

Our mission is to improve lives and meet community needs by uniting people and resources. In carrying out said mission, we seek to improve health, advance education, promote financial stability, and meet basic needs throughout the Lafayette-Oxford-University (LOU) community. Every contribution makes a significant impact as we work hand in hand with our donors, partners, volunteers, and advocates for the betterment of Oxford and Lafayette County. We could not achieve the positive outcomes we do without the amazing people, businesses, organizations, and public entities that invest in our community through their time, talents, and resources.

## **FY 2022-2023 GRANT RECIPIENTS BY PRIMARY FOCUS AREA**

### **EDUCATION**

**Boys & Girls Clubs of North Mississippi's** Power Hour: Making a Difference program provides homework and tutoring assistance to LOU Barksdale Club members in first through third grade in order to improve reading proficiency and on-time grade progression as well as decrease the achievement gap.

**Lafayette County Literacy Council's** Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) program aims to raise awareness about the benefits of possessing functional literacy and a high school equivalency (HSE) diploma as well as identify and recruit adults who lack one or both in order to increase Lafayette County's literacy rate along with the number of residents who have a diploma.

**Lafayette County Literacy Council** provides a quality, age-appropriate book on a monthly basis to registered children between the ages of birth to five years through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which aims to foster a love of reading by enrolling low-income families in the program and educating parents on how and why to read to their young children.

**LOU Reads Coalition** is a group of local organizations and community leaders dedicated to ensuring that all children in the LOU community can read proficiently by the end of the third grade. Coalition members focus their collective energy and expertise on school readiness, attendance, out-of-school time opportunities, and targeted efforts to promote grade-level reading.

**The Leap Frog Program** is an after-school tutoring and enrichment program that provides a nurturing environment in which at-risk students in first through third grade can develop and enhance necessary skills for academic success, build productive, ongoing relationships with adults, and improve their self-esteem.

### **HEALTH**

**Family Crisis Services of Northwest Mississippi's** Victim Services program provides comprehensive advocacy services to victims of crime (sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence, family violence, and homicide) from the initial onset of their assault through the entire healing process.

**North Mississippi Exchange Family Center's** Raising Mothers to Rise program seeks to help teen mothers by improving maternal, fetal, and postnatal outcomes through health education and consistent support, decreasing the number of future unplanned pregnancies, increasing graduation rates, and providing teen mothers with a positive vision for a successful future.

**Oxford Community Market's** Fresh Food for Everyone program provides multi-faceted direct services to reduce food insecurity by improving access to and increasing consumption of fresh, healthy, local food by mitigating barriers as well as improving knowledge of how to grow and prepare fresh produce.

**Yocona-Pushmataha Council, Boy Scouts of America** provides financial assistance to help pay membership dues as well as other required fees for economically-disadvantaged children and youth living in Lafayette County in order to provide them the ability to participate in scouting.

## **FINANCIAL STABILITY**

**Doors of Hope Transition Ministries'** Self-sufficiency Transition Empowerment Program (STEP) guides homeless families and at-risk homeless families toward self-reliance as well as stability through a holistic, individualistic approach that includes life-skills training, mentoring, and supportive housing.

## **BASIC NEEDS**

**American Red Cross** helps meet emergency basic needs as well as provide financial assistance and referrals to Lafayette County families experiencing home fires through its Disaster Cycle Services, including its Home Fire Campaign which seeks to help at-risk families safer by educating them on home fire risks, helping them make escape plans, and ensuring their homes have working smoke alarms.

**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of North Mississippi's** CASA Socks & Soles program provides socks and shoes for children in foster care, with a goal of providing each child with a new pair of shoes and socks before the school year begins or at some point throughout the year as many foster children come into custody without clothes or shoes.

**Doors of Hope Transition Ministries'** Emergency Assistance program helps families with basic needs such as utilities and rent in order to keep them in sustainable housing through a temporary crisis with a goal of helping them work towards long-term self-sufficiency.

**Interfaith Compassion Ministry's** Homeless Client Assistance program stabilizes local homeless individuals and families, including victims of domestic violence, by providing and referring them for counseling as well as assisting in providing safe and healthy places to stay or live, with reasonable access to basic needs such as food, utilities, medical care, and transportation.

**Interfaith Compassion Ministry's** Indigent Client Assistance program helps individuals and families deal with crisis situations by providing for their basic needs like shelter, food, utilities, medication, and transportation as well as offering counseling to help clients become more financially independent and self-sufficient.

**North Mississippi Kidney Foundation's** Patient Assistance program seeks to improve the health and quality of life of dialysis patients through the provision of basic and emergency needs, including financial assistance for transportation, medication, and other critical needs.

**Three Rivers Area Agency on Aging (AAA)** provides senior citizens nutritional meals five days a week, helps keep senior citizens in their home environment for as long as possible, and provides socialization as well as financial stability through its local Meals on Wheels program.

## **EVERY INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY YIELDS INCREDIBLE RETURNS**

The United Way of Oxford-Lafayette County is proud to provide donors the means to support several local organizations as well as thousands of Lafayette County residents through a single charitable contribution. Whether the contribution is a tax-deductible donation to support all of our program partners or one that is designated for a particular program or focus area, we encourage you to #GiveOxford and #InvestInLOU.

No donation of time, talent, or resources is too small to make a significant impact and we offer a multitude of ways for people to invest in our community, including payroll deduction through several local employers as well as donations by check, credit/debit card, PayPal, bank draft, cash, and other means. We partner with local businesses on community nights as well as other collaborative initiatives in addition to providing sponsorship opportunities for events like our annual campaign kick-off luncheon and the United Way Flashback Bash, which is our signature fundraiser. We also accept stock transfers, designated gifts to our endowment, IRA distributions, and other gift types as we seek to support our mission as well as enhance our collective impact.

***Learn more on how you can make a difference at [uwoxfordms.org/invest](http://uwoxfordms.org/invest).***