

## **MINI GRANT PROJECT INFORMATION**

Information from Saint Luke's Mission Partners describing what they will do with the \$2500 grant they are receiving from the proceeds of the 2021 Tartan Trot:

### **CAC (Community Assistance Center)**

CAC will reopen its south Sandy Springs Branch office in a new development on Northwood Drive to serve residents who live in that area and lack transportation to access services. We expect to serve about 500 households from this location. The space is under construction and is slated to open in March 2022. This branch office operation will offer a Food Pantry market in addition to financial assistance services, support for Youth, Adult Education classes. Funds are needed to equip the food pantry and offices; our total budget for Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment is \$47,000. The St. Luke's grant will be used to purchase desks and chairs for four offices which will be used by volunteers working with clients.

### **AIR (Alliance for International Reforestation)**

AIR is seeking funding to support construction of a new training center in Panajachel, Guatemala. This new training center will enable a significant expansion of our educational, reforestation, and regenerative farming programs that reduce malnutrition, improve the food security, and improve the environment for Maya farmers in the Departments of Sololá and Quiché. The Saint Luke's grant will be put towards this capital improvement project. A generous donor has pledged \$75,000 for a matching grant challenge. The SLPC grant will apply towards this challenge and the amount and its impact would be doubled.

The new training center is being constructed to help meet requests from Mayan communities in the three central "departments" (the equivalent of US states) that AIR serves. Requests for help currently exceed both our staff capacity and infrastructure/logistical capabilities. The new training center will be located closer to communities in Sololá and Quiché Departments than our current training center. AIR is actively expanding into these departments to meet requests from farmers and communities for our services. The new training center will provide much needed space to support a planned increase in our staff and to support the farmers, communities and schools in these departments. AIR already owns the land needed for the new training center. Grant and matching funds will be used to pay for the materials/supplies needed for the electrical systems, alarm system, and light fixtures, bringing light and energy to our new space.

### **Corners Outreach**

Last year Corners Outreach launched our economic development Leather Project to train and employ teens in making high-end custom leather products for the marketplace. To date, this project has produced over \$10,000 in revenue; we plan to grow this revenue to \$20,000 this year. In order to double our business this year, we must purchase new equipment, market our products more to consumers/companies, and train more teens in leather making. This mini-grant will

allow us to purchase more raw materials, (leather, custom boxes, hardware, etc.) equipment (tools) and create marketing materials to help drive the growth we want to see in 2022 to hire more students and generate more income (100% of the profits go back into the work of Corners) for the expanded work we will do with students across the community.

### **Family Promise**

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, there was an immediate wave of job losses, cut hours, and missed paychecks. The families depending on full paychecks to pay their bills immediately faced a crisis. Over the next few months, many experienced increasing bills, eviction, and then homelessness. Even when families were able to work again, they faced debt or evictions on their credit reports that disqualified them from housing. During this time Family Promise has worked hard on providing shelter for families within our partnering congregations, as well as working with other families in the community that we do not have the space in for. The \$2,500 grant from Saint Luke's will help us shelter families in hotels when the need arises. This would enable us to assist more families in our community with their credit scores and finding them more permanent housing.

### **IRC (International Rescue Committee)**

Of the approximately 1,700 Afghan humanitarian parolees that will be welcomed into the state of Georgia over the next 3-6 months, the IRC in Atlanta will resettle 800+ individuals, or approximately 50% of arrivals to the state. As of January 1, the IRC in Atlanta has already welcomed over 640 individuals (approximately 260% of the total number of refugees resettled by the IRC in Atlanta in the previous fiscal year). Critically, the current affordable housing crisis in metro Atlanta and across the nation poses a challenge to ensuring all newly arrived families have the opportunity to thrive. The IRC in Atlanta is committed to ensuring our Afghan allies have access to the financial and community resources they need. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, there is a shortage of 193,726 rental units available in the state of Georgia. Approximately 90% of humanitarian parolees arriving in Atlanta are being placed in short-term, temporary housing (a much more expensive undertaking) while the IRC's dedicated team of Logistics Specialists works to secure long-term housing solutions for these families. Currently, approximately 65% of families that have arrived since September 1, 2021 are now in permanent housing. The grant of \$2,500 from St. Luke's Presbyterian Church will allow the IRC in Atlanta to provide short-term housing assistance for up to 5 families (~\$500 per family) for up to one month until permanent housing is secured. The IRC in Atlanta sees first-hand that Atlanta's philanthropic community has its doors and hearts open to people seeking safety for their families. Together, we stand ready to welcome Afghan humanitarian parolees and other refugees from around the world and support them to integrate and thrive to make our communities – and our state – stronger.

## **Maji Mazuri**

Maji Mazuri will use the \$2,500 grant to establish a capital loan fund to support its Mavuno micro-finance members with small loans to boost and sustain their business. One year ago, Maji Mazuri started a Mavuno micro-finance project to support women and youth living in Mathare slums and who are part of Maji Mazuri program with financial support and training to enable them sustain their small business against the Covid-19 economic crisis.

The outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic led many governments across the world to adopt different measures to control the spread of the virus which included total lockdowns, restrictions of movements, call for people to work from home, night curfews, closure of learning institutions, closure of hotels and restaurants among others. Implementation of these measures has led to mass job losses especially in the unskilled and semi-skilled job groups. Small businesses have been greatly affected and most of them closed completely. Almost two years since the Covid-19 outbreak, many countries across the world and especially most developing countries have not lifted or eased the containment measures due to low vaccination rates in those countries. This continues to affect many livelihoods and especially those living in low-income zones such as urban slum centers. In response to the economic crisis, Maji Mazuri adopted different interventions to support our beneficiaries connected to our different projects in Mathare valley slums.

At the onset of the pandemic, we issued several rounds of food relief to our beneficiaries and the community at large. However, we realized this model was not sustainable and we adopted a microfinance model. Through the microfinance model, we identified women and youth who were struggling with their small business and brought them together under the Maji Mazuri Mavuno Micro-finance project to support them with small financial help and entrepreneurship training on how to boost and sustain their businesses. After coming together, the group started a weekly table banking and savings program with the aim of establishing a pool of funds where members can borrow small loans to boost their businesses.

One year since this program started, members' savings have grown to \$1986. 16 members have received loan support from the savings funds. More members have applied for loans support but the project is not able to issue them with loans immediately due to lack of funds. They have to wait for other members to pay their loans. This continues to affect their business growth. The micro-finance project has 45 members currently and there is an urgent need to boost the loan capital funds to create an opportunity for more members to access loan support. With the \$2,500 grant we hope to boost the loan capital funds and be able to issue loans to more members who have applied. This will give them an opportunity to strengthen their business and boost their growth to make them self-reliant and able to provide for their families without having to depend on handouts.

**MDM (Memorial Drive Ministries)**

MDM will use the grant money on tree management and landscaping that goes above and beyond our normal contract and budget for grounds care. MDM has recently identified \$23,600 worth of important landscaping and grounds work related work to the trees, flora, and landscape on our campus. We’ve already accomplished \$4,800 of this work in the removal of two trees that were threatening the property. And we’ve identified another \$4,500 worth of work we hope to do next: important canopy-raising, building clearance, and tree removal work (detailed below) that would help us protect our roofs, keep the campus safe, improve the welcoming aesthetic on campus, and be a good neighbor. This grant will enable us to move forward with this larger project.

Raise canopies to low hanging pine branches right side of parking lot
Building Clearance to right of the building in the back
Raise canopy and building clearance to water oak on left side of the main building
Building Clearance in courtyard
Remove Dead Dogwood in Turf in Front
Remove Catalpa tree in back
Remove leaning pine tree in playground
Remove declining and leaning pine tree in natural area on the right side as entering property due to tree showing signs of decay at the base.
Cut and drop dead Pine in Back Right Parking Lot in woods

**Mountain T.O.P.**

The mini-grant from Saint Luke’s will be used toward the costs associated with starting up a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO). ACHDO is a private nonprofit, community-based service organization that has obtained or intends to obtain staff with the capacity to develop affordable housing for the community it serves. No CHDO serves Grundy County, currently, and we feel that this is a significant resource gap in helping our community flourish. This CHDO would be under the umbrella of Mountain T.O.P. to build our capacity to develop affordable housing for our community. This grant would go towards start up costs, development costs, and administrative costs in the developing stages of this CHDO. We do not have a budget for this project yet, as it is our first time developing a CHDO and some costs are unknown. However, we are prepared to report in detail how the funding is used. It will ALL go toward the CHDO. Mountain T.O.P. promoted and developed a Housing Survey August-October of 2021 in partnership with Sweet Grass Consulting that has allowed us to better assess and understand the housing needs of our community. Data from the housing survey showed that if we consider the “doubled up” and “tripled up” households, Grundy County needs at least 660

more housing units to meet the basic needs of housing in our community. At Mountain T.O.P. we are working to evolve everyday to better meet the needs of our community, our staff, and our volunteers. Developing a CHDO is our next step.

### **IOH (Interfaith Outreach Home)**

More than 40 percent of working families living in Atlanta are liquid asset poor, meaning they do not have enough saved to cover three months of expenses at the poverty level. Even more alarming is that Black families are nearly three times more likely to live in liquid asset poverty than their white counterparts—many of whom are families with single, female heads of household who are also contending with gender pay disparities, inadequate workplace protections, and the high cost of childcare. When coupled with a lack of affordable housing throughout metro Atlanta, hardworking families are one step away from financial crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic tipped the scales for many living on the economic margins who unexpectedly lost income, experienced illness, or were confronted with medical bills that made paying off credit card debt, building savings, paying rent and utilities, or otherwise moving beyond day-to-day survival even more complicated and which can sometimes take generations to overcome.

These are the families to whom Interfaith Outreach Home opens its doors.

Building upon a legacy thirty years in the making, Interfaith Outreach Home is ready to secure its own future just as it has helped hundreds of Atlanta families do.

Our \$3.5 million HOPE LIVES HERE campaign—the first in our history—will enable us to:

- Purchase our 3.6-acre property on Buford Highway;
- Increase our capacity for housing and services by 50 percent; and
- Lay the foundation for our strategic growth so that we can continue to make deep, lasting impact while broadening the number of families we serve.

Together, these projects will help ensure Interfaith Outreach Home's presence in northeast Atlanta for decades to come so that families achieve financial independence and never experience homelessness again. Saint Luke's grant will go toward this capital campaign.

### **Thornwell**

Thornwell will use the grant from Saint Luke's to provide specialized training for 23 staff members. The grant funds will cover the Developmental, Trauma and Attachment Program (DTAP) training from the Knowledge Center at Chaddock. This is a one-time special project that provides necessary training to staff to deliver the residential program effectively. Chaddock is an affiliate member of the National Children Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) and has demonstrated its expertise in using DTAP approaches to address attachment issues and trauma disorders.

Thornwell has key staff in place who are qualified to oversee effective implementation and long-term operations. As new staff are hired, Thornwell will be able to train them in the model without continuing to access training support from Craddock.

Thornwell continues to serve children who have experienced foster care and/or are in an adoptive home and need support. All have endured trauma, abuse/neglect or both. In 2021 South Carolina fully adopted the Family First Prevention Services Act, which was a significant overhaul of child welfare systems and federal child welfare financing. This act seeks to curtail the use of congregate or group care of children and places an increased emphasis on community-based family foster homes.

As an organization with both residential and foster care services, Thornwell recognized the need to adapt to these changes while also embracing its options to remain relevant in residential care and provide programs that meet the needs of children and families. Thornwell's Residential program transitioned, offering services to more private referrals and enhancing residential services to offer a more specialized setting designed specifically for children who experienced early abuse/neglect and, as a result, are struggling in their adoptive or relative caregiver placement.

Many adoptive families receive little or no training on the long-term impacts of trauma prior to adoption and may not be prepared for the realities of parenting children from hard places. Many families find themselves struggling to manage the complex needs and challenging behaviors that their adoptive child is exhibiting. The resulting stress and impact to their family life can be significant. Some feel they have no choice but to dissolve the adoption and place the child back into the foster care system.

Thornwell is seeing to intervene prior to adoption disruption and provide residential services that address the full family system. While in residence at Thornwell, children receive specialized care and clinical services. Families experience a period of respite and reduced household stress, while actively engaging parenting support/training, family therapy, and transitional services to reunify the child and reintegrate him/her back into family life.

Engaging Chaddock in a training and consultation partnership will equip Thornwell to successfully pivot its Residential program model to serving adoptive and relative caregiver families seeking a therapeutic intervention focused on reunification and family cohesion. Following completion of the work with Chaddock, Thornwell expects that the care provided to children in Thornwell's Residential Program will be fully trauma-informed and attachment focused.