



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The Healthcare Initiative Foundation Funds \$60,000 to Montgomery County Nonprofits

The Healthcare Initiative Foundation Awards \$60,000 to impact #7,500 Montgomery County residents as they access physical healthcare, mental health services, and social service programs.

Montgomery County, MD – June 26, 2020 – In June 2020, the Healthcare Initiative Foundation (HIF) invested \$60,000 in #9 Montgomery County nonprofit organizations that will help to offer solutions to improve the quality and delivery of healthcare in the county. HIF's grants support behavioral health access across the lifespan; access to quality and comprehensive health and wellness services; sustainable integrated business models for safety-net services; sustainable service delivery systems and safety-net services; and the growth of a highly skilled and culturally competent healthcare workforce. HIF is excited to be able to partner with such spectacular organizations representing the very best of Montgomery County's nonprofit community.

These nine nonprofits represent a wide variety of health and wellness services that have been uniquely adapted to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the movement for race equity and social justice. To this end, approximately, 46% of the investments are supporting behavioral health for adults and children as we all work to respond to the overwhelming trauma that has impacted our community.

Lynn Arndt, Executive Director of BlackRock Center for the Arts, one of the small grant recipients shares, "Every week, the Upcounty Consolidation HUB at BlackRock provides food, diapers, hygiene kits, and essential items to hundreds of the most vulnerable families in Upper Montgomery County. HIF understands the needs of these families who have been disproportionately impacted by the virus and the power of collaboration. HIF's early support of the HUB through this grant was essential to the creation of the HUB. We are just one example of how the foundation makes our community better every day."

Behavioral Health Across the Lifespan: \$27,500 investment to impact #151 individuals

- **Boys Town Washington, D.C. - \$15,000** Provide a Child Psychologist to begin comprehensive psychological evaluations and assessments of #50 children with increased telehealth capabilities.

- **Identity - \$10,000** Provide accessible group therapy sessions to #36 parent, family, and/or caregivers at three Upcounty Montgomery County schools to increase life-skills management of anxiety, isolation, and self-care practice.
- **NAMI Montgomery County - \$2,500** Provide #65 Montgomery County residents affected by mental health conditions with free peer-led support through Connection Recovery Support groups and Peer-to-Peer class as a response to the increased mental health needs initiated by COVID-19.

Access to Quality and Comprehensive Health and Wellness Services: \$22,500 investment to impact #3,862 individuals

- **Germantown HELP - \$5,000** Provide necessary food items and delivery to #3200 emergency food clients whose needs have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Spirit Club Foundation - \$5,000** Host regular online fitness and yoga classes for #60 Montgomery County youth with disabilities who are unable to attend their usual classes due to COVID-19 through a partnership with KEEN (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now).
- **Vikara Village - \$10,000** Provide low-cost alternative to traditional mental health treatments through trauma-informed Body Love Yoga program that promotes a healthy sense of self #600 to middle and high school youth.
- **Shared Horizons, Inc. - \$2,500** Provide financial support for #2 Montgomery County families who have a need for a specific medical device, equipment, or therapeutic support that is not otherwise covered by other programs, such as Medicaid.

Sustainable Integrated Business Models for Safety-net Services: \$5,000 investment to impact #3,500 individuals

- **BlackRock Center for the Arts: \$5,000** Provide operational support for the coordination of the Upcounty Consolidation Hub to serve #3500 individuals and their households by providing food and fresh produce, household items, COVID-19 quarantine kits, diapers, and more.

Culturally Competent Healthcare Workforce: \$5,000 investment to impacted #36 individuals

- **Urban Alliance - \$5,000** Serve #36 Montgomery County Public School seniors through the High School Internship Program (HSIP). The program includes a 6-week workforce readiness bootcamp, mentorship, a Public Speaking Challenge, and long-term employment goal planning and will be available virtually to allow for accessibility.

HIF supports organizations, within our geographic and focus area, that improve the quality and delivery of healthcare, expand the availability of comprehensive healthcare, build appropriate capacity in the healthcare network, and grow the healthcare workforce for Montgomery County residents. To learn more, please visit our website at www.hifmc.org and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hifmc.

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If you would like more information about this topic or the Healthcare Initiative Foundation's grant priorities, please contact Jess Fuchs at Jess.Fuchs@hifmc.org or 240-499-2827.