



Sharing Montgomery

GREATER WASHINGTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2023 IMPACT REPORT

The Sharing Montgomery Fund brings together people who share our passion for building equitable, just, and thriving communities where everyone has what they need to prosper.

Thanks to the generosity of our community of givers and grant committee members, the Sharing Montgomery Fund made \$445,000 in grants this spring. In addition to vetting each applicant’s programs, leadership, and finances, we strategically selected this year’s grant cohort to:

BUILD PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY: We intentionally sought organizations helping families meet their basic needs, pursue opportunities for economic mobility, and build the assets necessary to pursue their dreams.



FOCUS ON NEIGHBORHOODS: We collected more granular data and conducted listening tours to better understand the needs and work happening at the neighborhood level—and where our support could make a deeper impact.

MAKE BIG INVESTMENTS IN TRUSTED PARTNERS: We made our grants 100% flexible, empowering our trusted nonprofit leaders to deploy each dollar wherever it is most needed. In addition to direct support and capacity building, we also made larger multiyear grant investments to a select cohort of organizations to further expand and innovate their vital work.

Keep reading to learn more about our high-impact grantee nonprofits. To make a gift to Sharing Montgomery to help propel their inspiring work farther, contact Anna Hargrave at 301-495-3036 x 161 or ahargrave@thecommunityfoundation.org.



2023 Sharing Montgomery Grant Recipients

AFRITHRIVE empowers African immigrants to grow and share healthy, culturally appropriate produce with residents facing food insecurity. Its training programs help families achieve self-reliance and economic stability.

CAPITAL AREA ASSET BUILDERS provides financial literacy and matched savings programs, enabling low-income residents to become financially stable and pursue their dreams.

CARE FOR YOUR HEALTH provides culturally sensitive in-home healthcare to elders. Patients are served by trained staff from their own community who are in touch with their circumstances and needs.

COMMUNITY BRIDGES, INC empowers girls in elementary, middle, and high schools to discover their unique identity, voice, and potential through leadership development, college and career readiness, and family support and mentoring.

CRITTENTON SERVICES OF GREATER WASHINGTON helps teenage girls achieve academic success, make healthy choices, and chart their own bright futures. Its virtual and school-based programs teach teenage girls to value their education, build healthy relationships, speak up for their own needs, and explore paths toward college and careers.

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY FOOD NETWORK provides training and support for startup food businesses and healthy eating education to local students and shoppers at Crossroads Farmers Market. Its farmers market nutrition incentives allow federal nutrition benefits recipients to double the value of these benefits spent at the market.

FUTURE LINK provides career counseling, mentoring, tutoring, academic advising, scholarships, and internships to help connect disadvantaged youth to post-secondary educational opportunities.



CollegeTracks works to improve college access and retention for students at risk of not pursuing higher education, primarily first-generation, low-income, minority, and immigrant youth. To date, its network of staff and volunteers has helped over 9,000 students navigate the application process and secure financial support necessary to persist in college. Sharing Montgomery made a \$100,000 multiyear commitment starting in 2023 to support CollegeTracks' expansion so that it can support even more students.

“We believe that postsecondary education is one of the most proven pathways out of poverty, and that equitable access to it is not only a moral imperative, but an economic necessity as it will help us build a stronger, healthier, and more just future for Montgomery County,” explains Mecha Inman, Executive Director.

GENERATION HOPE provides cohort and one-on-one mentoring support plus scholarships for low-income teen parents pursuing college degrees. It recently added early childhood programming to equip families with the resources necessary for their children to start kindergarten with a strong academic foundation.

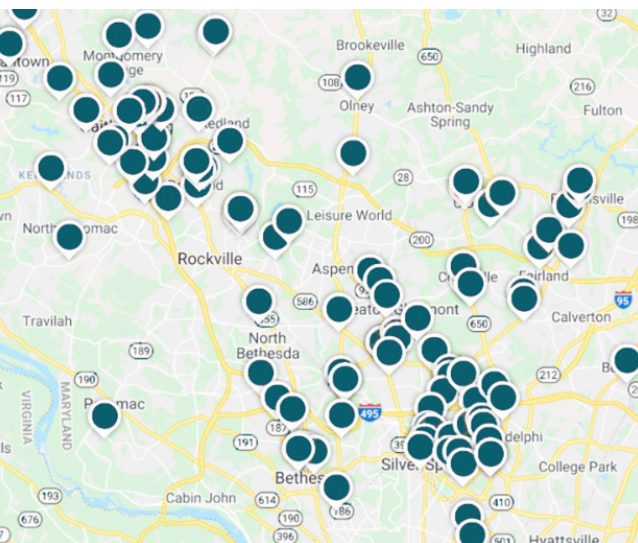
HORIZONS GREATER WASHINGTON supports students from low-income families for nine years, from kindergarten through eighth grade. The organization works to foster a joyful environment full of academic, artistic, and athletic activities that inspire young minds and build a love of learning.

IDENTITY, INC works with Latino and other historically underserved youths and their families after school, in the community, and on playing fields. Identity helps youths develop social and emotional skills, do better in school, and get ready to work by providing emergency and intensive case management, nonclinical emotional support, counseling, and other wraparound services.

INTERFAITH WORKS provides emergency assistance and counseling, vocational services, food distributions, clothing, and shelter for those experiencing homelessness. With volunteers from 165 faith communities, its integrated prevention, stabilization, and empowerment programs support homeless low-income county residents.

KINGDOM GLOBAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION operates the East County Hub which distributes food, diapers, and COVID-19 support. The organization also has other public-private partnerships that address food security, health and wellness, education, employment, and housing.

MANNA FOOD CENTER works to eliminate hunger through food distribution, healthy eating education, and advocacy. Its extensive network includes more than 350 organizational partners, and volunteers donated more than 43,000 hours of their time over the past year.



Montgomery County Food Council works to create a more resilient, sustainable, and equitable local food system. Its leadership was pivotal to the coordinated public-private response to the food security crisis sparked by the pandemic, enabling our county government, nonprofits, faith communities, local businesses, farms, and philanthropy to strategically work together to serve the 100,000+ residents who did not know where their next meal would come from. Sharing Montgomery made a \$100,000 multiyear commitment starting in 2022, knowing the Food Council's leadership would be vital to see our community through the crisis and ultimately, build a better, more equitable food system for all.

"Over the past year, we have brought together new and greater public and private sector tools to transform our local food system. We are making a difference in the lives of residents, farmers, and food producers, and shifting the focus of policymakers to meet the challenges of today and beyond." explains Massa Cressall, Interim Executive Director.

MARY'S CENTER provides health care, education, and social services to build healthier and stronger communities. In response to COVID-19, Mary's Center worked to prevent the spread of the virus by offering testing and vaccinations to community members through the Greater Washington region.

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE FOUNDATION co-leads the Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) program in partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools and The Universities at Shady Grove. ACES provides individualized academic coaching, scholarship opportunities, and career readiness to underrepresented high school students, for a seamless and supportive pathway to a bachelor's degree.

MONTGOMERY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP, INC (MHP) is a nonprofit developer of affordable rental housing. Its Community Life programs support young children and their families at home, ultimately strengthening neighborhoods.

MONTGOMERY MOVING FORWARD is a collective impact initiative which convenes leaders from government, business, philanthropy, education, and nonprofits to solve complex problems facing the county. As a capacity building partner, Sharing Montgomery's grant empowers MMF's nonprofit leaders to advocate around pressing issues that affect their clients, especially around challenges related to economic opportunity and early childhood education.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY (NAMI-MC) provides comprehensive support, education, advocacy, and public awareness to promote recovery so that individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives.

NONPROFIT MONTGOMERY supports local organizations around government relations, advocacy, strategic communications, financial management, metrics tracking, and cross-sector problem solving. As a capacity building partner, Sharing Montgomery's support will enable our direct-service grantees to receive the personalized support and connections that will help them deepen their impact.



The Black and Brown Coalition for Educational Equity and Excellence unites equity-focused community organizations in a collective effort to remove systemic barriers that have traditionally limited the success of Black, Brown, and students from low-income families. Sharing Montgomery made a \$100,000 multiyear commitment starting in 2022 to support the Coalition's work to push for equitable access to effective teachers and leaders and access to the rigorous courses that will open doors for students' futures.

"Having a multiyear grant gave the Coalition time to work directly with small groups of Black and Brown parents, caregivers, and community members to increase their understanding of school system data; to cultivate and nurture their advocacy skills so they can more effectively use their own voices to demand support," explains Byron Johns, Co-Founder.

"The Coalition's work is raising awareness that recovering from the trauma and learning losses exacerbated by the pandemic requires targeted attention," noted Diego Uriburu, Co-Founder. "In particular, investments in literacy and math are essential for Black and Brown students who were most adversely impacted to have the resources and supports they need to meet their academic milestones and achieve to their full potential."



CareerCatchers is dedicated to working with under and unemployed, low income and disadvantaged residents of Montgomery County. Last year alone, CareerCatchers served over 883 people with intensive career coaching and career navigation services, 70% of whom live in areas with the deepest disparities in homeownership and income. In Spring 2023, Sharing Montgomery made a two-year \$50,000 commitment to CareerCatchers to advance its goal of expanding services to over 1,000 individuals in the coming years.

“CareerCatchers will use this funding to expand our basic skills classes, adding small business classes, develop deeper employer ties to help clients get hired and promoted, improve our marketing, recruit more volunteers for classes and tutoring and making further improvements,” explains Mariana “Mana” McNeill, Executive Director.

PER SCHOLAS NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION offers free, hands-on technology training that empowers individuals – especially people of color, women, and young adults – to pursue high-growth tech careers.

RAINBOW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION provides food security relief paired with other safety net services including PPE distribution, eviction and utility cutoff prevention, temporary short-term shelter, and job search and resume assistance.

RED WIGGLER COMMUNITY FARM provides comprehensive on-farm training and education programs for adults with developmental disabilities. Half of its organic produce is donated to low-income households throughout Montgomery County.

SHEPPARD PRATT (FORMERLY FAMILY SERVICES) provides clinical health services, rehabilitation services, services to children youth and families, and community and family services, such as Linkages to Learning and domestic violence supports.

THE UPCOUNTY HUB supplies residents with food, healthcare assistance, and connections to other essential resources, while maintaining their privacy and dignity. Throughout the County’s Upper region, the Hub serves an average of 1,200 families per week.



IMPACT Silver Spring works toward a vision of an interdependent community that values everyone’s humanity, our connections with each other and the environment, and where everyone has access and freedom to live with stability, dignity, joy, and peace. Its grassroots organizing work seeks to both reveal and dismantle racial inequity and injustice which are root causes of many persistent disparities undermining our community. In Spring 2023, Sharing Montgomery made a two-year \$50,000 commitment to advance community-driven efforts that foster economic mobility and help families build the assets needed to pursue their dreams.

“Through the expansion of English classes, entrepreneur training, and resident-informed workforce development programs, residents chart their own path to social and economic empowerment,” explains Michael Rubin, Interim Executive Director.