



Message From Our Chair
THREE ARCHES FOUNDATION – Year in Review
Celebrating Our First Five Years

Three Arches Foundation (TAF) celebrates five years of investing in local initiatives that make it easier for people to navigate, understand, and use information and services to take care of their behavioral and physical health. Since its inception, a total of \$7.6 million has been given to 41 grant recipients who reflect our belief that improving lives and promoting access to care lies in the mission, vision and leadership of nonprofit organizations that are making a significant impact on local healthcare needs. These respected and trusted relationships enable the Foundation to proudly serve as a resource, collaborator, and steward as we work together to improve health outcomes in the community.

TAF's grant making approach places nonprofit organizations at the center of the relationship. Grounded in continuous learning, balanced power and transparency, these partnerships are the catalyst for our grantmaking principles and process. For example, ongoing dialogue emphasized a growing reliance on philanthropic support as nonprofit organizations adapted to unexpected circumstances and changing needs. This feedback prompted TAF to elevate its grant making for three consecutive years, exceeding the widely accepted traditional level of grant funding. The Foundation also developed an understanding of the value of multi-year grants that enable nonprofit partners to launch or maintain vital programs and services with the assurance of time and sufficient resources. As such, multi-year grants account for twenty-five percent of TAF's total funding to date.

Over the past five years, certain trends in and observations from our grant making have emerged including:

Behavioral & Physical Health – Research confirms physical health problems significantly increase the risk of poor mental health, and behavioral health problems can seriously exacerbate physical illness. Although our minds and bodies overlap, securing mental health services and support remains an uphill battle worsened by the COVID-19 Pandemic and shortage of care providers. More than fifty percent of TAF's funding is directed at behavioral health care initiatives aimed at meeting this void.

Removing Barriers – Organizations are working to advance solutions to improve health outcomes by making programs and services more accessible, simpler, and user-friendly. The need to break down barriers while tackling new and emerging disparities among distinct populations is prevalent across all areas of TAF's funding with initiatives focused on addressing transportation, trauma-informed care, patient navigation and care coordination, and peer support.

Piloting & Launching New Ideas – Nonprofit partners are eager to find novel ways to solve problems and identify new approaches for the benefit of those they serve. Cultivating their best ideas through funding provides an opportunity to launch new ideas or take a risk on short-term pilots, learning how they work in practice and viability. TAF grants have been the source of projects that demonstrate innovative and sustainable ways to improve access to care.

Investment in Life Stages – Recognizing and addressing specific needs related to the health and well-being of youth and older adults. When people feel mentally better, they are physically better.

Youth: Help in tackling the ongoing and escalating need for timely access to youth-focused mental health services and programs has led TAF to dedicate more than a quarter of its funding to assist in meeting this response, including support for physical care, trauma-informed care, and distress services. At the top are multiple grants to enhance and sustain school-based care coordination and caregiver support, ensuring availability for all students within an environment where they spend the most time. Other initiatives include grant partners serving the specialized needs of refugee and newcomer adolescents, LGBTQ youth, and children with disabilities.

Seniors: With a growing population of older adults in the community, efforts to address healthy aging and improved quality of life have ramped up. The Foundation’s grant partners advocate the benefits of both aging in place and integration of primary care and behavioral health programs and services that help seniors stay healthy, informed, and engaged.

Workforce Investment – Pandemic-related disruptions catalyzed great change in the workplace, especially within the healthcare sector. The reality that organizations cannot impact access to care without the general care and concern of the people doing the work is the driver for TAF’s interest in supporting targeted initiatives specific to workforce development and retention.

Vulnerable Populations – Improving access to health care among vulnerable populations is vital for achieving health equity, yet this remains a challenge. The provision of support, resources, and voices for those who are often overlooked is rising through TAF grants that address barriers to equitable access to health care.

Part of our collective grant making over this time includes the TAF COVID-19 Response Fund, initiated to provide vital, rapid support to nonprofit organizations for unanticipated needs during the pandemic. TAF is also an original partner of the Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund and continues support of Phase III efforts, now referred to as the Funders Collaborative on Covid Recovery.

To encourage continuous improvement and ensure relevancy, last year the board of directors and staff engaged in an organizational assessment and visioning exercise, which added clarity to the values that guide our work. Coupled with insight gathered through ongoing listening and learning with grant partners and community peers, our understanding of philanthropy and what it means to be a trusted funding partner continues to advance. We remain curious and eager to understand pressing needs and know more about the communities served. In doing so, we embrace a philanthropic approach - informed through a racial and health equity lens - towards greater awareness of the gaps in access to behavioral and physical care.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in Three Arches Foundation. We look forward to what we can accomplish together in the next five years. Please be sure to visit our site for the latest news, annual grant cycle schedule, and to learn more about the inspiring work of TAF grant partners through our “*Feature Grant Stories*.”

To learn more about our 2022 annual grant awards, please visit threearchesfoundation.org – and be sure to connect with us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter @ThreeArchesFnd](#) for the latest news and information