

# **Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP)**

## **2019 National, Mid-Council and International Funded Projects**

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) continues to work with low-income communities across the United States and internationally to overcome oppression and injustice. In 2019, SDOP entered into partnership with the projects below. Projects focused on worker-owned cooperatives, advocacy, youth-led initiatives, skills development, farming, worker rights, immigration/refugee issues and capacity building amongst other issues.

### **NATIONAL PROJECTS**

#### **MIDWEST REGION**

##### **Youth Advisory Board, Detroit, MI, \$15,000**

To provide training in leadership development, civic engagement and education enrichment for 15 youth that will enable them to understand the political forces that shape their community, improve their learning capacity and serve as quality leaders to their peers and families.

##### **Chadsey-Condon Community Organization, Detroit, MI, \$15,000**

Project members have formed an Anti-displacement/Neighborhood Inclusion task force through training and the creation of a community benefits agreement request to offer to all developers who will enter their neighborhood. As a group of people that live near an area that is being developed and will be impacted by the economic investment in the neighborhood, they want to empower themselves with the knowledge and tools necessary to ensure gentrification without displacement. They will work and train themselves to promote policies that support both their neighbors and themselves for the long term while staying in their homes. They need extensive training on advocacy, community engagement, gentrification, and creating community benefit agreements.

#### **NORTHEAST REGION**

##### **Damayan Workers Cooperative, New York City, NY, \$15,000**

This project is a business cooperative owned and managed by the workers. The project empowers migrant workers and provides a community of mutual support. Migrant and undocumented workers face insurmountable barriers to finding basic employment, including lack of immigration status, lack of work references and being disconnected to supportive communities.

### **IMPACT, Newburgh, NY, \$15,000**

The Together We Can Newburgh Timebank exists to form a stronger community fabric for the City of Newburgh, and to help those who are underemployed or unemployed have an outlet to get their needs met without having to rely on money to do so. By building a stronger community fabric for residents of the City of Newburgh, the Together We Can – Newburgh Timebank aims to combat problems that go together with poverty in Newburgh such as violent crime, drug addiction, gangs, teenage pregnancy, homelessness, and food insecurity. The timebank encourages acts of service to others both on a community wide scale (for nonprofit organizations) and on an individual scale (neighbor to neighbor exchanges). The City of Newburgh is one of the poorest communities in New York State.

### **City Roots Community Land Trust, Rochester, NY, \$15,000**

This project provides affordable homeownership opportunities to income qualifying buyers, earning under 50% AMI. A vacant home was purchased and has been in the process of being rehabilitated. Funds are for purchasing the materials necessary for neighborhood volunteers to complete the rehabilitation of the home. Once rehabilitation is completed, the homes will be resold at affordable rates to income qualifying buyers that agree to a “pay it forward” approach to homeownership. With this approach, the initial buyer purchases a home at a subsidized price and then passes the value of that subsidy on to the next homeowner at time of resale thereby ensuring the permanent affordability of the property.

### **Women's Press Collective, Bronx, \$15,000**

The project involves renovation and conversion of two garages into a fully equipped pressroom. The pressroom will house the group’s printing equipment amongst other items.

## **SOUTH REGION**

### **The Geiger Live Well Faith Community, Emelle, AL \$15,000**

This project seeks to increase the number of families who are engaging in healthy dietary behaviors and improved physical activity in efforts to reduce obesity. The goals include: Health – Teaching community members how to eat healthy food, working in the garden and orchard with community members and developing an office and operations building; Wellness – Providing easy access to wellness equipment and the walking facility for residents of Geiger and neighboring towns as well as outdoor exercise equipment, slides and basketball court for students. The group hopes through this grant to establish an office to conduct administrative activities; maintain the garden and orchard areas; strengthen its grant writing capacity to further develop the community’s efforts; purchase a computer to support the community and to offer classes.

### **Somali Community of Louisville, Louisville, KY, \$15,000**

This low-income group of Somalis has developed a Resource Center Computer Lab with Somali community accessible computers and internet access. The center will serve as an information hotspot for professional development and training of their staff and community members and facilitate easy access to information and research. The computers will further facilitate continuous learning on current programs, self-guided refresher courses and access to future courses beneficial to the Somali community members. It will also provide a modern area where members of the community can improve their computer literacy. This capacity building project center helps empower members by promoting education and skills development.

## **WEST REGION**

### **Agri-Cultura Cooperative Network, Albuquerque, NM, \$15,000**

La Cosecha's mission is to ensure that low income families have adequate and sustainable access to healthy and affordable locally grown food and nutrition education, strengthening the local economy by providing a stable market for local farmers and connecting them with families struggling with hunger and poor nutrition.

### **Voz Tacoma Creative People, Tacoma, Washington, \$15,000**

Voz is a group of people committed to producing quality radio productions for the community to tell personal stories. The money will be used to train people in order to develop better communication skills. They have been able to access a computer and have, in the past, disseminated information to their community via podcasts (in Spanish) about health services availability and other vital information. Many of the participants talk about sharing their stories of success/barriers and about organizations in the community which have assisted them.

### **Fuerza Latina, Fort Collins, CO, \$15,000**

Fuerza Latina seeks a more sustainable employment solution through a worker-owned cooperative that allows women to work on a rotation, possibly out of their homes, and share childcare responsibilities. A positive aspect of cooperatives is that they can be formed as a traditional cooperative or an LLC, which means women can work if their status is still pending, since they themselves are the owners of the company. This offers them a layer of protection as they each work to resolve their immigration case, be it through a cancellation of removal or asylum which can take several years to process.

### **Future Leaders of America (FLA), Oxnard, CA, \$15,000**

This group plans to provide a comprehensive youth empowerment program in Santa Maria's High Schools and in the community year-round. The FLA Way teaches young leaders to take pride in their cultural diversity, strengthens leadership capacity, while inspiring a value in education to achieve one's full potential for success through the academic, career, and life choices they make now and in the future. The major current project is tackling systemic

barriers to academic success by advocating with the School Board to affect changes to the A-G completion rates as was successful in the Oxnard branch. A second goal is to create a college going goal in Santa Maria for farmworker family's children.

## **MID COUNCIL PROJECTS**

### **Sheppards and Lapsley Presbytery**

#### **Camden Community Youth Development Center, Inc. Camden, AL, \$ 3,500**

The project is a component of a program designed to continue to encourage educational improvements through year-round after-school tutorial programs, a six-weeks summer enrichment program and a weekly senior citizen's program. Equipment is also used by the entire community through family gatherings, businesses, and other building use. The current equipment (tables and chairs) was donated by the local 4-H program over 25 years ago and is dilapidated due to use over an extended period. Computers and computer software are also outdated. Chairs and tables need to be replaced, and computers/software need updating for continued technological improvement, research, computer skills program information; and up-to-date happenings. This project will use the SDOP grant to restore facility equipment-tables and chairs-and purchase personal computers and computer software.

### **New Hope Presbytery**

#### **Inner City Intergenerational Coding Project, Rocky Mount, NC \$5,000**

This project is comprised of groups of families seeking to enroll six parents and their children in a computer coding program where they will learn basic computer coding training in an inter-generational learning environment. The project aims to employ instructional methods where children and their parents acquire computer coding skills in an error-free learning environment. Instructional approaches are used that younger children can accommodate and assimilate rudimentary computer coding skills by being involved in parallel learning activities where their continuous growth can be guided by older children and adults.

### **The Pacific Presbytery**

#### **National Day Laborer Organizing Network, Pasadena, CA, \$6,063**

The project is Radio Jornalera, a community radio focused on defending low-wage workers and migrant rights, bringing awareness of the barriers and injustices existing in these communities. There was a need to create an inclusive communication and informative space by and for migrant and Jornalera communities. The radio also educates community members on issues like labor abuses and wage theft. The community radio was formed by day laborer leaders from different countries. The Jornaleros Communicators training model is innovative in the sense that, the first cohort of Jornalero Communicators will train a group of community communicators and they then will train other new members of the community who want to be Jornaleros Communicators.

## **Synod of the Lakes and Prairies**

### **Urban Indian Diabetes Program, Saint Paul, MN, \$20,000**

The project is comprised of American Indians and Alaskan Natives (AI/ANs) living in St. Paul and Minneapolis. The project is to create a community among American Indians and Alaskan Natives and families living with pre-diabetes and type II diabetes. As a community, group members will come together bi-weekly to engage in learning centered around the medicine wheel and its essential topics (i.e., physical, emotional, cognitive and spiritual health and lively activities (e.g., traditional music, dancing and aerobics, impromptu theater/role-plays), physical health (e.g., blood glucose and blood pressure checks), and reconnection with traditional food practices and diets. Urban-dwelling American Indians and Alaskan Natives tend to experience more significant disparities in health status based on several social determinants (e.g., barriers that limit access to healthy food, unsafe neighborhoods, historical trauma). The primary reason this group is needed is to reclaim traditional health and wellbeing practices of AI/AN people. The main goal is to allow AI/AN people to care for themselves through reconnection to traditional and cultural AI/AN knowledge and practices.

### **Immigration Assistance and Citizenship Education, \$15,040**

Members of this low-income group are indigent and cannot afford attorney fees. Several are trying to file for citizenship as well as filing for their alien relatives and spouses but have no money to pay attorney fees. With this project, some members will train others on how to use the computer, find the relevant form and type in the form by themselves, print it and submit to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

## **Western Reserve Presbytery**

### **Teen Excellence, Shaker Heights, OH, \$3,793**

The scarcity of access to post-secondary education and high paying careers is severe and unreachable amongst the disadvantaged populations in Shaker Heights. A high poverty rate exists in the Central neighborhood compared to the rest of Cleveland. African Americans make up the largest race population in the Central neighborhood whereas according to city-data, the 2016 median household income was \$9,454. In efforts to combat these barriers, the project has a mentoring program that matches students and adult professionals who are currently in the workforce and or college. The college and career preparedness program strengthen the connection between students and the job market through career shadowing. Each student shadows their mentor once every 3 months and a staff member oversees their progress every 6 months.

## **Charleston Atlantic Presbytery**

### **Senior Ministry's Stock the Pantry Mission, Charleston, SC, \$4,000**

The project is the Stock the Pantry Mission that will assist those who have difficulty purchasing enough food items, nutritional food items, and meats to avoid hunger. Being it is at no cost, the savings for not having to purchase them from a grocery store will allow these families and individuals the opportunity to use those funds towards medications and other necessities.

Administrative Funds, \$519

## **National Capital Presbytery**

### **Church Sellers Group, Silver Spring, MD, \$25,000**

The "Church Sellers Assistance Program" is a capacity building project that consists of three parts: Cash catalyst infusion; Finance management education and Social/Racial justice awareness training. This group hopes to benefit from an initial and periodic catalyst cash infusion that is meant to provide assistance and encouragement for managing a basic business. Quarterly meetings led by volunteer facilitators will provide participants with financial management education and assistance with how to increase their profit margin. As a group that is initially predominantly African new immigrants, social/racial justice awareness will be included in the educational component of the overall planned programs.

## **New York City Presbytery**

### **Pratt Towers Community Space, Brooklyn, NY, \$1,957**

The projects seeks to add permanent seating to the 5,200sq foot outdoor space of a 326-unit New York City's Mitchell Lama subsidized cooperative apartment building. The outdoor space was completed in 2014, at that time four wooden benches were installed. They were not anchored because they were supposed to be temporary. The group's plan was to raise the money to install permanent seating later. Because the benches were wooden, they required constant care over these past five years. The wood splintered which meant they had to be sanded, waterproofed and stained annually. Since the benches were not anchored, they were regularly blown over by the wind which caused even greater wear and tear and safety concerns. There is no other seating in the space which meant that temporary chairs had to be provided. These chairs were brought out each morning and removed at the end of the day. The outdoor space is used by all age levels of this 326-unit apartment building, especially children and seniors. Adequate permanent and safe seating needs to be provided.

## **Detroit Presbytery**

### **Journey to Healing, Detroit, MI, \$5,071**

The Journey to healing Creating A Better Tomorrow (CABT) project is a Youth Leadership program through Journey to Healing started and created by at-risk youth. The youth are at risk due to experiencing traumatic events such as a loss of a parent, close relative or mental health challenges. They hope to have the opportunity to gain emotional wellness skills necessary for healing and acquire practical career-oriented skills. With guidance from Journey to Healing, they will complete trauma grief & loss training and will receive a certificate. All youth participating can use skills acquired in the program as a resume builder and career boost if they decide to work in a field related to trauma (Ex. Foster Care, Criminal Justice, Education, etc. ) and can continue to create their own programs or workshops as a way to sustain themselves.

### **Kulcha Klub Om Skool Hub, Detroit, MI, \$5,021**

Kulture Klub is an organization of Artisans and craft persons establishing programs and trainings in traditional/tribal arts & crafts, including sewing. The group's goal is to foster employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for

themselves and other low-income people in their community. They see this as a way to redirect the trend of outsourced manufacturing while fighting poverty in their neighborhoods.

Adm. Funds, \$1,000

### **Philadelphia Presbytery**

**WorkAbilities, Philadelphia, PA, \$17,000**

This is a skills development project. Group members have spent several years focused on maintaining their mental health and as a result have not worked in a while, lack self-confidence, and the skills needed to return to work. Members are often stigmatized, treated unfairly, and overlooked for jobs. Group members who are mostly facing mental health challenges want to improve various skills such as job coaching, interviewing skills, job searching, advocacy, computer skills, etc. that will increase their likelihood of acquiring sustainable employment. The project is needed to help individuals diagnosed with mental illness seek employment opportunities and build the skills necessary to obtain and maintain employment.

### **Northern Waters Presbytery**

**Life House, Duluth, MN, \$1,451**

The Legitimate Hustle Program (LHP) provides paid employment to homeless youth experiencing barriers such as poverty, lack of adult guidance, and traumatic experiences like sexual abuse and violent relationships. The program is designed to provide a hands-on learning experience and teaching entrepreneurship through the youth-led process of creating a small business. Youth research and develop a product, and in the final phase of the LHP, bring their product to market. LHP is not a stopgap; it provides youth with an opportunity to explore their talents and interests, a vision on career opportunities available to them, an understanding of the education and training needed to enter a career, and the confidence to embark on a career pathway.

### **Synod of the Covenant**

**New Life Empowerment Project, Dayton, OH, \$15,000**

Establishment of the New Life Community Training Center – The group is seeking to upgrade its existing fellowship hall, to allow project members to provide training classes starting with their own members and including the community. The graduates from these programs have moved forward in life with many starting their own businesses. They attribute their success to the principles they learned in these classes. The classes include Building Economic Empowerment Program (for Adults over 18), Jr. Engineers Mentoring Programs (students 11 – 18), Home Economics Classes – (Cooking & Sewing), Team Mentoring concentrating on Social / Emotional skill-building, Basic Computer Operation Training Classes, and the establishment of a Satellite Site for Juveniles on Probation.

## **The James Presbytery**

### **VA League for Safer Streets, Richmond, VA, \$7,000**

VA League for Safer Streets model consists of four core components to accomplish its mission: basketball, educational workshops, mentorship, and partnership. The anchor of the League is basketball because it is accessible and culturally relevant to the population served. It grounds the program in a positive, desirable experience for the participants, which solidifies the foundation that everything else rests on. With basketball as a hook, educational workshops precede the games, serving as the ticket of entry to participation. The workshops provide a substantive investment in the players by covering topics relevant and meaningful to them including topics like fatherhood, conflict resolution, and re-entry. The League leaders build relationships with the players, serving as mentors, advisors, big brothers, and sometimes even father figures. These relationships are then nurtured through partnerships with other community organizations to connect participants to resources and supports outside of the League.

## **Redwoods, San Francisco, San Jose Presbyteries**

### **A Brighter Day Youth Program, Belmont, CA, \$17,840**

The Brighter Day Anti-Vaping Youth Team was organized and drawn from the larger "Brighter Day" program. The purpose of both is to support youth and provide opportunities to overcome the problematic circumstances of their young lives. The teens themselves have identified vaping as a major problem in their own communities which adds yet another barrier to becoming productive citizens and adults and may cause life-long health problems and early death.

Administrative Funds, \$ 3,018.90

## **Cascades Presbytery**

### **Central Oregon Community Coffee, Redmond, OR \$12,962**

The project is to open a coffee kiosk on the Redmond campus of Central Oregon Community College and will be run and operated by students. The project will give job experience to students new to the workforce and be a positive influence on the campus community and students' life.

## **Hudson River Presbytery**

### **For the Love of Tabby & Omani, Newburgh, NY, \$6,693**

This group was formed after the shooting of seven young men and women at a Halloween party in 2016. In that incident, two young women lost their lives, Omani Free and Tabitha Cruz. For the Love of Tabby & Omani started as a movement of people affected by this incident and has turned into a larger movement of people effected by violence in the City of Newburgh. The project's main goal is to raise awareness of the need for peace in the City of Newburgh and to organize loosely grouped people who are working toward nonviolence initiatives into one group working toward common goals.



### **Adelante Student Voices, Poughkeepsie, NY, \$1,000**

The Adelante Student Voices group is comprised of undocumented students committed to supporting themselves and other undocumented students in upstate New York on their unique journeys to higher education. They also seek to simultaneously build their self-advocacy so they can increase educational opportunities and advance social justice within their communities. The Adelante Student Voices Scholarship Fund is one way in which group members hope to address the lack of resources available to undocumented students who seek a college education. Undocumented students face unique challenges in financing their college education since for example, they are limited in the scope of scholarships they can apply for. Therefore, with its members' requests in mind, Adelante Student Voices initiated its Scholarship Fund in 2018.

### **Pittsburgh Presbytery**

Administrative Funds, \$800

### **INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS**

The International Projects below include 2 Intermediary partners that funded a total of 45 projects.

### **Group of Women of Value, Panama City, Panama, \$ 15,000**

This project is a catering service which provides high quality products at affordable prices and provides employment and training to group members

### **Craft and Art Beauty, Las Tablas, Panama, \$ 15,000**

This project is comprised of a group of artisans who partnered to create a workshop and a warehouse for the preparation and sale of traditional Panamanian clothing. Project members seek to create a workplace for craftswomen and a selling site for handicrafts which will also be a location where people can find their traditional garments and information about their traditions and customs. The group is also dedicated to training new generations and passing on their traditions as well as to improving their incomes and thereby a better quality of life.

### **Panamanian Women Center (CEMP), Panama City, Panama, \$ 15,000**

The project is the planning and launching of micro-businesses for 20 Afro-Panamanian women.

### **Women Committee at Villa Nueva, Panama, \$ 15,000**

Construction of a rural aqueduct in a remote indigenous community. A 1500-gallon cement tank-container for water will be built and connections will be made from the tank on several supply routes, providing each house with a spigot. There are 52 houses and a school. It is needed so that each house has access to clean water for human consumption.

**CE-MUJER, Dominican Republic**

CE-MUJER is an intermediary partner in the Dominican Republic. It uses SDOP criteria to fund projects in the Dominican Republic.

**Presbyterian Church of Rwanda, Rwanda**

The Church of Rwanda will provide assistance to agricultural and handicraft projects, water supply and electricity amongst others using SDOP guidelines.