



Community
FOUNDATION

for the
Central Savannah
River Area

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE CSRA

Augusta, GA, December 3, 2021—

The Board of Directors of **The Community Foundation for the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA)** is **pleased to announce the 2022 Community Grants Award recipients, comprised of 50 deserving area nonprofit agencies that will receive grants totaling more than \$626,000.**

These grants are made available through the Foundation's *Community Grants Fund*, which is primarily supported by the **Masters Tournament. Since 1997, the fund has awarded over 865 grants totaling more than \$11.2 million to nonprofits throughout the CSRA.**

The *Community Grants Fund* is unrestricted, meaning the Foundation has great flexibility in awarding grants to address needs in Richmond, Columbia, McDuffie, and Burke counties in Georgia, and Aiken and Edgefield counties in South Carolina. Each of the 50 nonprofit agencies meets pressing and evolving needs in the community and enriches lives through service across education, youth enrichment, health, the environment, arts, culture, and history, as well as assistance for people in need.

This year's Community Grants process included 157 dedicated community volunteers, who reviewed applications, conducted site visits, and brought recommendations to the Grants Committee of the Foundation's Board of Directors. The volunteers ranked their reviewed organizations such that the top organization received full funding and the second organization received 75% of their grant request.

The Community Foundation for the CSRA is also pleased to announce the continuation of the Literacy Initiative, a grant program which began in January 2019. This initiative funds and convenes a group of agencies that provide literacy programming and wrap-around services to reduce barriers to learning from birth to adulthood in the Harrisburg neighborhood. Due to the successful outcomes from the initial three-year commitment, the Board of Directors has approved the continuation of the program as well as an expansion of the work into the Laney Walker neighborhood.

The 2022 Community Grant Award recipients are as follows:

Aiken Area Council on Aging, Inc. – \$11,250

Aiken Area Council on Aging, Inc., also known as Aiken Senior Life Services, meets the growing demands of the aging population, ensuring seniors remain connected, nourished, and cognitively stimulated so they can age gracefully in place. Through the Congregate Dining Program, seniors have the opportunity to create friendships while enjoying guest speakers, crafts, stimulating games, fun exercises, and educational opportunities in addition to a hot meal. These funds will finance the planning and start-up costs for a new Congregate Dining meal site in North Augusta. This site will also include both visual art and music activities.

Aiken Music Festival dba Joye in Aiken – \$11,250

Aiken Music Festival collaborates with artists from The Juilliard School to provide free outreach to underserved schools and disadvantaged students. The Festival and Outreach Program will engage approximately 32 Juilliard-trained artists who will provide free live outreach and produce free virtual lessons and provide transportation to the free Kidz Bop and Young People's Concerts for students. They will also provide scholarships to the Jazz Camp for students who would otherwise be unable to attend for financial reasons.

American Red Cross of East Central Georgia – \$11,250

The American Red Cross provides critical assistance and resources to service members, veterans, and their families through the Service to the Armed Forces (SAF) Program. Deployments, emergencies, physical and mental injuries create a unique set of needs that are supported by integrated services such as emergency communications, mental health support, workshops, and referrals. This grant will support these programs by providing service members with 24-hour access to the Red Cross during times of family emergencies, access to mental health and safety courses, healthcare, job training, volunteer opportunities, and material assistance.

Apparo Academy – \$11,250

Apparo Academy uses multiple therapy services to assist children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, physiological disorders, muscular dystrophy, speech and language disorders, and many other diagnoses. Children are able to receive services to support language and motor development regardless of insurance payment or the family's ability to pay. These funds will be used to offset the costs of speech, language, physical and occupational therapy expenses that are uncovered by insurance, to make services more affordable for families.

Augusta Boxing Club – \$11,250

Augusta Boxing Club, with assistance from local law enforcement agencies, is an after-school, community support organization with a goal to curtail drug abuse and crime among young adults and children. Coaches who have also been through the program, return to teach youth how to box, how to handle diversity, and how to be a leader, but most importantly, basic life skills to be successful in school, at home, and in life. The funds will be used to provide scholarships for existing youth and allow new low-income youth to enroll in the program.

Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, Inc. – \$11,100

The Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, Inc., supports the work of the Augusta Canal Authority providing for the preservation, education, conservation, recreation, and economic development activities protecting over 2,000 acres and 25 miles of land and water trails. With the increase in trail visitors, there is a great responsibility to promote clean and healthy recreational use to preserve and conserve the Heritage Area Trail System and water sources. Funds will be used to purchase and install Pet Waste Stations along the Augusta Canal trails and purchase a workboat to use for maintenance in the water.

Augusta Jewish Museum, Inc. – \$15,000

The Augusta Jewish Museum is a center for learning that collects, preserves, and interprets the rich evidence of the Jewish experience in Augusta and will educate, challenge, and inspire audiences of all ages and backgrounds. The Museum has the extraordinary opportunity to display two irreplaceable artifacts from the Holocaust: The Holocaust Survivor Torah and the Concentration Camp Liberators Flag. This grant will provide custom-built display cases with appropriate lighting, security features, and supporting interpretive materials to include descriptive panels, interactive touch screens, and audio listening stations.

Augusta Locally Grown – \$14,750

Augusta Locally grown is dedicated to growing the local foods community throughout the Central Savannah River Area. They are committed to the idea that a community is healthiest when it feeds itself. They accomplish this through farmer's markets and educational programming. The Fresh Food To You (FF2U) program offers 12 pop-up markets in the Laney Walker and Harrisburg communities to increase fresh food access and awareness. Funds will be used to offset costs associated with the FF2U program.

Augusta Mini Theatre, Inc. – \$15,000

Augusta Mini Theatre enriches the educational and ethical development of local youth by fostering critical thinking, social consciousness, and personal development through affordable fine arts instruction, performances, and workshops. Program instruction is infused with life skills training which includes such important skills training as determination, dependability, cooperation, communication, self-esteem, self-and other-awareness, and the importance of education. Funds will help with equipment expenses, dancewear/shoes for class and costumes for recitals, class supplies, and props and materials for performances.

Augusta Rescue Mission, Inc. – \$6,750

Augusta Rescue Mission is committed to breaking the cycle of homelessness in Augusta. The Mission has been the source of shelter for many homeless men, providing safe haven, life skills classes, work details, job readiness, one-on-one personal coaching, budget accountability, and peace of mind as they begin the process of rebuilding their lives--all at no cost to the client. These funds will be spent on various forms of materials, curriculum, databases, and training resources for life skills and job-readiness programs.

Augusta Technical College Foundation – \$9,000

Augusta Technical College Foundation raises and allocates resources to support Augusta Technical College in carrying out its mission of excellence in workforce education that leads to the career advancement of its students. Students with disabilities often have difficulty performing activities that many able-bodied students can perform. This grant will be used to purchase assistive technology for students with disabilities to enable students to perform tasks they were formerly unable to accomplish or had great difficulty accomplishing.

Augusta Training Shop – \$15,000

Augusta Training Shop offers permanent, long-term employment, for disabled adults. The employees, referred to as Artisans, are trained in a variety of skills that foster creativity in a range of methods and teach good work habits customized to match their skill set. This funding will provide Artisans with the necessary materials needed to improve their product development, create purchasable goods made in-house, and attend the Atlanta Market.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Augusta – \$15,000

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Augusta's Great Futures Academy is an evidence-based holistic strategy that supports student learning, intended to complement and reinforce what youth learn during the school day while creating experiences that invite them to fall in love with learning. To help youth remediate lost learning because of remote or hybrid school situations and/or compromised connectivity or technology

access, Clubs will use Tutors and Certified Teachers to focus on academic outcomes that build upon the school day, as well as support kids during summer months to maintain previous gains. Funds will support learning loss recovery and other critical needs of youth brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Funds will be used for expenses associated with program staffing, program supplies and incentives, and transportation costs.

Burn Foundation of America – \$9,375

Burn Foundation of America provides assistance to burn patients being treated at the JMS Burn Center to help them successfully heal and transition back to their home community with the support of their families close by. In addition, they assist patients upon their discharge with services related to their return to independent living, medication, anti-scarring garments, and transportation for follow-up visits. Funds will be used to provide direct patient services for uninsured and underinsured burn patients and provide support services to their families so the patient may experience a full recovery.

Child Enrichment, Inc. – \$15,000

Child Enrichment, Inc.'s, Child Advocacy Center (CAC) addresses the needs of sexually and severely physically abused children by providing a healthy approach to mental health development. To recover from abuse and become productive, self-sufficient citizens and leaders of our society, and most importantly, break the cycle of abuse, children must have resources available to them. The CAC provides and coordinates comprehensive intervention, stabilization, advocacy, and prevention in the best interest of abused, abandoned, and neglected children. This grant will be used to assist with costs associated with individual and group counseling services, professional training and community education and awareness, therapy materials, and forensic interview materials.

CSRA Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc. \$11,250

The CSRA Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc.'s Sibley Permanent Supportive Housing Project allows participants an opportunity to access health care, obtain mainstream benefits, and seek employment all while receiving intensive case management and other supportive services. The Village at Sibley Street, houses seven chronically homeless individuals with a documented disability, in safe, stable housing. Funds will be used to cover costs associated with utilities and building and ground maintenance for the units.

East Georgia State College– \$14,780

The East Georgia State College transforms and enhances the lives of the student population by providing educational opportunities, financial support, and advocacy for students. A mobile biology lab will allow East Georgia State College to offer college-level biology classes and increase educational opportunities at local high schools. This grant will be used to purchase the required equipment and non-perishable items to perform required labs.

Family Counseling Center of the CSRA – \$15,000

The Family Counseling Center of the CSRA offers counseling and support services to individuals, families, and couples, regardless of their ability to pay. The Fee-for-Service Donations Program allows them to reduce barriers to receiving counseling for those who may otherwise not seek counseling due to the cost. Funds will be used to support ongoing expenses associated with maintaining these therapy programs.

Family YMCA of Greater Augusta – \$11,250

The Family YMCA of Greater Augusta is a cause-driven organization focused on youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. The YMCA's Safety Around Water (SAW) provides a program for youth to learn essential water safety skills at no cost to the participants or their families. This grant will offset the costs associated with running and maintaining the SAW program.

Foundation for Public Schools in Edgefield County – \$15,000

The Foundation for Public Schools in Edgefield County is dedicated to providing resources to improve and enhance the educational opportunities available to all Edgefield County students. The Teacher's Vision Grants (TVG) program provides funds for teachers to improve the classroom experience for students in K-12 grades. This grant will be used to fund requests for materials or technology from teachers.

Foundation of Wesley Woods – \$11,250

Wesley Woods (St. John Towers) provides a compassionate pastoral care program, robust wellness programming, and charitable assistance for housing and meals for older adults regardless of income. St. John Towers offers independent living and personal care settings with 50 percent of its apartments being home to seniors of very limited means who receive HUD rental subsidies. Funds will be used to help pay the contract fee for the wellness nurse, giving low-income senior residents a consistent source of healthcare guidance.

Gap Ministries of Augusta, Inc. – \$15,000

GAP Ministries of Augusta addresses the needs of the homeless and working poor to ensure that those in need are given the proper tools and resources to fill their need. The lack of tools and resources individuals have to meet their own basic needs and the basic needs of their families can have a detrimental effect on the mental health and wellness of an individual. This grant will assist clients in obtaining birth certificates, photo IDs or driver licenses, needed medications, or diapers through the food pantry "diaper bank".

Georgia Foundation for Agriculture – \$5,900

Georgia Foundation for Agriculture's Georgia Ag Experience program is a unique STEM-based educational program that invites students to explore the vast opportunities in agriculture. They travel to schools and organizations with their 36-foot mobile classroom, allowing third through fifth-grade students a chance to utilize technology and digital learning so they can take a deep dive into different Georgia agricultural products and learn about potential careers. This grant will be used to support operational expenses to keep costs low for schools and organizations.

Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia – \$11,250

Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia's Direct Delivery Program is delivered to at-risk during the school year and over the summer, at schools and community centers. Girls earn badges, complete Journeys (research and curriculum-based guidebooks), and do service projects building skills that will help them succeed in school: confidence, resourceful problem-solving, teamwork, decision-making, healthy relationships, and peaceful conflict resolution skills. Funds will be used for materials and other program resources that support ongoing programs, and scholarships that allow low-income girls to participate fully in Girl Scout programs and camps.

Helping Hands, Inc. – \$14,850

Helping Hands is an emergency home for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, abandonment, and/or neglect. For the past nine years, youth from low-income households have benefited from job placement and year-round instruction which addresses getting and maintaining employment. Funds will provide job readiness training, job placement, and out-of-school time instruction allowing participants to get work experience.

Heritage Academy, Inc. – \$11,250

Heritage Academy is a leader in urban education delivering a rigorous education while shaping a child's spirit and character. The Heritage Early Learning Academy provides an engaging educational and caregiving experience to children of diverse backgrounds, that will include innovative interactions, superb

safety, and a creative curriculum. These funds will be used to help bridge the gap for low-income families to attend the Heritage Early Learning Academy.

Historic Augusta, Inc. – \$11,250

Historic Augusta advocates for historic preservation as a significant economic development tool and provides technical assistance to property owners seeking to rehabilitate historic buildings and applying for incentive programs such as state and federal certified rehabilitation tax credits. Funds will be used to offset expenses associated with the organization's technical assistance support for property owners, educational programming, and responsive advocacy for historic sites and structures.

Hope House, Inc. – \$15,000

Hope House strives to instill self-sufficiency in individuals and families through comprehensive treatment to end the cycle of substance misuse, untreated mental illness, and poverty. The Therapeutic Childcare program is designed to break the cycle of substance use in each family at Hope House through tutoring, early literacy training, gross motor skills development, and prevention for children affected by substance use, homelessness, and poverty. This grant will provide funding for an additional qualified childcare staff member to meet the needs of these children.

iCare4, Inc – \$15,000

iCare serves women and children who are victimized by sexual exploitation as well as those who are at risk of being victimized. Approximately 60 percent of iCare clients struggle with access to services due to unreliable, unsafe, or no transportation. This grant will help purchase a van with low mileage to transport clients so they may receive medical and mental health services, education, and job training services.

Jud C. Hickey Center for Alzheimer's Care – \$10,000

The Jud C. Hickey Center for Alzheimer's Care provides adult day support, care, and programming to individuals who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia. They combat the effects of Alzheimer's with a full host of programs designed to stimulate the brain, a safe environment that caregivers can trust, and a staff who loves your family members as you do. Length of stay or usage of services may vary dramatically by person, health, season, or disease progression. This grant will support a financial assistance program to ensure services are available to all individuals who are experiencing dementia or Alzheimer's Disease.

Kids Restart, Inc. – \$11,250

Kids Restart, Inc. provides a voice for abused and neglected children in the Augusta Judicial Circuit with services designed to strengthen the family bond and allow the parent to complete the goals necessary to have custody returned to them and allow the child or children to return into the home. Parents learn how to positively interact with their children, learn non-harmful discipline techniques, provide children a safe place to survive and thrive in a safe and secure environment and help parents remain drug and alcohol-free. The grant money will cover costs associated with the provision of supervised visitation, parenting classes, drug screens, and support groups/classes that increase the parents' skills. The goal is to create an environment where children may safely go home and stay out of foster care.

Marty Turcios Therapeutic Golf Clinic – \$11,250

Marty Turcios Therapeutic Golf Clinic provides therapeutic recreation, usually in the form of golf, to anyone with a severe disability, at no cost to the participants using the latest high-tech adaptive equipment and therapy. Many wheelchair riders have become free-standing golfers over days, weeks, or decades of participation, depending upon their injury. This grant will be used to cover cart and green fees, equipment costs, and other expenses associated with providing free access and therapy for people with disabilities and those in need of healing recreation therapy.

Morris Museum of Art – \$3,780

Morris Museum of Art's program, "Morris Cares", provides palliative art-centered projects to young patients who represent a wide range of learning styles, physical limitations, and/or chronic health conditions. Morris Museum of Art's educators and administrators actively collaborate with the Child Life Specialist at the Children's Hospital of Georgia to provide services to children in the long-term care unit. This grant will assist in program expansion and upgrades for art supplies and adaptive tools to allow children with acute disabilities to fully participate alongside their peers.

Old Fella Burke County Animal Rescue – \$11,250

Old Fella Burke County Animal Rescue strives to reduce the number of homeless companion animals in Burke County by providing spay and neuter surgeries and by raising community awareness about responsible pet ownership. Their services help reduce the number of stray animals and solve an important public health problem of having inhumanely tethered unsterilized dogs pose a significant threat for diseases such as rabies, ringworm, and toxoplasmosis, as well as a public safety issue with the prevention of dog bites. The grant will help with costs associated with rabies vaccinations, spaying, and neutering of cats and dogs, and for the transportation of animals to no-kill shelter partners in the North where animals are adopted.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Center – \$15,000

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Center identifies and responds to the unmet needs of the community in the Horse Creek Valley and other areas of Aiken County. In partnership with other local organizations, they deliver on a monthly basis needed food, clothing, and personal hygiene items to local seasonal farmworkers, allowing farmworkers to save money to support their families. The funds will be used to purchase and maintain a used box truck to ensure deliveries are made regularly.

Phinizy Center for Water Sciences – \$13,500

Phinizy Center provides leadership to balance sustainable watersheds and economic vitality through solutions-based research, education, and public involvement. An increase in park visitors has caused an increase in the amount of trash that makes its way into Phinizy Swamp. This grant will be used to install two outdoor ADA compliant water bottle refill stations that will also serve as a water fountain and dog bowl fountain. An educational sign will be mounted next to the stations to make it a self-led educational program for park visitors.

Project Refresh Inc – \$15,000

Project Refresh Inc. believes that access to a refreshing shower and hygiene is a basic human right no one should be denied. They provide mobile showers to individuals in an effort to overcome challenges, improve quality of life, and the ability to ultimately transition through homelessness. Funds will be spent on the truck and trailer-related fees, utilities, supplies, and other operational costs associated with providing mobile showers.

Reach Out and Read Georgia – \$15,000

Reach Out and Read Georgia empowers parents to read more often with their children, so children gain early foundational language skills and enter school with books in their homes, prepared to excel, and supported by highly engaged parents. In partnership with local medical providers, they provide instruction and educational materials to new parents along with children's books that help educate them on the importance of reading to children from an early age. These funds will be used to purchase books and other literacy materials for partner sites.

ReStart Augusta Inc. – \$15,000

ReStart Augusta provides beds to those living in low-income households, who do not have a bed and cannot afford to buy one. Low-income households struggle to meet basic needs such as beds and children in these households are subject to being placed in foster care if they do not have a bed. This grant will be spent on materials to build bed frames and purchase bedding for approximately 250 beds.

Rise Augusta – \$15,000

RISE Augusta strives to create a culture of success and expectation that every student - no matter the personal circumstance - deserves the opportunity to be engaged, motivated, and prepared to have a viable 21st-century career path. Working alongside school staff, RISE site coordinators identify struggling students in danger of failing or dropping out. Site coordinators then assess their needs and provide integrated support services utilizing appropriate community partnerships. Funds will provide tutoring support and wrap-around services to vulnerable students at Hornsby Elementary School.

Safe Homes of Augusta Inc. – \$9,837

Safe Homes of Augusta provides highly specialized and comprehensive services to assist victims of domestic violence. An online platform increases access to services for many clients currently living in the more rural counties of their service area and those confronting barriers related to lack of dependable transportation or available childcare. This grant will be used to purchase HIPPA compliant online platform services, online tools and materials, and trauma-focused training for counselors to provide counseling services in a tele-mental health format.

St. Vincent de Paul Society Georgia – \$15,000

St. Vincent de Paul Society is dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing financial, material, educational and spiritual assistance to anyone in need. The Systemic Change Program offers the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty for multiple generations using resources to keep families in their homes with all essential utilities turned on. These funds will be used to pay for housing (rent or mortgage) and utilities (electric, water, and gas).

Storyland Theatre, Inc. – \$15,000

Storyland Theatre presents live quality theatrical productions, performed by adults, for children and families, especially those who otherwise might not have the opportunity to experience the magic of theatre. They dramatize excellent, locally written original plays and musicals, based on fairytale themes, incorporating imaginative sets, costumes, lighting, and special effects, to expose children to the finest theatre in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA). This grant is for general operating expenses to support programming.

Successteam – \$11,250

Successteam offers non-traditional educational programs and events to enhance and expose at-risk community youth to the endless possibilities of life, resulting in increased awareness of personal strengths, professional aspirations, and the importance of effective goal setting. This grant will support their program that invites young men from the CSRA to explore their potential and experience life on a college campus while inspiring them to think carefully about the man they want to become.

That's What Friends Are For, Inc. – \$15,000

That's What Friends Are For promotes camaraderie and networking among animal rescue groups and individuals involved in improving animal welfare. Through their work, they assist animal rescue groups and individual pet owners with expenses for sterilization, vaccines, and extreme medical procedures needed to save or improve the quality of life for companion animals. This grant will be used for the Spay/Neuter Program and the Vet Assistance Program, which work to stop the overpopulation growth of dogs and cats and provide veterinary care for pets when owners cannot afford it.

The Bridge Ministry of the CSRA – \$11,250

The Bridge Ministry of the CSRA's programs help individuals and families move from poverty to self-sufficiency, providing tangible and relational support that for some can be the difference between life and death. This grant will allow The Bridge Ministry to continue their Emergency Transportation and Housing Program, providing approximately 40 weeks of emergency housing to those in desperate situations, transportation for the working poor population, and a part-time program manager to connect the families to the resources they need.

The Center for New Beginnings – \$15,000

The Center for New Beginnings (CFNB) offers healing and hope to young adults with autism and other developmental delays (behavioral, educational, emotional, intellectual, physical) through physician-prescribed therapy provided by degreed, licensed therapists. This grant will allow CFNB to continue offering healthcare services to families by offsetting direct therapy costs for those who cannot afford ongoing treatment.

The Lydia Project, Inc. – \$11,250

The Lydia Project provides cancer patients with support for their financial and emotional needs, including access to health care through lodging services, to facilitate their treatment and healing. For many Georgians without local cancer care, figuring out where to stay and how to pay for it can make the difference in getting treatment or not. Adding to this challenge, rural residents' income disparities and the pandemic create transportation difficulties to reach health care providers. This grant will be spent on lodging costs for cancer patients and their caregivers.

The REcing Crew – \$11,250

The REcing Crew's programs focus on providing leisure and recreational choices for individuals within the community with visual, hearing, intellectual, and/or physical disabilities. An adaptive bowling program for those 6 years of age and older, the AlleyCats bowling program is structured for individual ability levels and encourages the development of skills as well as personal enjoyment. All individuals can participate regardless of income. Grant funds will be applied towards bowling alley fees, the purchase of adaptive equipment, team shirts, annual pictures, and a bowling award at the end of the year.

Westabou Montessori School, Inc. – \$15,000

Westabou Montessori School serves the developmental, academic, social, and holistic needs of children in the Harrisburg neighborhood and surrounding area by offering a world-class Montessori education that fosters the development of each individual child's full potential. In addition to providing access to high-fidelity educational programs, they also provide wraparound support to families in poverty and/or with special needs. This grant will provide scholarships to low-income students so they can obtain a high-quality Montessori education.