the Youth Risk Factors and Character education needs. This camp includes age appropriate activities, in a variety of vital character areas that address the physical, intellectual, social, and emotional needs of youth. Camp Compassion will build character, confidence, and behavioral skills using kindness and volunteer services towards the elderly, veterans, and homeless community. Camp Compassion incorporates high energy activities, structured learning, and abundant team opportunities.
Family Literacy Academy at Lake Wales	Arts & At-Risk Children	\$ 3,000.00	Arts have been shown to increase test scores across every subject area, lower drop out rates and close the achievement gap regardless of socio-economic status. Family Literacy Academy's (FLA) project will provide arts related sessions weekly to the children of our enrolled ESOL and GED parents. The sessions will include such activities as music, dance, theater and visual arts. Through the arts children learn life skills such as working with people, resolving conflict, expressing themselves appropriately. Parents will participate in the some of the sessions in order to spend quality time with their children. The project will demonstrate to our program adults the importance of expanding their family's arts and cultural experiences.
Florence Villa Community Development Corpora	FVDC Youth Leadership Development Progra	\$ 5,000.00	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.

Funded 2018 Impact Polk Application Request Summaries

Florida Baptist Children's Homes	In The Loop 2018	\$ 10,000.00	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 60 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.
Florida Dance Theatre	A Chance to Dance 2018	\$ 8,000.00	FDT offers an exciting Free program to engage children to create, think, and express themselves through dance and related arts. Two, 1 week summer camps for 120 children ages 6 - 10 on the school lunch program are held during the summer. 30 students that demonstrate exceptional enthusiasm and hard work receive a special 9 month scholarship award to attend FDT's training academy for 1 class per week and all dance wear, shoes, costumes, and an opportunity to perform in our annual Nutcracker. The program builds self-confidence, physical fitness, concentration skills, physical/mental discipline, and an understanding of the necessity of hard work to achieve goals. Children's families gain an understanding of the benefits of the arts and experience what the Lakeland Arts Community has to offer.
Florida Dance Theatre	After School Chance to Dance	\$ 2,000.00	After School Chance to Dance is a dance program that addresses the need for youth at risk and economically disadvantaged youth to have an innovative educational program that combines work and play after school hours. FDT understands that many parents would send their children to some type of dance lessons if financial issues and work schedules were not obstacles. We are excited to offer an after school program that is free to students and the school, on-site at R. W. Blake Academy. This program will offer children the opportunity to participate in a variety of dance styles after school hours.
Florida Southern College	Preparing Polk County Children with Dyslexia fo	\$ 10,000.00	At the Roberts Academy, Florida's only transitional school for children with dyslexia, our goal is to use the most effective teaching strategies and assistive technology we can to help our students overcome their learning differences. Last year, teachers integrated iPads in 5th and 6th grade classroom instruction. As a result, literacy rates increased, students are more engaged during lessons, and they are more invested in their learning. Confident that iPads will yield similarly positive outcomes for younger students, we respectfully request funding to purchase the devices for use by 3rd and 4th grade students. This technology will enhance daily classroom instruction and learning in all areas of the curriculum, ensuring that students receive the best educational experience available.
Girl Scouts of West Central Florida	Rising Diamonds Program Support	\$ 10,000.00	Girl Scouts of West Central Florida (GSWCF) requests \$15,000 to support our Rising Diamonds program in Polk County. Nearly one-third of the girls we serve receive Girl Scout programming through Rising Diamonds, in which GSWCF staff members go to schools and community centers to serve as troop leaders for girls in underserved areas who would not otherwise have the opportunity to be Girl Scouts. Girl Scouts' mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Support for Rising Diamonds ensures that all girls, regardless of race, ethnicity, or ZIP code, develop five crucial outcomes to becoming the leaders of tomorrow: strong sense of self; positive values; challenge seeking; healthy relationships; and community problem solving.
Girls Inc. of Lakeland	The Academic Turnaround For Success Progra	\$ 10,000.00	This project will provide an extensive tutorial and homework assistance program 4 days out of the week for 20 girls in grades K-12 that are attending 6 of the low performing public schools that are serviced by Girls Inc.'s afterschool program. Our focus will be serving girls that are below level in reading and or math and whose parents cannot afford to pay for them to attend our afterschool and summer program. Our goal will be that every girl participating in the Academic Turnaround for Success program will improve a grade level or more in reading and/or math. The tutorial program will continue throughout the summer, and the girls will not only benefit from the academic component of our program, but they will also have an opportunity to participate in Girls Inc.'s extensive summer camp.
Good Shepherd Hospice	Camp Brave Heart	\$ 20,000.00	The death of a love one is difficult for anyone, but especially for children. Children process guilt, sadness, and loneliness differently than adults, but no less painfully. Studies have shown that a bereavement camp experience is one of the most effective tools in reaching grieving children. Through play, group interaction, reflective discussions, and the support of professional counselors, children feel less alone in losing loved ones and learn effective coping strategies. Camp Brave Heart exists to help these children. It is held each spring at Circle F. Dude Ranch in Lake Wales. Some of the attendees are survivors of hospice patients, but most have suffered unexpected or traumatic losses. As a not-for-profit organization, our doors are open to all of them, at no charge.

Funded 2018 Impact Polk Application Request Summaries

Gospel inc.	RePurpose Art Studio - Job Training - Sewing Ir	\$ 10,000.00	The job training internship is a four month opportunity that will be made available to six at-risk women living in the community who are pursuing economic stability and a healthy support system. Women who are selected to participate are paid fifteen hours per week to learn sewing skills, sales, inventory and management. The products they create are sold in stores, farmers markets and online. The women are also connected with local businesses wanting to provide employment opportunities to at risk women from our community. The funding being requested includes the finances to directly pay the participants and facilitators involved in the internship.
Harvest Assembly of God	Rock the Block	\$ 5,000.00	Rock the Block is an outreach program of Harvest Assembly of God where we reach out to lower income families of our community to help those in need. Rock the Block is a faith based program to provide our community with groceries, fully loaded backpacks, free hair cuts, free family portraits. We provide back to school immunizations through the Florida Department of Health, HIV Testing through the Polk County Health Department as well as providing access local resources such as safelink, polk county sheriff's department, alternative school programs, healthcare providers, and centers for homeless pregnant women. Rock the Block is all about Touching Lakeland, Touching the World.
Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands & F	Beds 4 Babies Project	\$ 20,000.00	Accidental infant death from co-sleeping or sleeping in an unsafe situation is preventable. Through the Beds 4 Babies Project, Healthy Start will help reduce infant mortality by assisting 200 eligible Polk County families by providing safe sleep education, a portable crib, two portable crib sheets, a HALO sleep sack, and an educational children's board book titled "Sleep Baby - Safe and Snug", by Dr. John Hutton. The children's board books will also be included in postnatal bags that are delivered to hospitals in Polk County. Through these efforts, we will be assured that moms are aware of the importance of placing their baby in a safe sleep environment.
Heart for Winter Haven, Inc.	Scholarship Housing Community Network (SHC	\$ 5,000.00	The SHCN project is a 3-phase initiative to provide housing and life services to homeless young adults who are attending post-secondary school in the Winter Haven, Polk County area. Phase I: Renovation of Scholarship Home Phase II: Outfitting of Common Areas and Participants Rooms & Recruitment of Staff & Volunteers Phase III Launching of Scholar House with Life Services Community Plans Model. This proposal specifically addresses the support for Phase 2. With the partnership with community building contractors and non profits, who will provide most of the labor, we will renovate a home donated for use by a local church to house up 8 young people per semester In order to assist them in focusing on success in school and not their lack of sustained housing.
Heartland for Children, Inc.	Community School Model Needs Assessment	\$ 5,000.00	This project will be to implement the Community Needs Assessment that is part of the implementation plan for the new Community School Model for the selected Community School, which is Crystal Lake Elementary in Lakeland, Florida. Crystal Lake Elementary will be the first Community School in Polk County, Florida. The student population is 484 students. A key component of the Community Partnership School model is the utilization of needs assessments to drive the priorities and direction of all Community Partnership School programming and service delivery. Our initial needs assessment will be conducted within the first six months of hiring the Community School Director. Data will be reviewed and surveys along with focus groups will be conducted through out the immediate community.
HELP of Fort Meade	Helping Build Our Community	\$ 20,000.00	Ft. Meade is a high poverty community and many residents live from paycheck to paycheck. If unforeseen financial misfortune occurs they often pay for repairs using their electric and/or rent/mortgage money causing a snowball effect resulting in the family in danger of becoming homeless. This project will provide short term assistance for rent/mortgage, utility, food, & personal items for low income families experiencing a temporary financial crisis and HELP purchase meats, bread, milk, & other food items not normally donated to our pantry because of limited shelf life. These items will be given to our local residents in need of food and if needed will be used to supplement our monthly USDA food distribution for the elderly, disabled and very low income and holiday feeding residents.
Jaylens Challenge Foundation, Inc.	Polk's Bully Free Schools - Ambassadors Club	\$ 20,000.00	In addition to the Jaylens Challenge No Bullies in School Assemblies for Students and the Invervention Workshop for parents and educators, Jaylens Challenge has now introduced the Bully Free Ambassadors Clubs to Polk Schools in 2017 with great success! While Jaylen continues to personally give presentations to schools, the demand is higher than supply with so many schools still waiting. The largest complaint is the amount of time schools must wait to get on Jaylens personal schedule. The Ambassadors Club alleviates this wait and we are able to serve 5,000 additiional children. The Ambassadors Club is a step-by-step detailed initaitve program that teaches students so they can bring the Jaylens Challenge experience to their own school, and self-empowering the students.

Funded 2018 Impact Polk Application Request Summaries

Junior Achievement of Tampa Bay	Achieve Success with JA JROTC Teen Teachers	\$ 9,500.00	JA Teen Teachers serve as positive role models to 444 elementary students. They will present hands-on learning activities by utilizing the Junior Achievement 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!
kidsPACK	Just "Feed Kids"	\$ 20,000.00	Just Feed Kids will provide 67 Homeless/Food Insecure Students with a backpack and a meal pack of nutritious, non-perishable food to take home each weekend to ensure they have access to food when school is not in session. The meal pack consists of 2 breakfast/2 lunch/2 dinners. Twice a month volunteers will prepare the meal packs at 17 facilities (Packing Sites) throughout Polk County. Key volunteers act as points of contact at each location and facilitate the packing of meals and delivery to 69 Polk County Public Schools each week. Volunteers at each location consist of members of the community, young and old, who come together with the common goal of fighting local child hunger.
Lake Wales Library Assoc. - Friends of the Lake	1,000 Books Before Kindergarten	\$ 2,000.00	Educators, librarians & childhood development specialist all agree; reading to children early in life and as often as possible is responsible for brain development, language skills, emotional development and increased social skills and intelligence. The Friends of the Lake Wales Public Library is committed to supporting our library's efforts to encourage caregivers to read to children beginning the first day of life. 1000 Books Before Kindergarten provides a strong, but attainable goal for adults to achieve over a multi-year period. GiveWell funding will allow us to provide parents/caregivers with an introductory kit, including free books and support materials. Our ultimate goal is to encourage library usage for all members of the family as well children who love to read and listen.
Lakeland Community Theatre	"Out of the Box" Special Needs Theatre Troupe	\$ 10,000.00	"Out of the Box" is Lakeland Community Theatre's "troupe with unique abilities." This theatre troupe, now in it's seventh season, has grown to over 80 special needs members (and counting!) ages 7 to 60 plus. Working with the troupe are 25 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.
Lakeland Habitat for Humanity	Emergency repairs low-income Elderly & Veterans	\$ 10,000.00	Lakeland Habitat for Humanity will purchase materials or services to provide emergency home repairs for low-income Elderly and Veteran homeowners. To make repairs in a timely manner, some within 24 hours of calling us. To help make the quality of everyday living safer and less stressful for people who are mostly frail elderly & people who have served our country in the military. To assist these same people so they may continue to live in their own homes. Lakeland Habitat will use volunteers and volunteer partners to keep the cost down which will enable Habitat to assist more people.
Lakeland Housing Authority	YouthBuild-Lakeland 2018	\$ 5,000.00	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 the Home Builders Institute, Inc., by partnering with a non-profit agency to build homes for families 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.
Lakeland Kiwanis Charitable Foundation, Inc.	Stuff the Bus 2018	\$ 5,000.00	Stuff the Bus is a back to school campaign coordinated by The Lakeland Kiwanis Charitable Foundation, Inc. This project is in its 16th year and has been replicated by many other community organizations throughout Polk County and beyond. Stuff the Bus provides relief for struggling families who cannot afford to purchase school supplies and will improve the classroom environment by allowing 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 27 local elementary schools before the school year begins, so teachers can assist their students.
Lakeland PAL	2018 PAL Summer Teen Leadership Program	\$ 25,000.00	PAL Youth Teen Summer Program will offer 3 distinct components focusing on at-risk youth from Lakeland's most impoverished/ crime ridden neighborhoods who are at risk of delinquency, crime & gang recruiting during the summer months when school is not in session; teen pregnancy prevention, workforce readiness training & interviewing skills. Daily instruction to include classroom sessions w/staff facilitators and guest speakers utilizing.

Funded 2018 Impact Polk Application Request Summaries

Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine	Steps to Good Health	\$ 17,700.00	Through Steps to Good Health, LVIM will change lives by giving patients the tools they need to make the lifestyle and behavior changes needed to combat the most challenging illnesses. This year, LVIM has set a goal to combat obesity, a chronic, treatable disease affecting more than half of LVIM's patients. By collaborating with the YMCA, LVIM patients will have access to the tools and strategies they need to lose weight and improve their health. The LVIM / YMCA partnership will include access to a personal coach, nutritionist, and fitness classes in a collaborative, supportive environment that supports goal achievement and healthy living. A grant of \$17,700.00 will provide 100 LVIM patients whose BMI is 30 or above, ongoing medical care and access to the YMCA for 6 months.
Learning Resource Center of Polk County, Inc.	South Lakeland Camp READY! Summer 2018	\$ 17,768.25	More than 43 percent of Kindergartners enter school in Lakeland, Florida, without the readiness skills to succeed their very first day of school. The Learning Resource Center's Camp READY! Summer 2018 will prescriptively and intentionally address this educational need for 50 early childhood learners. Camp READY! will provide four energetic weeks of interactive learning activities (reading readiness, cooking, movement, and art). On average, Camp READY! campers gain four and a half months in receptive and/or expressive language development, so essential for skill reading. At the end of Camp READY! Celebration, the excited and confident campers "show off" their new found skills to parents, family members, and friends. Children leave the program with a vibrant love for learning.
LifeChoice Community Pregnancy Center	"Earn While You Learn" Parenting Education Pr	\$ 2,000.00	EWYL is an education-based resource program for expectant parents. The largest EWYL program in Eastern Polk, EWYL offers tangible resources through parenting classes and education that impact future generations. These lessons are carried out with the individual mother and/or father and one volunteer. The volunteer spends 45-60 minutes focused on the needs of that one couple or individual. For every appointment attended, clients earn credits 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, each containing a DVD and interactive material for the volunteer and client to discuss.
Magnolia Montessori Academy	Pre-School Scholarships for Montessori	\$ 8,000.00	The Montessori Method was invented by Maria Montessori over 100 years ago. She had the extraordinary idea of observing children, then creating both a method and materials around the ways she observed them naturally learning. Our Primary classroom is designed to assist the child's innate desire to absorb knowledge & facilitate paths of self-discovery. Practical Life, Sensory, Math, & Language are essential aspects of primary education. Montessori classrooms are specially prepared environments. They are clean, orderly, & designed to make materials accessible for students. Because of the environment, materials, and specially trained teachers, Montessori is out of reach for many lower socio-economic families. Scholarships would make a difference.
Martin Luther King Jr Scholarship Committee, In	BOOKS FOR THE COLLEGE STUDENTS	\$ 1,000.00	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
Meals on Wheels of Polk County	Meals on Wheels of Polk County Food Purchas	\$ 15,000.00	Meals on Wheels is a program that empowers many to avoid nursing homes or institutions and remain comfortable and secure in their own surroundings. Mission: Volunteers and Staff will Coordinate with Community Businesses, Organizations, Churches and Individuals To Deliver a Hot, Nutritious Meal and a Daily Contact to the Homebound of Polk County. We are requesting funds to purchase food to supply meals. Last year we delivered 74,023 meals which included 10,094 free "Angel Meals" & 14,784 reduced cost meals for our low income recipients. Our program brings comfort and peace of mind to the many we serve, as well as their families. Frequently our volunteers may be the only person the recipient sees all day. A hot meal and a daily check helps to provide peace of mind for everyone.
Michaels Community Services Corporation dba I	Better Tomorrows' 2018-2019 After-School Prog	\$ 1,500.00	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 & promote civic involvement & independence.
Nemours Foundation	Healthy Habits in the First Five Years	\$ 20,000.00	Nemours Florida Prevention (FPI) will work with collaborative partners, Early Learning Coalition (ELC) of Polk County and Lakeland Regional Health (LRH) to pilot Healthy Habits First Five Years in Polk County using an evidence-based, train-the-trainer model. This pilot assists child care providers to develop wellness policies and provide technical assistance to help sites sustain healthy eating and physical activity best practices, to create a healthier early learning environment. Over the 12-month pilot, 12 adults will become Nemours-trained on the Healthy Way to Grow workbook and reach 600 children age 0 - 5 at 30 participating ELCs. Long-term impact includes increased awareness of positive health habits, reduced morbidity and mortality rates, and overall lower healthcare costs.

Funded 2018 Impact Polk Application Request Summaries

New Life Center for Family Preservation, Inc.	Homeless to Wholeness	\$ 12,600.00	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 requesting \$12,600 to pay the monthly rent for our residential facility for one year, \$5,200 to pay for a year of fuel for our vehicle to safely transport clients & \$2,000 for annual vehicle insurance.
Options for Women Pregnancy Center	STD/STI Testing for Community Health	\$ 2,500.00	Options for Women Pregnancy Help Clinic provides free health evaluations, information and resources to hundreds of low-income women who are uninsured or under-insure, including sexually transmitted disease testing. As the rate of infections continues to rise, the need to partner with local organizations to bring our services directly to the public is increasing. With that in mind, we are partnering with local colleges, as well as the migrant community and the West Area Adult School, to provide FREE STD/STI testing (for chlamydia and gonorrhea) directly on campuses and at their locations, removing the barrier to transportation that is an issue for many in preventing them from seeking this testing elsewhere. Funding will allow us to expand our testing to these and additional locations.
P.E.A.C.E. Organization	Housing and Homelessness	\$ 1,000.00	Every year, PEACE members come together in homes and churches to share what problems affect them and their loved ones. Out of over 350 stories, access to affordable and decent housing surfaced as a huge problem and was voted on by 300 members to prioritize for 2018. PEACE identifies problems, conducts research, 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.
Parker Street Ministries	Micro-Internships for Parker Street Youth	\$ 4,765.00	Lack of soft jobs skills, financial fitness instruction, career guidance, and work experience create a downward trajectory for many of our neighborhood youth as they prepare to enter the workforce. Micro-internships will move Parker Street youth, ages 17 and up, toward self-sufficiency by utilizing a blend of individualized career mentoring, soft job skills training, frequent performance feedback, and financial fitness instruction all in the context of an eight to ten week work experience at Parker Street Ministries. Micro-internships are the natural progression of a jobs preparedness program that begins with younger students in middle school and high school.
Platform Art, Inc.	Platform Kids Program 2018/2019	\$ 10,000.00	Platform Kids (PK) 2018/2019 will showcase art created by students, grades 1-12, nurturing a love for art and giving young artists an opportunity to showcase their talents, encouraging the next generation of artists. An average of 23 schools, 500 students, and 40 teachers and art personnel participate annually. The Platform Kids program attracts over 600 participants, 8-12 performance groups and 5-10 community partners. Each year, it includes a student public art component. This year, the program will include content specific art projects to complement one of our 2018/2019 signature public art projects—a second children's animated film production focusing on our diminishing bee population and its environmental impact.
Polk Education Foundation	Free Teacher Market	\$ 10,000.00	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 students need to be successful and to minimize the amount of money teachers spend out of their own pockets.
Polk State College Foundation	SAFE: Strategies Advancing First-Responder E	\$ 11,960.00	The SAFE workforce training initiative will provide extremely realistic, highly interactive disaster response field-based simulation training for 1,300 current and future emergency medical responders, police officers, and firefighters using heavy, rugged trauma manikins to give emergency responders the ability to practice skills in a broad range of situations such as rescuing injured victims during an active shooter incident, extracting people from a mass casualty incident, or extricating someone from an auto accident. Disaster response training prepares first responders to perform in high-stress, high-stakes situations. How they perform in those situations reflects what they practiced in training. The more realistic the field-based simulation training, the more effective the practice.
Polk Theatre, Inc.	Kids and Family Performing Arts Series	\$ 10,000.00	The Polk Theatre is requesting funding to support our Kids and Family Performing Arts Series which brings unique educational programming, delivered by professional touring productions, to thousands of youth in the Greater Lakeland area. Usually consisting of 3 or more professional shows that are open to schools and the public, the Kids and Family Performing Arts Series at the The Polk Theatre serves as an outreach activity by making these shows free to schools and highly affordable (FREE for kids, \$5 for adults) to families throughout Polk County. Sample past youth productions have featured performances of literary classics (i.e. Peter Rabbit Tales and Gift of the Magi) as well as shows that have addressed relevant topics for youth like bullying (Whales, Magic & Cheese...Oh My!).

Funded 2018 Impact Polk Application Request Summaries

SPCA Florida, Inc.	Guardian Angel	\$ 12,500.00	<p>SPCAF (SPCAF) operates a high volume Adoption Center projecting 4,400 adoptions in 2017. Our shelter population is truly indigent as most are ownerless and have little medical history. SPCAF attempts to prevent animal over-population by altering all animals prior to adoption. The Guardian Angel Program covers the cost of care provided to these animals.</p> <p>The cost of spay/neuter surgery, let alone the extended care most require, is significant. The importance of this was clearly illustrated through SPCAF's Economic Impact Study produced by Florida Southern College's Barney Barnett School of Business and Free Enterprise. The study concluded each adoption creates \$3,000 of community benefit. When extended to the 4,400 animals projected to be adopted in 2017 a \$13.2MM impact is expected.</p>
Talbot House Ministries of Lakeland, Inc.	Healthy Hearts	\$ 10,000.00	<p>The Good Samaritan Free Clinic (GSFC) located within Talbot House Ministries provides medical and dental care for the uninsured. The GSFC serves uninsured Polk County residents and homeless individuals who have no access to healthcare and have incomes that are no more than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. The clinic operates under the direction of the Director of Health Services (Equilla Cherry) who is a nurse practitioner. She and her staff, along with other clinical volunteers provide evidence-based medical care for all patients. The homeless have a high prevalence of chronic diseases that greatly increases their risk for heart disease. The GSFC is in need of an EKG machine to record a patient's heart activity and diagnose heart problems.</p>
Talbot House Ministries of Lakeland, Inc.	Diabetic Medications for the Uninsured	\$ 5,000.00	<p>The Good Samaritan Free Clinic (GSFC) located within Talbot House Ministries provides medical and dental care for the uninsured. The GSFC serves uninsured Polk County residents and homeless individuals who have no access to healthcare and have incomes that are no more than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. The clinic operates under the direction of the Director of Health Services (Equilla Cherry) who is a nurse practitioner. She and her staff, along with other clinical volunteers provide evidence-based medical care for all patients. The majority of uninsured and homeless who come to GSFC for care have not had access to healthcare for many years. The GSFC is in need of funding for medications for the in-house pharmacy.</p>
Tenth Judicial Circuit of Florida	10th Judicial Circuit's Children's Welcome & Act	\$ 7,500.00	<p>One out of four children is exposed to a traumatic event such as domestic violence, child neglect and/or abuse. Consequently, they must appear in court, either as a witness or a victim. This process can be very frightening and traumatic. To meet the goals of a trauma-informed courthouse, we must provide a safe and trusting environment for these children. We will accomplish this by providing an environment where they can find both comfort and solace before having to appear before the judge. This will also facilitate the second goal of the courts, to make a complete legal record of the proceedings for evidentiary and appellate purposes. A child's testimony is a vital element of this process. For a child to be able to effectively testify, they must feel safe, protected and comfortable.</p>
The Blended Family Foundation Inc.	Give and Receive Closet	\$ 5,000.00	<p>The Give and Receive Closet will be hosted in three schools in Polk County, and serves to encourage parents to take an active role in their child's welfare by volunteering in their school, and in return, they are able to receive the basic needs items from the closet to be used to provide for their families. The Blended Family Foundation will be responsible for recruiting the parents and covering their volunteer application fee, providing the items that are stocked in the closet, and providing parents with effective tools for engaging with their children.</p>
The Museum of Science and Industry, Inc.	Robot Round- up	\$ 7,500.00	<p>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 elementary schools located in Polk County for a whole-day robotics tutorial, culminating 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. MOSI will provide this program to 18 Title I schools-an average of 125 students per school-impacting over 2,250 children.</p>
Theatre Winter Haven	Hometown Heroes	\$ 2,500.00	<p>In November 2017, Theatre Winter Haven produced The Veterans Project to deepen understanding of the military and veterans' experiences through theatrical experiences. Due to its large success, we plan to mirror that process with new "hometown heroes" each year (starting in 2018-2019) with Police and Fire personnel. In this process, police and fire personnel are interviewed, the interviews transcribed, and a script is created. Once the show is ready to be performed, we will host "auditions" for any fire or police personnel interested in participating. They will be cast in their specific roles and begin working with an experienced theatre director and 2-3 experienced actors. The final step in the process is the show, which will be hosted on our MainStage and tour throughout Polk County.</p>

Funded 2018 Impact Polk Application Request Summaries

United Way of Central Florida/Family Fundamen	Bridge the Gap to School Readiness - My Own	\$ 5,000.00	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 within a model classroom and the "play" experiences provided. The "My Own Library" provides the children with age-appropriate books to take home as their own. At the end of one week, families who attend each day will receive five different books. 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 be for the child.
Victory Ridge Academy	Victory Ridge's Summer Camp for Children with	\$ 10,000.00	The purpose of Victory Ridge's Summer Camp for Children with Special Needs is to provide students with educational, therapeutic, and recreational activities throughout the month of June 2018. Over the summer students lose important information obtained over the course of the school year. This information is difficult for all students to regain once the new school year has begun, but is especially difficult for our students with special needs. Through Victory Ridge Academy's proposed Summer Camp program, daily rigorous educational and therapeutic activities will further enhance these children's preparedness to resume their studies for the 2018-2019 school year.
Webber International University	Hand in Hand We Learn: Academic Success Tu	\$ 6,000.00	Webber International University is committed to increasing the number of academically-oriented students in Polk County's high schools by offering tutoring services and academic success coaches to those who are at risk of not advancing to the next grade level due to difficulty with reading. Students at Lake Wales High School will be the initial target population served for the Academic Success Tutoring Program. Tutoring will be conducted periodically throughout the week during the school year to assist students who may otherwise have no intention of completing 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.
Whitestone Academy, Inc.	Watch Me Grow	\$ 2,500.00	Project Watch Me Grow is five phase project providing an outdoor play and recreation area to the students of Whitestone Academy. Whitestone Academy is a private school serving economically disadvantaged children from infants through twelfth grade in East Lakeland of Polk county Florida. The vision and mission of the school is to provide an opportunity for a private school education to low income families of Polk county through the Early Learning Coalition, Step Up for Students and McKay scholarship programs. It is our goal to educate the next generation to serve their community. The Watch Me Grow project has one goal. We would like to provide enrichment to the students of Whitestone Academy by providing a safe outdoor play and recreation area.
Women's Resource Center of Florida, Inc.	Finacial Stability Boot Camp	\$ 5,000.00	The FS Boot Camp is a ten-week course of intensive personal finance education. Weekly attendance is mandatory. Boot Camp participants will primarily be single-parents who commit to complete all classes and to actively work to improve their finances. Topics include: Credit Scores, Budgeting, Resumes, Enhancing Work Skills, Banking, Savings, and Maximizing Resources. Astute leaders will present community opportunities to improve the student's educational/skills. Mental Health Counseling will be available to improve long-term financial stability. The course will culminate with Kid-Cash focusing on raising a money smart child. Successful completion of all segments, including financial component requirement, is mandatory to achieve a \$650 Bonus added to the family's savings account.
YMCA of West Central Florida	Kindergarten Learn to Swim	\$ 20,000.00	The YMCA Kindergarten Learn to Swim Program is a 2-week interactive water safety and education program. Over the past 7 years, we have taught the lifesaving skill of swimming to over 9,400 children. In partnership with Polk County Schools and the City of Lakeland, the children prepare in their classroom for their week of swimming instruction by learning about water safety, adult supervision, and identifying danger areas. The following week, children are transported to one of our aquatic facilities for a full week of lessons by certified instructors. In 2018, our goal is to teach 1,600 kindergartners at 16 elementary schools, reaching a new population of children every year.
Young Life of Polk County	Every Kid, Everywhere, For Eternity	\$ 6,000.00	In the difficult adolescent years, Young Life leaders walk 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 consistent safe presence in their lives. Our leaders build bridges of authentic friendship and trust. 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. 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. https://vimeo.com/205642235 Local YL Area video link!

Funded 2018 Impact Polk Application Request Summaries

Youth for Christ of Polk County	Summer Camps with Youth for Christ mentoring	\$ 10,000.00	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 a 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.
---------------------------------	--	--------------	--