



THREE ARCHES FOUNDATION – Year in Review

As we reflect on a year unlike any other and optimistically set forth into 2021, the Three Arches Foundation (TAF) remains committed to propelling efforts that address the health and well-being of our community. While the pandemic has presented incredible hardships, it has also created an unexpected and heightened sense of progress as witnessed through the agility and responsiveness of our grantee organizations. We are continually inspired and motivated by these organizations that give TAF's investments the hands, soul and vision to make a lasting difference as they continue to meet today's challenges, while working on pathways to long-term solutions through powerful ideas and innovation. We're pleased to share some of the inroads TAF made over the past year.

The unexpected halt

At the onset of the pandemic we immediately reached out to our 2019 grant recipients and offered them flexibility to adjust timelines or reallocate unspent grant funding towards the organizations' most pressing demands and unanticipated circumstances emerging from the crisis. Concurrent with this move, TAF adjusted its philanthropic focus to support local nonprofit organizations with their evolving response efforts. We rapidly established the *TAF COVID-19 Response Fund* and provided eight nonprofit organizations with financial resources used for unexpected needs and to safeguard their continued focus on access to care. It was encouraging to see how these grant recipients expeditiously identified creative ways to sustain much-needed programs and services within the communities they serve while balancing the health, safety and welfare of their own people. TAF also joined with philanthropic funders across Northeast Ohio to provide emergency relief during the first phase of the *Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund* with our contribution receiving geographic priority towards efforts that directly impacted people in Lakewood and surrounding communities. Over \$195,000 in TAF funding resources was awarded between both emergency relief efforts.

Our goal throughout the pandemic has centered on addressing immediate challenges while being attentive to long-term recovery and resilience. To that end, at a time when many foundations opted to delay or cancel grants, we proceeded to open the 2020 Annual Grant Cycle. In mid-November, following the consideration of many thoughtful proposals and a host of engaging virtual sessions, TAF granted over \$1.5 million to twenty nonprofit organizations. We are proud to make these funding investments in support of programs and services that will make it easier for people to navigate, understand, and use information and services to take care of their behavioral and physical health. All twenty grants reflect an emphasis on access to care with several common themes among them including:

Youth-Focused – *Bellefaire JCB, LifeAct, The MetroHealth Foundation and Urban Community School will apply their grants towards providing access to health care coordination services, school-based counseling programs, suicide prevention and critical mental health support for children, youth and families.*

Supporting Our Seniors – *Barton Senior Center, Hospice of the Western Reserve, YMCA of Greater Cleveland and a joint initiative by the Barton Center, Lakewood Senior Citizens & Neighborhood Family Practice recognize the benefits of bringing integrated primary care and behavioral health programs and services to our senior population through telehealth, socially-distanced programming and in-home visits that provide physical activity, education, mental stimulation/cognitive skills, as well as palliative care for those living with advanced illness.*

Serving the Health & Well-Being Needs of Specific Populations – Grants funded include *The Gathering Place, GiGi's Playhouse Cleveland, and LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland. These organizations offer tailored programs and services that provide access to care in a welcoming, educational and supportive environment.*

TAF's 2020 grant investment reflects an increase by more than fifty percent over the previous year as philanthropic efforts were amplified to get resources where they were most needed. This added level of grant support will be maintained in 2021 to accommodate for what is expected to be a gradual recovery for nonprofits as they continue to operate in an adaptive environment while trying to plan ahead. As part of this ramped up funding, we will begin to explore community needs and opportunities for proactive support through TAF's newly-created Strategic Initiatives Fund.

The path ahead

In 2019 the TAF board of directors and staff initiated steps toward pursuing opportunities to build and foster an environment that embedded diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) into the culture, systems and practices of the Foundation. This included broadening our understanding of racial disparities and social inequities faced within the communities we serve. Collectively, we participated in Racial Equity Institute's Groundwater Training and established the TAF Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Special Committee to facilitate endeavors that will continue this process of shared learning, planning and moving ideas into action. And while we've made strides relative to altering the conversations we are having as an organization, there is still much work to be done in order to pave the way for deeper, more lasting and inclusive change. We look forward to sharing more about TAF's strategies and actions as we work together towards this commitment to cultural transformation.

Looking across the months ahead, plans are underway for the 2021 Annual Grant Cycle to open on July 1st. It is our hope that this timing allows nonprofit organizations a period to better evaluate opportunities and help best prepare as we head – albeit slowly – towards what is being called “the next normal.” Finally, our sincere gratitude and appreciation to TAF board members that completed their terms during 2020, Marianella Napolitano, Chuck Royer and Jim Wooley.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in Three Arches Foundation. Please be sure to visit our website for the latest news and to learn more about the inspiring work of TAF grant recipients through the “*Featured Grant Stories.*”

For more information on our 2020 grant awards, please visit threearchesfoundation.org – and be sure to connect with us on LinkedIn and Twitter [@ThreeArchesFnd](https://twitter.com/ThreeArchesFnd)