

The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region
1201 15th Street, NW
Suite 420
Washington, DC 20005
www.thecommunityfoundation.org

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CONTINUING COVERAGE: REGION IN CRISIS
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makingconnections

The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region
Alexandria Community Trust • The Montgomery County Community Foundation • The Prince George's Community Foundation

CONTINUING COVERAGE: REGION IN CRISIS

INSIDE

Page 1

Take the challenge!

Page 3

Join us on November 12 for
"Putting Race on the Table"

Page 6

Updates from our regional
affiliate foundations

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2

Terri Lee Freeman on "tough
times ahead"

Page 4

\$526,000 in new Community
Foundation Neighbors in Need
Fund Grants



Photo: Daniel Rosenbaum/Rosetree Photography

Page 7

Q&A with The Foundation's
new Chair

Leading the Charge Community Foundation Announces \$1M "Neighbors in Need" Fund Drive Challenge

Recent studies have shown that, when it comes to charitable giving, Washington-area residents are the most generous in the United States. The saying "actions speak louder than words" may be cliché, but when it comes to our family of Community Foundation donors helping their neighbors in need, it's really true.

The Foundation's new **Neighbors in Need Fund** supports nonprofit "Good Samaritan" organizations across the Greater Washington region providing our most vulnerable residents with basic, essential services such as food, clothing, shelter and assistance with utility and medical bills. In the first phase of this campaign, The Foundation recently awarded \$526,000 in new grants to more than 40 emergency-services providers in the Washington metropolitan area (see pp.4-5 for a complete listing).

And now we're challenging you to help us make a difference. We've allocated an additional \$250,000 for the Neighbors in Need Fund, and are asking our generous donors to **match our \$250,000 commitment 1:1**, bringing the Neighbors in Need Fund to a total of \$1 million allocated for "safety net" services.

"We're calling on our wonderful family of donors to step up to the plate and help area residents in peril get the nutrition, medical care, safe housing and other social services they so desperately need," says Community Foundation President Terri Lee Freeman. "This is what the spirit of giving is all about."

The Neighbors in Need fund drive could not come at a better time. The alarming increase in demand for services at the region's food banks and other nonprofit service providers – some groups report a figure of 50% over this time last year – is straining these organizations' resources as never before. Combined with fears of economic recession and the potential loss of funding from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, many nonprofits face an uncertain future, especially as the year-end giving season approaches. And the results of a recent, informal survey of area nonprofits conducted by The Community Foundation show that cuts in vital services, such as food distribution and meals for homeless people, is a very real scenario.

"Certainly, we're concerned about a drop-off in this year's giving," says Ken Naser, Executive Director of ALIVE! In Alexandria, VA, a Neighbors in Need grantee. "At the same time, with the rising cost of energy and food, our operating costs have increased significantly. I just learned that our rent is about to go up."

What can **you** do? Review the list of recent Neighbors in Need Fund grantees on pp. 4-5 and then make a generous gift to our Neighbors in Need Fund so that we can continue to support these organizations and so many others like them. Call on our knowledgeable Community Investment team – they can share with you insight into some of our region's most effective nonprofit emergency-services providers.

Please accept our fund drive challenge and help us continue to lead the charge and meet our goal of \$1 million. You can make your gift securely online at www.thecommunityfoundation.org.



Photo: Rick Reinhard



Where giving and opportunity meet

The mission of The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region is to strengthen the Washington metropolitan region by encouraging and supporting effective giving and by providing leadership on critical issues in our community.

Since 1973, The Foundation has managed the philanthropic dollars of thousands of families, individuals, corporations, and institutions. **Today, thanks to our generous donors, The Community Foundation is the largest funder of nonprofit organizations in the Greater Washington area.**

We offer a wide array of flexible options to encourage and nurture intelligent charitable giving at all income levels. Our knowledgeable staff is plugged into the community and provides

donors with intelligence on local nonprofit organizations to help them make solid community investments.

The Community Foundation and its three regional affiliates – the Alexandria Community Trust, The Montgomery County Community Foundation, and The Prince George's Community Foundation – work to maximize social return to the metropolitan Washington, DC region and beyond.

Making Connections is published four times per year by The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. To learn more about The Community Foundation, visit our website at www.thecommunityfoundation.org.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

When the Going Gets Tough

In the last *Making Connections*, we devoted virtually the entire issue to the region's growing economic crisis, its effect on area nonprofits as well as our most vulnerable residents, and the ways in which The Community Foundation and our family of donors are responding.

If our nation's economy was "on the brink," to use the title of my previous column, I think it's fair to say that we're now in freefall. This crisis affects us all – not just the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers, the failure of Washington Mutual or the government takeover of mortgage-lenders Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the latter two being the largest corporate givers in the Greater Washington area. Many of our region's fragile nonprofits are seeing their costs increase, client base grow and their funding in peril or already declining.

At The Community Foundation, in the near term, we are particularly concerned about the sustainability of nonprofit organizations that provide "safety net" needs such as food, clothing, medical care and shelter. The cover story in this



issue of *Making Connections* announces our new Neighbors in Need \$1 million challenge fund drive and our most recent round of grants supporting these services. We can and must do more, and so I encourage you to help meet our \$250,000 Neighbors in Need challenge.

In the long term we are concerned about the sustainability of a nonprofit, not-for-profit, or social profit sector (pick the term you prefer!) that efficiently provides quality services to our neighborhoods around and within the Beltway. To that end, in the coming weeks and months The Community Foundation and the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers will be convening leaders from our region's three sectors to learn about the problems facing each of us, and then develop a pathway to recovery and sustainability for all of us.

Our community is strong, smart and resilient. Together, we can work through the toughest challenges facing the Greater Washington region today. We've done it before, and it's time for us to do it again. Please join with us.

Sincerely yours,

Terri Lee Freeman
President

NOW AVAILABLE: FY2008 Annual Report

We are pleased to announce the release of *The Gift of Giving*, The Community Foundation's new annual report. This year's full-color report – which marks our 35th anniversary in 2008 – is more than an accounting of the year's activities, as we profile ten highly diverse Community Foundation donors who are creating positive change through the causes they care about most.



Request your free copy today by calling (202) 955-5890 or via email at info@cfncr.org.

NEW FUNDS

The following funds were added during the period July 1 – September 30, 2008.

The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region

Best Shot Foundation
Orlando Hudson's Catch Foundation
Center to Enhance the Human and Economic Development of the Disadvantaged
DCPS Center for Global Education and Leadership
IEA Fund
The Moreland Family Fund
Peter R. and Claudia A. Sherman Charitable Giving Fund
Whelihan Foundation
Wine Advocate Fund for Philanthropy

The Montgomery County Community Foundation

E.A.S.E. Foundation
Excel Beyond the Bell Innovations Fund
Family & Nursing Care Foundation
Freed Family Charitable Fund
Joan Schaffer & Edward H. Comer Charitable Fund

The Prince George's Community Foundation

Shanelle Antoinette Adams Scholarship Fund
District 5 Fund
Friends & Family of Dr. Charles P. Arnold
PGCPS Performance Management Stream Implementation Fund

Q&A with Dan Mayers



You've been a Washington-area resident for more than 40 years. Are you a native Washingtonian?

I grew up in Scarsdale, NY. My wife and I came down to Washington in 1960 for what we thought would be one year following my graduation from Harvard Law School. Like so many others, we fell in love with the city and the area, and never left.

Throughout your career, you've worked with a number of remarkable people. How has this affected you?

I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to work closely with Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, Undersecretary of State George W. Ball, and Washington attorney Lloyd Cutler (my law partner for more than three decades), all within the first seven years of my coming to

Washington. It's difficult to put into words what I gained as a young man from those experiences, but it was extraordinary to observe each of them as they dealt with difficult issues and came to decisions in their own ways.

For more than 30 years, you've served as Chair of a long list of nonprofit organizations both in the Washington area and beyond. Could you tell us about some of them and how they've shaped you?

Sure. I led at various times the board of Sidwell Friends School, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Washington Education and Television Association – better known as WETA – along with the Harvard Law School Committee on Visitors, the Legal Action Center in New York, which I continue to Chair, and, most recently, The Survivors' Fund for the Pentagon victims of 9/11 that was affiliated with The Community Foundation. Over time, you do develop your own style of dealing with issues, working with board members, and achieving consensus.

You are The Community Foundation's newly appointed Chairman. What is your vision for The Foundation, particularly in today's troubled economy?

The Community Foundation is now of a size and stature that creates a special obligation to support and sustain nonprofits in the Greater Washington region. Without question, many nonprofits are going to be affected adversely by the economic instability and challenges we face. The Community Foundation should – and will – shift some of its focus away from new community initiatives and move toward supporting, educating and bringing together the area's nonprofits and directing resources toward them. This obviously will require us to work hard to sustain and increase our own funds so that we can have the maximum impact on this crisis facing the nonprofit community.

If someone were considering setting up a fund at The Community Foundation, what would your advice be?

Now more than ever, the greater community in which you live needs your support. The very best, the most efficient and prudent way a Washington-area resident can help is by setting up a fund at The Community Foundation. Our record for effective management speaks for itself, and we offer continuing help and consultation to our family of donors about opportunities for giving and the needs in all sectors of nonprofit life in our region. I can guarantee that anyone who opens a Community Foundation fund will find his or her experience to be satisfying and truly fulfilling.

One last question: how can The Community Foundation's current donors help further our work?

If you already have a fund, add to it before the end of this year. Or, perhaps even better, contribute to our new Neighbors in Need Fund, which makes it possible for us to respond to our community's most pressing needs in strategic, high-impact ways. The grants to emergency services groups that we talk about in this issue is a perfect example of how Community Foundation donors can help those who need it most.

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Anne Wexler
Wexler & Walker Public Policy Associates

* Deceased

Affiliate Updates

A Coordinated Response to Nonprofit Needs

During these uncertain economic times, the need for funding and capacity-building is more vital than ever, and the Alexandria Community Trust (ACT) is on the front lines, poised to respond to the needs of the community. ACT's dedication to helping nonprofit organizations achieve a higher level of impact is evident in a number of outreach efforts coordinated by the foundation.



ACT's fourth annual Nonprofit Excellence Forum came at an opportune time as nonprofits are seeking new and innovative ways to raise funds and engage donors. The audience of 200 nonprofit and business leaders was captivated by keynote speaker Ted Leonsis, who spoke about "filmanthropy," a new category of filmmaking that activates discussion as well as new volunteers and new funds to benefit social causes. Leonsis' newest venture, www.snagfilms.com, allows nonprofits to "snag" documentaries to use on their web sites as an educational and fundraising tool to promote their causes and missions.

Also at the Forum, ACT offered grant opportunities to support the operational capacity of nonprofits. ACT is offering Operational Needs Grants to support nonprofits experiencing a significant impact on their operations as a result of the state of the economy or loss of steady funding stream.

Another ACT initiative, Give Back Alexandria, is planning to help support Alexandria nonprofits with "Fall into Giving," the group's first annual holiday goods drive on November 19. This social event will brief emerging leaders and philanthropists on how changes in the economy are affecting nonprofits and provide them with tangible ways they can give back. The price of admission will be the donation of books, toiletries, and/or non-perishable foods to benefit two grantee partners, Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center and The Reading Connection.

To learn more about how you can support the pressing needs of Alexandria's nonprofit community, contact ACT at (703) 739-7778 or visit www.actforalexandria.org.

MCCF and Bethesda Magazine Salute Those Who "Give Where They Live"

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

At its Celebration of Giving on November 6th, The Montgomery County Community Foundation's advisory board will highlight its many donors who generously "give where they live" to nonprofit organizations addressing the growing needs of low-income youth, families and seniors in Montgomery County, MD.

"We are proud that last year our Sharing Montgomery Fund, together with many MCCF family and corporate funds, gave nearly \$2 million to support causes right here in Montgomery County," says MCCF Executive Director Sally Rudney. "Hard economic times are hardest on people in need, and Montgomery County is changing fast. An estimated 25% of the county's families are now at risk for hunger, and about 35,000 county public school students qualify under federal standards for a free meal at school, representing a quarter of the county's public school children."

The Celebration culminates with a tribute to the 2008 Montgomery County Philanthropist of the Year, Craig Ruppert. As the President of Ruppert Companies, Craig fosters a spirit of generosity throughout his company, which gives 5% of its sales revenue to charity every year. Among many causes he supports personally and through his company, he championed the capital campaign of the Easter Seals' new Inter-Generational Center, which provides state-of-the-art services for seniors and children with disabilities.

As the fall giving season approaches, MCCF encourages everyone to follow Craig's lead by generously giving back. Pick up a copy of the November/December issue of *Bethesda Magazine* containing a feature story on Craig Ruppert and a "pullout" supplement that showcases the many ways in which MCCF is helping county residents and businesses "give where they live."

Strengthening Prince George's County's "Lifeline" Organizations

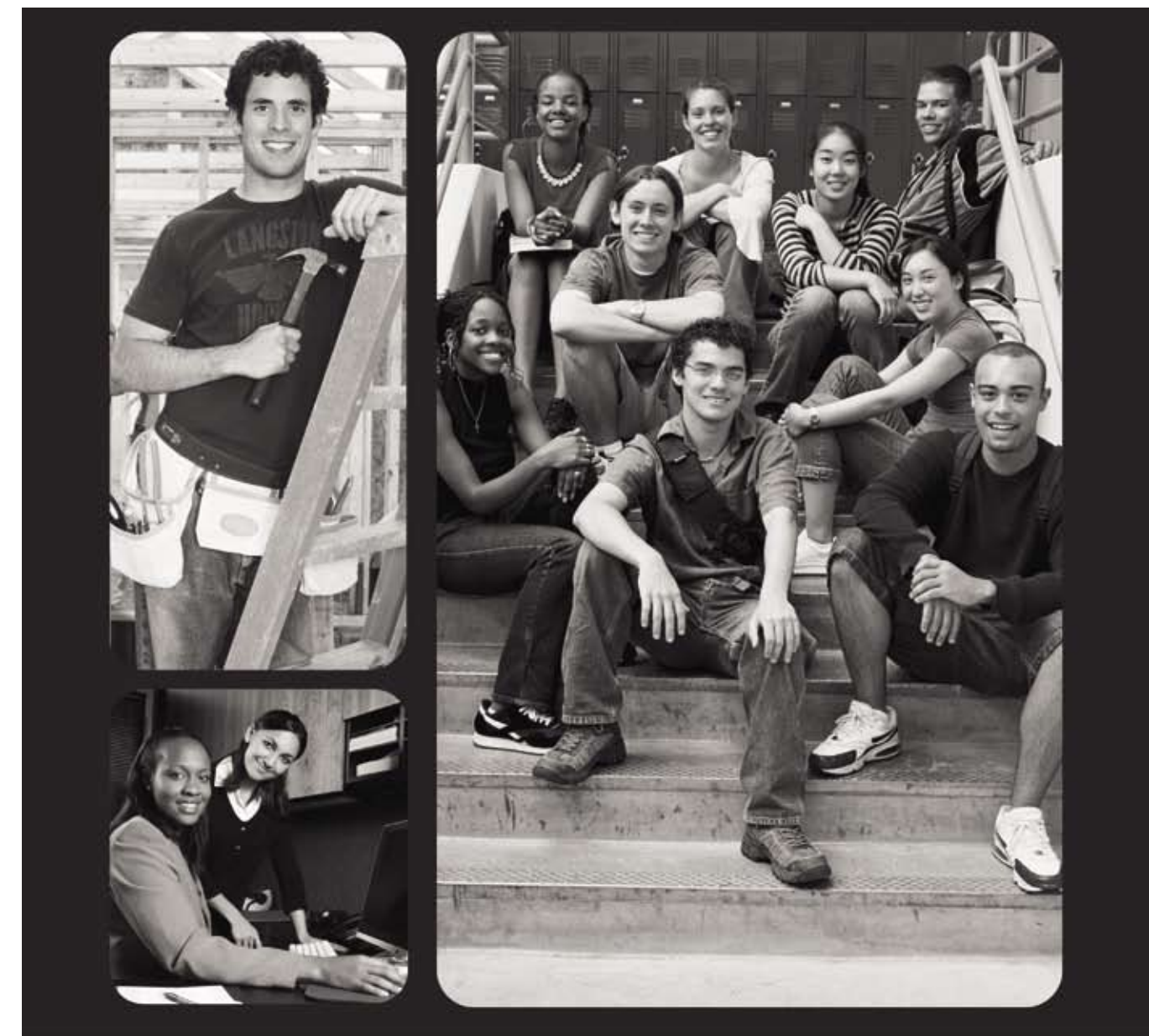


When The Partnership for Prince George's County – a project of The Prince George's Community Foundation (PGCF) – began operations last year, its initial round of grants supported strengthening internal operations, such as accounting, fundraising and strategic planning, for a wide range of nonprofits located in and serving Prince George's County, MD.

However, given the region's economic crisis, The Partnership is now focusing its capacity-building funding on organizations providing critical "lifeline" services including food, housing, medical care/preventive care, childcare, job training and emergency financial assistance.

"Times are extraordinarily tough for so many people. Many residents are losing their biggest asset—their home—because of foreclosure and others are being evicted because they can't make the monthly rent. Lines at food banks and meal programs are longer than ever before," says PGCF Executive Director Desiree Griffin-Moore. "And all this at a time when charitable giving is uncertain and competition for these dollars is tougher than ever. Our human services nonprofits are being asked to do more with less, and so The Partnership is dedicated to supporting them by investing in their organizational capacity, leadership and advocacy as best we can."

The next round of Partnership grants will be announced in June 2009. For more information about the Partnership, visit www.partnershippgc.org.



Putting Race on the Table

November 12, 2008 | 11:30am–2:00pm

The Westin City Center | 1400 M Street, NW | Washington, DC

Join us on Wednesday, November 12 for our *Putting Race on the Table* discussion forum. This year's conversation will examine the impact of the current economic crisis on our region's nonprofit sector and, in particular, recent strides made by The Community Foundation and others to narrow the academic achievement gap and strengthen workforce development programs. Will there be jobs when our young people are ready to work?

Please RSVP by November 7 to rsvp@cfncr.org or by calling (202) 973-2508.



NEIGHBORS IN NEED GRANTS, FALL 2008

GRANTS TOTAL: \$526,000

The following organizations, which provide a range of "lifeline" services to Washington-area residents in need, received funding from The Community Foundation's Neighbors in Need Fund.

ALIVE! Inc., Alexandria, VA

\$10,000

To support emergency financial assistance to individuals and families for rent, utilities, medical expenses, prescription medicines and other needs

Arlington Food Assistance Center, Arlington, VA

\$10,000

To support the purchase of fresh food for distribution to families in need

Arlingtonians Meeting Emergency Needs, Inc., Arlington, VA

\$10,000

To support the Emergency Financial Assistance and Carter-Jenkins programs providing rent, medical and dental care, prescriptions, transportation, work clothes and equipment

Asian Women's Self Help Association, Rockville, MD

\$5,000

To support emergency assistance such as food, housing, medical care, and transportation to South Asian victims of domestic violence

Ayuda, Inc., Washington, DC

\$15,000

To support legal and social services to low-income immigrant families and individuals in the Washington, DC metropolitan area

Capital Area Food Bank, Washington, DC

\$25,000

To support food distribution across the Washington, DC metropolitan area

Capitol Hill Group Ministry, Washington, DC

\$10,000

To support programs which provide homeless and high-risk families in Washington, DC with emergency shelter, wrap-around support services, homelessness prevention services and support services to maintain their housing

Community Family Life Services, Washington, DC

\$10,000

To support emergency food, clothing and shelter to low-income and homeless families

Community Ministries of Rockville, Rockville, MD

\$10,000

To support emergency financial assistance for individuals and families for rent, utilities and medications

DC Children's Advocacy Center, Washington, DC

\$15,000

To support emergency food, clothing, financial assistance and resource referrals to child and youth victims of sexual and physical abuse and witnesses to violence

Emmaus Services for the Aging, Washington, DC

\$15,000

To support services for low-income seniors including hot meals, an emergency food pantry, nutrition/exercise classes, computer training, health screenings, and long-term advocacy

Fairfax Area Christian Emergency & Transitional Services, Inc., Fairfax, VA

\$15,000

To support the permanent supportive housing programs serving homeless men, women and children in Fairfax County, VA

Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County, Brentwood, MD

\$20,000

To support operation of the emergency shelter and provision of services to children and families during their stay

Family Place, Inc., Washington, DC

\$15,000

To support basic needs such as diapers, food, transportation and rent

Food for Others, Fairfax, VA

\$15,000

To support food distribution assisting of low-income residents of Northern Virginia

Gaithersburg HELP, Gaithersburg, MD

\$7,500

To support emergency food, medical prescriptions and infant supplies for low-income residents of the Gaithersburg, MD

Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, Inc., Alexandria, VA

\$10,000

To support short-term emergency financial assistance to residents of southern Fairfax County, VA

Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc., Herndon, VA

\$15,000

To support emergency financial assistance to persons in crisis in the communities of Herndon, VA and Reston, VA

Housing Opportunities Community Partners, Inc., Kensington, MD

\$15,000

To support the Buddy System, which provides assistance with security deposits, utility connections and miscellaneous move-in expenses to families in Montgomery County, MD

Interfaith Works, Rockville, MD

\$20,000

To support basic needs such as rent assistance, utility, prescription and medical bills for families in need

Jobs Have Priority, Inc., Washington, DC

\$10,000

To support job- and housing-placement programs

Korean Community Services Center of Greater Washington, Annandale, VA

\$10,000

To support emergency assistance for low-income members of the Asian community living in the metropolitan Washington, DC area

Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA

\$15,000

To support legal assistance for low-income Northern Virginia residents to preserve affordable, safe and sanitary housing, with a goal of preventing homelessness caused by unlawful evictions, illegal lockouts, utility cut-offs and involuntary displacement due to loss of income or personal crisis

Loudoun Cares, Leesburg, VA

\$15,000

\$5,000 to provide matching funds for a Commonwealth of Virginia grant; \$10,000 to support the Faith Winter Fuel Fund, which provides emergency assistance to prevent utility disconnects

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, Washington, DC

\$10,000

To support the refugee reception and placement program

Manna Food Center, Rockville, MD

\$15,000

To support the food distribution program

Miriam's Kitchen, Washington, DC

\$27,500

To support the development of a dinner program based on the successful breakfast program, and the continuation of critical expansion of the current breakfast and case management programs

Mobile Medical Care, Inc., Bethesda, MD

\$10,000

To support low- or no-cost health care services for low-income residents of Montgomery County, MD

Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, Rockville, MD

\$20,000

To support urgent basic needs of residents at the men's emergency shelter

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, Washington, DC

\$15,000

To support work ensuring that systems are better equipped to address the needs of the homeless as well as families at risk of becoming homeless

Nonprofit Village Center, Inc., Silver Spring, MD

\$10,000

To support the launch of a brokerage service connecting organizations with affordable rental space

Our Place DC, Washington, DC

\$10,000

To support emergency services for female residents of Washington, DC who are or have been incarcerated

Parklands Community Center, Washington, DC

\$5,000

For general operating support

Polaris Project, Washington, DC

\$10,000

To support the Nightingale Transitional Housing program

Samaritan Inns, Washington, DC

\$10,000

To support the basic needs of participants in the Transitional Living program

Southeast Ministry, Washington, DC

\$15,000

To support emergency assistance for men and women participating in Southeast Ministry programs

St. Margaret's Church/Charlie's Place, Washington, DC

\$10,000

To support the breakfast program serving homeless men and women in the Washington, DC neighborhoods of Dupont Circle, Adams Morgan and Columbia Heights

Street Sense, Washington, DC

\$5,000

To support the job-training program for formerly homeless individuals

Tahirih Justice Center, Falls Church, VA

\$10,000

To support urgent social and medical services including temporary shelter, food, transportation and medical tests and/or prescriptions for vulnerable immigrant women and girls fleeing gender-based violence

United Community Ministries – Community Solutions, Alexandria, VA

\$15,000

To support emergency assistance for rent, utility, prescriptions and medical bills to residents in need

Upper Montgomery Assistance Network, Gaithersburg, MD

\$5,000

To support emergency assistance for residents facing foreclosure

Women Empowered Against Violence, Washington, DC

\$10,000

To support basic need assistance, case management, life skills education, financial education and counseling to victims of domestic and relationship violence in Washington, DC

WUMCO HELP, Poolesville, MD

\$5,000

To support emergency assistance for families and individuals for basic needs such as rent, utility bills, prescriptions and medical expenses