



The Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines supported our local nonprofit sector in 2023 by investing strategic funding support to a variety of initiatives. Through the generosity of donors to the Better Together Fund, the Community Foundation can take a nimble approach to address pressing needs and promising opportunities, provide leadership on important community issues, and support critical work that improves the quality of life for us all.

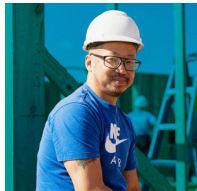
The summary below provides an overview of the grants awarded through the Better Together Fund. Thank you for your generosity and partnership. No matter what the future holds, we know we are simply better together.

Leadership Grants

The Leadership Grant program, funded by the Better Together Fund, provided six awards to projects making a significant impact on the lives of individuals and families throughout Greater Des Moines.



Ballet Des Moines: Provided a grant for the development of a new Ballet Des Moines Campus for Arts and Education by repurposing a prominent location in downtown Des Moines which will establish a new permanent home for programming and create a shared resource for arts and community organizations from across the region.



Food Insecurity Network: Funding supported a facilitated dialogue, a current landscape analysis and a collaborative process (with multiple and varied community stakeholders) to develop a cohesive plan to address food insecurity for our neighbors throughout Greater Des Moines.



Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity: Grant funding supported the acquisition of land as part of the Framing our Future campaign. The lots purchased will increase the supply of housing near jobs through two workforce housing developments, create new and affordable homeownership opportunities in response to a shortage of affordable units, set the stage for collaborative mixed-income development and innovative multi-family housing products and move more households to homeownership.



Oakridge Neighborhood: Oakridge was selected by Best Buy through a competitive process to host the only Teen Tech Center in Iowa, located in Mainframe Studios. Grant funding was awarded to this multifaceted center, designed to help address the digital and cultural divide that is exaggerated by socio-economic barriers by creating a space for youth to access technology in fun and engaging ways, including applications of science, engineering, math and creative exploration through innovative technology.



Primary Health Care: Supported the expansion of the University Medical Clinic, which is focused on addressing health disparities that exist in our community and expanding access to medical and mental health care to marginalized populations.

YSS: Funding supported the development of Ember Recovery Campus, Iowa's first trauma-informed, nature-based behavioral health campus and only transition-age youth specific residential substance abuse program.

For more information about the Better Together Fund, contact us at (515) 883-2626 or info@desmoinesfoundation.org.



Capacity Building Grants



As nonprofits focus on strengthening overall governance and management to more effectively meet their mission, the Capacity Building Grant program provided 20 grant awards for strategic planning, succession planning, fund development planning and more. One example of a recent grant is to Healthy Birth Day, which is experiencing a period of rapid staff growth. They will work with a consultant to help their leadership team develop HR practices and team dynamics, as well as build a talent and succession plan to ensure the future success of the organization and its work.

Strategic Alignment Grants



Strategic Alignment Grants were awarded to eight initiatives seeking ways to leverage the strengths of colleague organizations to meet needs and create opportunities in Greater Des Moines. One example of a recent grant is to The Five Fires Foundation to develop a collaborative fundraising strategy and messaging with the YMCA of Greater Des Moines. These two separate entities work in tandem to provide impactful experiences at the Y Camp for youth and families and require coordinated fundraising plans to ensure both can meet their missions.

About the Better Together Fund

No one knows exactly what tomorrow may bring for our community. What needs and opportunities will arise? What critical work will we be called to do to improve quality of life for our community? What can we do now to help assure that future needs are met?

The Better Together Fund was created to address these questions. It presents an opportunity for all who love Greater Des Moines to invest in our community's most important issues, initiatives and needs for generations to come. Think of it as the savings account for the future of our community. The flexible dollars it provides enable the Community Foundation to respond to emerging needs as they arise – and invest significant funding in initiatives and opportunities that strengthen Greater Des Moines.

We can't predict the future. But today, through the Better Together Fund, we can play a role in positioning our community for continued success. We're simply better together.

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