

Basic Needs:

The Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County:

The Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County provides food to approximately 97 member nonprofit organizations that feed the hungry in Stamford, Norwalk, Darien and surrounding areas. Hunger continues to be a significant concern for many people in lower Fairfield County and the Food Bank plays a vital role in addressing hunger issues in our community.

New Covenant Center:

The mission of New Covenant Center is to provide basic living items and services, combined with longer-term solutions that focus on self-sufficiency to those in need. Over the last 38 years, NCC has evolved to be one of the largest soup kitchens in Connecticut and the only one in the Stamford area that is open 365 days per year, providing three meals daily. It also operates one of the largest food pantries in the state and the largest in Stamford. With its recent move to a larger facility in Stamford, NCC is executing on a strategic plan to include program components that address a broader range of basic needs, with the aim of helping those it serves overcome both food and economic insecurity. These programs include human services (Barber Shop and Shower Facility), job skills programs, life coaching, basic medical care, and immigration consultation.

Open Door Shelter:

Open Door Shelter (ODS) provides food, shelter, case management services and support for homeless individuals and those living in poverty in the Greater Norwalk area. In addition to providing basic needs, ODS provides access to community resources for those in crisis, physical and mental health support, instruction for homeless children and parent education. Open Door Shelter assists many individuals to move into subsidized housing and to improve their education and employment opportunities as a path towards increased independence and success.

Pacific House:

As the only regional shelter for men in the four town areas of Greenwich, Darien, Stamford and New Canaan, Pacific House is requesting funding to support the operational costs associated with their 24/7 emergency shelter and case management services. Pacific House, formerly named Shelter For The Homeless, served 386 clients in their Emergency Shelter and provided 21,077 shelter stays in the prior year. As they strive to end chronic homelessness utilizing the Housing First model, some funds will go to develop additional deeply affordable housing, to support transition of clients from shelter to tenancy.

Person-to-Person:

Person-to-Person (P2P) assists low-income families and individuals in meeting food and clothing needs and provides emergency assistance for basic necessities as individuals and families move toward stability. P2P is requesting financial support for its Emergency Assistance Program which provides a one-time funding grant (generally up to \$500, occasionally up to \$1,000) to help families deal with situational crises (e.g. utility bills, rent, security deposits etc) in the hopes of providing stability. P2P caseworkers assist clients through direct grants, budget counseling, referrals to other non-profit agencies, and advocacy with governmental agencies. P2P offers other programs to achieve its mission of stabilizing families such as campership and scholarships programs.

Youth Success:

Carver:

The Carver Foundation of Norwalk's provides after school, summer and community programs to help disadvantaged students in Norwalk graduate on time, college-ready and to become lifetime achievers. Carver has requested funding for its after-school Youth Development Program which compliments the regular school day learning for disadvantaged middle and high school students and is led by certified teachers from the students' respective schools. Funds will also be used for the Summer Enrichment Program which offers academic, enrichment and wellness programming through structured activities that stem the loss of academic gains made during the school year.

Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield County:

The Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield County (CGCMFC) is a safety net for thousands of children, adolescents, and families in our community that desperately need outpatient behavioral health services, but are unable to afford private treatment. Their mission is to ensure all children with mental and behavioral health needs achieve emotional stability, academic success, and happy and productive lives. A grant from The Community Fund would be used to support their Outpatient Children's Clinic (OPCC). Individual, family, and group therapies are offered to children experiencing symptoms of a wide variety of behavioral health disorders, including but not limited to depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and ADHD. Without TCF assistance, OPCC would be unable to afford a clinician which translates to lost services for 50 patients and over 1,000 hours of therapy.

Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut:

Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut (CGCSC) provides outpatient mental health diagnostic, assessment and treatment services to children (ages 0-18) and their families in the greater Stamford area regardless of their ability to pay or other barriers (i.e., language, cultural). Services fall into three categories: 1) crisis programs (including EMPS), 2) specialized treatment programs and 3) prevention programs. CGCSC provides a vital and largely unduplicated health and human service need in western Fairfield County. In particular, the Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services (EMPS) program is the only one of its kind in the area and provides an urgent, essential, and life-saving service to the community.

Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County:

Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County (CLC) provides comprehensive, high quality early childhood education in order to close the achievement gap between lower income preschoolers and their higher income peers. CLC offers Child Development, Head Start, Early Head Start and School Readiness programs to children from infancy through kindergarten. CLC serves over 1000 children each year. The majority of children attend for a minimum of 7 hours/day and are provided with daily meals. Sixty-eight percent of CLC children come from families where English is not the primary language.

Family and Children's Agency:

FCA requested funding to support its ASPIRE after-school program, which has a strong dual focus on academics and social-emotional skill building for at-risk youth from sixth through twelfth grade. The program runs out of Norwalk Community College for approximately 80 students. While ASPIRE's most intensive work is done during middle school years, the program is in its second year offering students structured supports throughout high school. In alignment with TCF's "Youth

Success” funding goal, ASPIRE’s longitudinal programming aims to empower at-risk youth to graduate high school ready for college or a career.

Family Centers:

Family Centers provides a continuum of physical, mental and dental services to youth from low-income families in the surrounding communities through their School Based Health Centers (SBHCs). The six on-site health centers serve eight schools in Stamford. Family Center’s funding request is to help SBHCs provide their community-based mental and physical health services to youth from financially challenged families, to ensure that all members of the Stamford public school community can access the counseling and health services regardless of financial limitations.

Inspirica:

Inspirica has a clearly defined mission to break the cycle of homelessness by helping people achieve - and maintain - permanent housing and stability in their lives. Inspirica addresses both the residential aspect of homelessness by providing shelter and supportive housing, but also offers comprehensive integrated services to address the reasons a person becomes homeless. Inspirica is investing in support services for homeless children as the most effective way to stop the intergenerational cycle of homelessness. Inspirica is requesting funding for its Children's Services Program, which includes foundational, educational, psychological and after-school support for children 0-18 years of age. This support allows children to develop emotionally, academically and socially in line with their peers.

Kids in Crisis:

Kids in Crisis’ mission is to protect infants, children, and teens from abuse, neglect, and family crisis. It is the only program in the State of Connecticut that provides 24/7/365 crisis intervention, counseling and emergency shelter, free of charge, to children ages newborn to 17. Kids in Crisis is asking TCF for help fund the Safe Haven for Kids program. This program is the only one in Connecticut to offer onsite health services and the ability to house dual gender siblings.

STAR, Inc. Lighting the Way:

STAR serves individuals of all ages who have Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities and provides support services to their families. This year’s grant supports STAR’s Rubino Family Center, which provides early intervention services in the Birth to Three (B23) program. State data indicates that 100% of children who were part of STAR’s program “reduced the gap” in their development when compared to same-aged peers; 93.1% of STAR’s children “caught up” to same-aged peers (exceeding the state target of 59%). A TCF grant will help cover professional therapists (additional hours not covered by state funding) and related travel costs to provide the intensity of services needed for children to enter school on track developmentally.

The Depot:

The Depot’s mission is to build resilient youth and an engaged community. The Depot is a collaborative youth center where community needs are addressed with staff supported guidance, programming by youth, and parent education. Requested funds will be used to support The Depot’s youth programs and parent programs in support of youth, with particular focus on those that address: drug and alcohol use, mental health, and healthy relationships.

Self-Sufficiency:

Abilis:

Abilis provides people with developmental disabilities and their families in Lower Fairfield County, CT with support and advocacy for building lives and strong communities. Abilis has been a leader in serving the special needs community for almost 65 years and provides services to over 700 individuals and their families from birth throughout their life span. This year, Abilis requests funding to cover approximately 40% of the cost to hire and train one additional job coach that will increase the competitive employment opportunities for clients.

Americares Free Clinics:

Americares Free Clinics (AFC) operates four free health care clinics in Norwalk, Danbury, Bridgeport and Stamford. Their mission is to provide free quality health care (including medication, diagnostic tests and specialty visits) to low-income, uninsured community residents in clean, safe and professional environment where they are treated with respect. Doctors work on a voluntary basis and diagnostic testing, radiology and laboratory services are 100% free due to AFC's highly-tuned relationships with hospitals and the local medical community. AFC also provides prevention programs (Diabetes Prevention, Asthma Management) in an effort to educate patients in self-care with the goal of preventing illnesses. The Norwalk clinic sees approximately 750 patients a year (approx. 3400 visits) and is currently operating at near capacity. It is the only AFC clinic which has weekly pediatric clinic sessions. The requested grant will support operating expenses, including salaries, patient medication, and malpractice insurance (to cover volunteer medical personnel) at the Norwalk location.

Building One Community:

Building One Community's mission is to bring passionate people together to help immigrants and their families succeed in the community. Their framework to educate, empower, employ and engage is designed to propel immigrant clients along the path to economic self-sufficiency. Our grant funds BIC's job preparation programs, such as its comprehensive English as a Second Language program and its Worker Center program, which teach skills clients need to earn a living wage.

Domestic Violence Crisis Center:

The Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC) requests funding to support the SustainAbility CT (iACT) initiative. To help facilitate the transition from crisis to safety, iACT assists DVCC clients with employment, achieving financial security, and securing safe and affordable housing. iACT accomplishes this by providing clients one-on-one work with a DVCC advocate who helps navigate issues such as housing, bank accounts, insurance policies, telephone bills, etc. The grant would enable DVCC to cover the costs associated with legal services, reach more clients, and fund a third safe house to meet short term (up to 90 days) housing for critical situations.

Domus:

The 2017 TCF grant will support Domus' Work and Learn Employment program. The Work and Learn program provides paid job-skills training to unemployed youth ages 16-23 in several areas including bicycle repair, small engine repair, woodworking, café/coffee shop setting and restaurant kitchen. The program serves "disconnected, disengaged" youth who have struggled in, or been rejected by, other social services programs. Many of the program's participants have had involvement with the criminal justice system. The goal of the program is to provide the youth it

serves with the skills needed to earn a livable wage through employment.

Elderhouse:

Elderhouse is an adult day-care center providing medical care and socialization to older adults with age-related disabilities and chronic illnesses like Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease. Funds from The Community Fund of Darien will help provide adult day services to 90 elderly seniors and support services to their caretakers, and help subsidize the cost of care for low income seniors. These services enable seniors to remain living at home in stable environments.

Laurel House:

Laurel House provides critical services to improve the lives of people living with mental illness. Laurel House's grant will request help fund the salary for a part-time Youth Resource Specialist for its Resources to Recover program (RtoR.org). RtoR.org is a unique, privately-funded, free resource that includes listings of family-endorsed mental health providers in the local area, used to quickly connect clients and families to appropriate resources. Through RtoR.org, the Resource Specialist can also be contacted for personalized assistance and advice. Laurel House has seen a huge growth in requests for help for young adults (ages 16-33). Laurel House reports that RtoR.org, and the advice provided by its Resource Specialist, have "literally saved lives."

Liberation Programs:

Liberation Programs, Inc. (LPI) provides comprehensive treatment for individuals dealing with substance abuse and addiction, as well as integrated support for mental health problems, fulfilling a vital need in our community. Services include outpatient and inpatient programs, special services for older adults and people living with HIV/AIDS, permanent supportive housing, and education and prevention activities. LPI will use the grant to fund a second part-time psychiatric Advanced Practice Registered Nurse who provides psychiatric evaluations and medical management for both the outpatient and inpatient programs. In FY 2016, the organization served over 2,200 unduplicated individuals, including 426 individuals in its mental health program.

The Center for Sexual Assault and Crisis Counseling and Education

The Center's mission is to provide counseling and support services to victims of sexual assault and to eliminate sexual violence through community-wide age-appropriate prevention education programs. The Center's K-12 prevention education program aims to reach youth in order to both raise awareness and to prevent victimization. This funding will support the Sexual Violence Prevention Education Programs in the town of Darien.