

Commitment ♦ Compassion ♦ Community

Dear Friends and Family,

We hope this letter finds you safe and healthy. We want to extend our deepest gratitude to those of you that contributed to our annual funding drive. Your contribution will go directly to those in need and for that we are grateful and proud to partner with you.

In a continued period of uncertainty and unrest facing our communities, we continue to look for targeted areas of need whether it be for individuals, families, or small organizations that can benefit from receiving small to midsize grants in quick turnaround. Pass on this opportunity to those you know.

The Family Foundation Board

Grantee Spotlight: Independent Grounds Coffee House

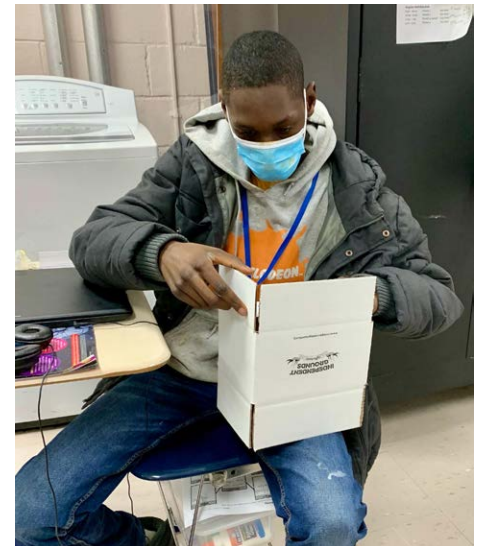
“Keeping Adolescents with Developmental Delays Engaged in a Vocational Work Study Program During a Virtual World.”

Founded in 2014, Independent Grounds Coffee House is a fully functioning coffee cart in Charleston, SC. The mission is to serve as a work-study program for adolescents with developmental and other disabilities. The program provides a structured training curriculum focused on developing vocational and social skills required for finding and keeping meaningful employment after high school. Currently they are working with local special education high school students and adults with disabilities.

Interns participate in work shifts several days a week as part of their customized vocational training. The interns run every aspect of the program while practicing social skills, money management,

marketing, inventory, communication, professionalism, and more.

When the world went virtual in March 2020, it left the executive director and her team wondering how to pivot their program in order to keep the interns learning and working, virtually. They developed a new concept where customers could order ground or whole bean coffee on their website. The interns began learning new skills such as processing and managing orders, labeling inventory, and preparing and packaging items to be mailed to customers. This adaptation in concept allowed the interns to learn new vocational skills and broaden their range of existing skills while keeping the coffee business alive.



“When the Pandemic hit, we—along with the rest of the world—were forced to halt services. We reevaluated how we could still provide programming while keeping everyone safe. This change of direction has enabled the students to continue to practice the important skills needed for employment while in the safe environment of their school setting. Needless to say, we are so excited to get the cart back to its original programming so that the interns can again gain that essential training that one can only learn from actual human interaction.”

- Laura Pickard, Executive Director,
Independent Grounds Coffee House

Click here to visit their website and order your coffee!

www.independentgrounds.org

For Kids Like Me: A Documentary Dedicated to Children with Incarcerated Parents



Anye Young

The University of Southern California:
School of Dramatic Arts

Anye participated in the ScholarCHIPS program when in high school and now attends the University of Southern California. The Family Foundation has supported the ScholarChips organization for a number of years and is currently partially sponsoring her studies for four years at USC.

I lost my father to the prison system ten years ago.

Having direct access to both of my parents was, and still is, my most valuable resource. I know the pain of waiting days, sometimes weeks, for a 15-minute phone call. I know the pain of having to drive 8 hours for a 60-minute face-to-face conversation with my Dad. I can also imagine how it would have felt to know I was not alone. I would have liked to hear about other kids like me because those stories of hope, resilience, and determination would have inspired me to seek guidance when I needed it.

A popular belief is that a person with a parent in prison is more likely to be incarcerated themselves. This is what I've been told since my father was sentenced. But, this isn't about statistical data. It's about people. Pushing this false narrative onto young impressionable minds leads kids to believe that their circumstances dictate their future.

As a teen with a father serving a 12-year prison sentence, I felt it was time to produce my first film. For Kids Like Me is a documentary film project presented by MyFairyGodParents.org (a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization). I am

happy to share that The Family Foundation was our first donor.

An estimated 5 million children –roughly 7 percent–have had a parent in prison. Mass incarceration continues to drive lower-income families into a system of modern slavery. The “cycle of incarceration” occurs when conditions and resources for affected communities do not change. What appears to be “the cycle” is a systemic stripping of funds from the lower-class and communities of color.

For Kids Like Me will highlight measures that can be taken to support families that are left behind. Families that are, in many ways, being punished too. Bringing attention to this issue through film will show children of incarcerated parents that they are not alone in their adversity. They will hear from people who have overcome it and others who are still fighting for a better future.

This documentary is an opportunity for children of prisoners to have representation. They will no longer be overlooked in decisions that affect their overall well-being and quality of life. I hope to reach my fundraising goal of \$75,000 for this film's production by hosting my spring webinar at the University of Southern California to secure private donations and support from other non-profit organizations.

For Kids Like Me will ensure that children of incarcerated parents will be seen and heard. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said that the reason the world has not changed is that so many think it need not change. The punishment should fit the crime and the color of one's skin should never be a determinant for how deserving they are of forgiveness. We are all human and worthy of forgiveness.

I invite you to visit www.ForKidsLikeMe.com to contribute and learn more!

Small Grants, Large Impact:

Responding to Needs Quickly During a Global Pandemic

When the pandemic struck, The Family Foundation made the decision to pivot from prioritizing funding for programmatic support to offering immediate turnaround mini-grants to individuals and families in crisis, understanding that a little bit of help can go a long way.

As we move into this new year, we will continue our focus toward assisting individuals in need due to the impacts of COVID-19. Additionally, we are looking to re-focus our energy toward supporting the needs of existing or emerging small nonprofit organizations working with children and families in the areas of education or mental health services.

If you know of an organization aligned with this focus and are in need of programmatic support in which an immediate turnaround min-grant would assist and benefit individuals, families, or communities in need, please reach out to us.

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