

A little fund goes a long way...

Neighborhood Opportunity Grant Program Recipients

2ORMORE

Vine Street Gardens at the KC Workhouse

2orMore will lead the effort to preserve and restore the historical Kansas City Workhouse at 20th and Vine into a multi-functional pocket park that will serve the community in multiple ways. In addition to a historical learning exhibit, the pocket park will boast community and botanical gardens with trees, flowers, fruits, and vegetables, along with an educational walking path. The restored Workhouse will double as an event space, proceeds of which will go back to similar local redevelopment efforts. Once finished, the site will be called The Vine Street Gardens at the Kansas City Workhouse.

BLACK FAMILY TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS

ASSOC. - KUAW (Knowledge Understanding and Wisdom) FM Community Radio Station

BFTAA will operate an online and low-power FM radio station at 4510 Linwood that will reach ~3.5 miles throughout some of the city's most distressed census tracts. KUAW's mission is to

inform the community on events, opportunities and education available to them locally. KUAW will become the voice of the community enabling them to express themselves and reach local residents to help them work together to address and solve local issues. BFTAA will train and work with students broadcasting and producing local programs.

BLUE HILLS COMMUNITY SERVICES

Immanuel Manor Community Mini-Park

The Immanuel Manor Community Mini-Park will engage the 50 physically and mentally disabled residents of Immanuel Manor Apartments and the residents of the Manheim Park neighborhood in creating and maintaining a mini-park. This park will deter crime and increase interconnectivity in the surrounding community. The Immanuel Manor grounds will offer a new shelter and seating areas, vegetable and flower gardens, and new landscaping features that enhance the aesthetics and safety for the neighborhood.

CENTER FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Safe and Connected Communities

The 'Safe and Connected Communities' project will partner with up to six other organizations in the CCF service area to bring restorative justice and conflict resolution workshops to up to 150 residents. The project will train participants in forming and facilitating small groups that will continue the work after the initial training. A final luncheon event in October 2015 will bring together participants from all groups for a ceremony to celebrate and share their successes.

CONNECTING FOR GOOD

Linwood Computer Center

The 25-seat computer center will include a classroom and offices at the newly renovated Linwood Presbyterian facility at 3210 Michigan. Classes in computer basics and more advanced computer and software use will be offered and the space will be available for the community. The space will also be available for high school students to complete their homework on their school-issued laptops. Through a partnership with the Full Employment Council, the center will offer internships through the Tech Hire program, introducing young adults to careers in technology.

CONSOLIDATED SOCIAL SERVICES

Chestnut Street Model Block Project

The Chestnut Street Model Block Project is a collaboration between non-profit organizations dedicated to economic and social justice. CSS rehabbed an abandoned land bank home in the Oak Park neighborhood and transformed it into a children's reading room, vegetable and flower gardens, and connecting to social services. Individuals can become involved by offering their skills in the building trades, tutoring, gardening, and a host of other ways.

COMMUNITIES CREATING OPPORTUNITY (CCO) Youth Excelling in Life and Learning (YELL)

The Youth Excelling in Life and Learning (YELL) will identify high school students from Kansas City's urban core and immerse them in a leadership development curriculum where they will be trained in the principles of community organizing, leadership, policy, and civic engagement. The program will help students understand the importance of active citizenship while equipping them with the necessary tools to engage their local communities and schools to address systemic change issues. After completing the training, a CCO staff member will work with YLC graduates to create locally-sourced initiatives and projects in their communities or schools.

HISTORIC MANHEIM PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Asset Mapping Project

Manheim Park Neighborhood Association is undertaking a two-stage evidence based project intended to promote regeneration and renewal in the Historic Manheim Park Neighborhood. Leaders in the community are seeking to shift the community from a focus on needs toward harnessing assets as a path to regeneration. Community street/block teams will conduct asset mapping and develop a catalog of assets that can be accessed by all residents.

HISTORIC NORTHEAST

Take Charge II Project

The Take Charge II project is a continuation of the Community Capital Fund-supported Take Charge I project that created a strategic plan for the Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and its Historic Northeast community development organization. Take Charge II takes the next crucial steps in the rejuvenation of the area by developing a civic leadership program and preparing for the

management of the new Independence Avenue Community Improvement District (CID).

IVANHOE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Hope, Heritage, and History through the Arts

This project will provide learning and training opportunities that foster an appreciation of African American history and culture through the arts to socially, philosophically, and culturally address issues that have been created due to a history of disinvestment. The Project will foster a connection between history, the present, and the future by providing monthly learning opportunities and skill-building training workshops that will help the community explore and interpret African American history through the visual and performing arts.

KANSAS CITY KEYS

Nile Valley Aquaponics

Kansas City Keys and Males to Men will build a community-based commercial aquaponic system inside a commercial greenhouse to grow high quality food, provide education classes, provide job training opportunities, create local green jobs, and bring people together through a community fish fry with food produced on-site. The project will train youth ages 5-17 who will train others to duplicate or build smaller aquaponic systems. The project will be located in the Key Coalition neighborhood, a food desert and will ultimately use only renewable energy sources.

MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY COALITION

Hydrangea Garden and Community Plaza

MCC is transforming a vacant lot in downtown Marlborough (8112 Paseo) into a hydrangea garden and flexible community gathering space. The space will include other flowering plants, herbs, a low-maintenance walking path, and ultimately, a completely gated garden with a key-card entry for registered community members. A cement stage will provide flexible space to host local art displays, an outdoor classroom, concerts, community meetings, and other events.

MUSKETEERS CIVIC GROUP

Entrepreneurial & Character Youth Development Program

The Musketeers Civic Group will expand their multi-faceted lawn-care program that improves neighborhood appearance, provides a service to disabled or senior citizens, promotes physical activity, provides work experience to youth, and instructs and mentors youth in operating a small business.

PALESTINE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Coordinated Engagement Partnership Program

In conjunction with program partners MU-Extension and the UMKC Institute for Human Development, PNDC will create a program to train and provide ongoing mentoring support to a Community Coordinator from the neighborhood that facilitates capacity development of PNDC leadership, staff and volunteers, other community-based organizations, and residents.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Troost Village Digital Reconciliation Project

Through its Troost Village Digital Reconciliation Project, Reconciliation Services (RS) will train and deploy Trained Neighbors Teaching (TNTs) to increase digital life skills, internet and computer access, and improve residents' ability to use these skills and resources to connect to jobs, education, and healthcare and obtain necessary government-issued identification documents. The RS Internet Cafe at 31st and Troost will eventually be run by the TNTs as a community hub for the digital skills project and overall improved access to vital resources.

SCARRITT RENAISSANCE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Nature-Inspired Playground

With the help of the Community Capital Fund, the Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood Association is creating a nature-inspired playground that speaks to the natural setting of Kessler Park and is respectful to the Historic Northeast neighborhood. This playground will serve as the area's only public playground and will also be a resource to the many people that visit the nearby Kansas City Museum and Scenic Byway Cliff Drive. This playground supports and reflects the family-friendly redevelopment occurring in the area and will include an embankment slide, swings, and landscaping features. Adjacent to the new playground are currently underutilized and neglected sports courts that will be consolidated and rebuilt.

TOWN FORK CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Outreach/Capacity Building Program

The Town Fork Creek Neighborhood Association (TFCNA) Outreach and Capacity Building Project involved robust neighborhood participation to expand its active membership and provide training and opportunities for leadership. Through a three-part approach: community organizing, street teams, and a central office location, residents were made more aware of issues in the neighborhood and were empowered to help craft the solutions to those issues. All the families in the neighborhood benefitted from more and better information, opportunities to forge relationships, and access to a broader range of resources.

TOWN FORK CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Outreach/Capacity Building Program

This is a continuation of the Town Fork Creek ROLL project previously funded in the Spring 2013 grant

round. TFC ROLL (Restoration & Outreach through Learning & Leadership) is restoring and transforming the Town Fork Creek neighborhood by reaching out their 6,000 neighbors and passing the torch to a younger generation. The organizer hired by the neighborhood association will continue to raise the profile of the neighborhood and make sure its needs are addressed, whether they be enforcing codes, reducing crime and poverty, or improving educational opportunities.

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL CENTRAL PLAINS Benton Community Garden

The US Green Building Council Central Plains Chapter raised the necessary funding for its Benton Community Garden in the Santa Fe neighborhood at the intersection of Benton Boulevard and Linwood Boulevard. This Community Garden Project includes a rainwater trellis, the creation of a rain garden, center circle, the addition of raised vegetable beds, and a new Paw Paw/Yew garden. A workshop series helps residents bring these techniques to their own homes, with topics like how to produce healthy food, reduce water issues, and create an intra-neighborhood trade system.

WESTSIDE HOUSING ORGANIZATION Nottingham Gardens Urban Farm Express Expansion Project

The Nottingham Garden project will turn a vacant and trash-laden parcel of land adjacent to the Nottingham Apartments into a productive, beautiful, and educational garden that includes a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) distribution project. The CSA garden will be run by volunteers living at the apartments and will include an educational kitchen and demonstration space to be used for classes, meetings, and small events. Neighborhood volunteers will provide labor and conduct educational trainings. Income generated from the garden plots and the CSA will go back into the garden for expansion, maintenance, training, and education.