

Commitment ♦ Compassion ♦ Community

Dear Friends and Family,

We hope this Fall Newsletter from the Family Foundation finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. We are grateful for your interest in what we are doing and the impact it is having, and for the donations we have received from so many of you that make it all possible.

In this newsletter we are highlighting three of the projects that we have supported during the last year. There has been enormous energy and activity around matching our relatively small challenge grants, increasing the delivery of services and impact to more individuals, families, and small organizations. We are particularly proud of the partnership with so many of our grantees.

We are always looking for new ways to be supportive. Reach out to us if you know of people, programs, or projects that could benefit from small to midsize grants with an immediate turn around to meet a real need in real time.

—The Family Foundation Board

Lending Hope & Healing to the Kabaa Village

A \$5,000 grant from the Family Foundation made a life changing impact for the Kabaa village Youth Soccer Club in a small village in the eastern province of Kenya.

The grant money was used to engage struggling, depressed, and at risk village youth to positive, prosocial, and healthy activities. The money assisted with purchasing soccer equipment and uniforms for the youth, paying for participation in a soccer league, and financial assistance toward implementing an ongoing profit generating project to make this impact sustainable.

Deacon Simon Mbindyo Muema reports that the community has been energized around the opportunity to assemble to watch the soccer games. They are also joining together to support the startup of a working farm that is being maintained by the players as well as other community members in the village and will sell the homegrown items to maintain funding for the team to continue playing in the soccer league. The youth have been busy learning how to plant and grow the produce for sale and have been learning skills such as drilling a water hole and connecting water pipes to water and fertilize the farm.

Participation in both these sports and farming pursuits has helped keep the youth engaged in positive activities and away from illicit activities. The youth have extended their charitable work by distributing rice and clothing to others in need. The Deacon attributes this gesture to the humanitarian work they



have been doing on the farm and their involvement with the soccer team. The players' families and the entire community have rallied around the soccer club to watch practices, and there is a communal positive spirit that has dramatically changed the lives of the youth and families of Kabaa.

The Deacon writes:

“*The tears of joy which moved so many parents and relatives who had lost hope for their children is the true impact of what this grant has meant. This grant has really inspired and motivated our youth.***”**

Grant Opens Doors to Increased Mental Health Services at College Directions, Inc.

College Directions, Inc. (CDI) held an extremely successful online fundraising event in which they far exceeded a challenge grant of \$5,000 from the Family Foundation to continue and further develop the mental health component for the organization. Overall, \$50,000 was raised which permitted the addition of a full-time social worker to provide service for students and family members.

CDI was founded in 2005 and is committed to closing the education, achievement, and opportunity gap for low-income, primarily first-generation-to-college students. They provide comprehensive college counseling,

targeted tutoring, test preparation, study skills, leadership training, and ongoing support, starting in 10th grade and continuing through successful college graduation.

As a part of their School Support Program, CDI extends their work to high school college advising offices through tailored consulting which is focused on helping school counselors improve college advising thereby supporting even more students to find their best-fit college.

We are thrilled that CDI will now be able to provide even more comprehensive services for their scholars in the Maryland and DC area.

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.

Success of a Challenge Grant: An Autism Evaluation Program

In response to a need for more accessible and comprehensive autism evaluation services for rural communities, a Family Foundation challenge grant of \$5,000 led to a double matching grant of \$10,000 for each of two years. The result: the establishment of an autism evaluation center and advanced course work for Alfred University graduate students.

The Alfred University's Child and Family Services Center (CFSC) has provided clinical mental health services to individuals and families from communities throughout rural and high needs communities in the southern tier of western New York and northern tier of central Pennsylvania since its inception in 1994. Services

are provided at minimal or no cost by graduate students enrolled in the Alfred University Division of Counseling and School Psychology under the supervision of licensed faculty.

Thus, in August 2021, Alfred University was able to institute a two-year plan for an advanced training program including seminar courses for doctoral students specializing in assessment techniques for the autism spectrum disorder population. Following the completion of training, the graduate students have begun comprehensive diagnostic autism evaluations one day a week in the CFSC clinic with projections for reaching at least 20 children for this diagnostic service in the first academic year.

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#Giving Tuesday Mark your calendar for Nov. 30 for #GivingTuesday, a way to support nonprofits that you value. *"It is a movement to create an international day of charitable giving at the beginning of the Christmas and holiday season."*

Make a Contribution: Click "Donate" on our website www.thefamilyfoundationinc.com; or by mail to: FF Inc., 1700 Briggs Chaney Rd., Silver Spring MD 20905