

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 to our organization is an investment in our community that yields incredible returns as we work hand in hand with our donors, partners, volunteers, and advocates for the betterment of Oxford and Lafayette County.

## FY 2023-2024 GRANT RECIPIENTS BY PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

### EDUCATION

**Boys & Girls Clubs of North Mississippi's** Power Hour program provides homework and tutoring assistance to LOU Barksdale Club members in first through third grade to improve reading proficiency and on-time grade progression as well as decrease the achievement gap as the agency seeks to ensure every child reads to grade level by the fourth grade.

**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 as they work one-on-one with a trained volunteer tutor.

### 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 as the agency seeks to reduce the trauma of violence by providing immediate and long-term support to survivors.

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

**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.

## **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 and other disasters through its Disaster Cycle Services program, which consists of preparedness, response, and recovery components.

**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of North Mississippi's** CASA Socks & Soles program has a goal of providing a new pair of shoes and socks to children overcoming abuse and neglect to help meet their basic needs as well as support their confidence as they seek to fit in with their classmates.

**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.

**Lovepacks' Pack the Pantry** program aims to stock the pantries at Oxford School District and Lafayette County School District following various breaks throughout the academic year in order to provide students in need with food over weekends and holidays when they do not have access to breakfast and lunch at school.

**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.

**The Pantry of Oxford and Lafayette County** ministers to the emergency and short-term food needs of local low-income residents by supplying food to eligible clients on Wednesday (under the age of 65) and Thursday (65 and older) mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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



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