

Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) continues to work with low-income communities across and outside the United States to overcome oppression and injustice. In 2023, National SDOP entered into partnership with the projects below. Funded projects focused on literacy, worker-owned cooperatives, advocacy, youth-led initiatives, skills development, farming, worker rights, immigration/refugee issues and capacity building. Through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, over 5,000 projects in economically poor communities in the United States and around the world have had an opportunity to develop solutions to their own challenges since SDOP's inception.

NATIONAL SDOP PROJECTS

Pima County Interfaith Council, Tucson, AZ, received a \$15,000 grant. The project seeks to provide community members with a nongovernmental form of ID, which will help government agencies and community members feel safer when dealing with law enforcement. Undocumented immigrants often are victims of crime or witness crimes but fail to report those crimes due to lack of ID's. The immigrant community, local churches, and the Pima County Sheriff's Department collaborated to develop an acceptable form of ID to aid both community members and local law enforcement. The grant will be used to purchase equipment and supplies for printing, issuing the IDs, training immigrants on how to use the equipment, and training community organizers.

ARISE Adelante, Alamo, TX, received a \$15,000 grant for the group of low income youth and their families has partnered with ARISE (A Resource In Serving Equality) Adelante. They plan to increase the success rate of students who graduate from high school and post-graduation educational resource acceptance. Success Beyond High School will use previous participants and other resources to train and mentor high school students. The program will run on a one-year cycle and provide training and mentorship in areas such as study habits, graduation requirements, career possibilities, college entrance requirements, and proper application techniques. Upon completion of the program, the high school graduates are expected to return the next year to lead classes and seminars, thus making the program sustainable.

Payson Homeless and Homeless Veterans initiative (PHHVI), Payson, AZ, was awarded a \$15,000 grant. Payson Homeless and Homeless Veterans Initiative (PHHVI) is comprised of unhoused, formerly unsheltered, and other community residents who help serve meals, complete intakes, and provide needed resources to the unhoused population. Many of the unhoused came together to ask PHHVI to allow them to use their facilities to learn basic life skills such as meal preparation, grocery shopping, and how to grow vegetables for consumption. They created the Confidence Kitchen Project, which consists of 4 weeks of training in menu planning, food preparation, and cooking classes. At the completion of the program participants will receive a Food Handlers card and thus poses a marketable skill when looking for employment.

Newark Water Coalition, Newark, NJ, was awarded a \$15,000 grant. Newark is facing an aging drinking water infrastructure and brownfields. The Newark Water Coalition seeks to equip itself and other local residents to address the issues with the existing power structure. The Coalition proposes a "school" to train residents to assume leadership positions within community groups. They want to create more decision-makers in the organization who can facilitate, organize, and mobilize their internal and external community.

Gullah Farmers' Cooperative Association, St. Helena Island, SC received a \$15,000 grant to the cooperative who operates a well-equipped processing facility. However, it needs vital staffing to secure and maintain buyers, including outreach staff to assist farmers on-site with production and management and staff to seek funding opportunities and answer inquiries. Therefore, they are requesting funds for general operations which will assist them with these vital staffing part-time positions.

West Georgia Farmers' Cooperative, Hamilton, GA, was awarded a \$15,000 grant to build, renovate, and upgrade an old grain barn currently being used for the group's food hub/storage area. One of the primary goals of food hubs is to give small and medium-sized farmers access to larger or additional markets. Food hubs also fill gaps in food systems infrastructure, such as transportation, product storage, and product processing.

Fideicomiso de la Tierra del Cano Martin Pena, San Juan, PR, was awarded a \$15,000 grant. Fideicomiso de la Tierra del Cano Martin Pena is a community land trust seeking to improve its capacity and sustainability in providing clean water and electricity to residents in times of need, especially during hurricane seasons. The project addresses sustainability issues of unreliable electric and water systems. Funds from SDOP, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will help the land trust install a water tank at a community center that is also the headquarters of G-8, Inc. (group of eight communities) that make up the community land trust and to install solar systems. This water storage will provide a supply of water to community residents when the centralized water supply is unavailable after a natural disaster such as a hurricane. Any potential disturbance in the centralized electric grid also has a negative impact on water supply since water pumps often need electric energy to operate and supply potable water to communities. Thus, group members are also seeking to install solar power at various locations within their community. Doing this will make it possible for residents to have spaces to keep food supplies and medications at optimal temperatures, charge devices in case of emergency, and conduct social programs without interruption.

Greenmount West Community Center Foundation, Baltimore, MD, was awarded a \$15,000 grant to cultivate a social-emotional development strategy and youth-led projects through the arts for boys and girls. These sessions involve building community

with and among youth, defining and expanding their own creative styles, and gaining skills in visual art making. Additionally, youth are introduced to local artists in varying mediums, from graffiti artists to muralists. Youth receive hands-on training to prepare them to safely participate in outdoor/indoor community art projects and learn the fundamentals of public art making. Throughout their time together, they develop teamwork skills, build character, and gain confidence in their artistic and personal abilities. These training workshops generate income for the youth to be able to create one youth-led public artwork in their local community that involves almost 15 plus kids in the developing process and 4 to 6 teen youth to implement what they have learned into the final public artwork.

Mentoring Mentors, Reisterstown, MD, was awarded a \$15,000 grant to support 15-20 youth in grades 6th to 12th as they complete 25-30 community service projects. The community service projects are selected by the youth in conversation with community members and include: community clean-ups, meals for the homeless and community block parties. The youth are the primary beneficiaries and receive stipends for their active involvement in identifying community service projects. The youth meet after each service project at a local restaurant to share their experiences, discuss their impact, and build strong relationships with peers. The youth build relationships with other youth and caring and supportive adults whom they can use as references for employment, college, or trade school applications. They are changing the negative voices and news of youth in Baltimore City through their volunteerism and mentorship to younger youth. The youth learn character-building, teamwork, problem-solving, and communication skills. Each youth has the potential to graduate with 455 hours of community service. Their leadership activities in Baltimore have already led to out-of-state travel, thereby expanding their network of colleagues and future mentors. Four of the youth have participated in a summer leadership development camp on Lake Michigan for the past four years. They bring back what they learn in the camp and share it with the rest of the group. SDOP funds were required in order to provide transportation for youth participants, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and snacks.

Bridge to Freedom, Chicago, IL, was awarded a \$15,000 grant for to be used to open the Chicago Soul Coffee House, allowing returning citizens to achieve another milestone by providing them with a greater variety of opportunities for managerial leadership, customer service, and resume building. The coffee house owned and operated by the members will provide returning citizens with the sense of pride that comes from building something bigger than themselves. The group plans to grow a business into a vital community gathering place. The members will handle several aspects of their business, including money management, cleaning, and maintenance, introducing new products, renewing the necessary permits and licenses, booking artists, developing innovative ways to build the customer base, social media, and surveying customers.

Quad Cities Interfaith, Davenport, IA received a \$15,000 grant for the group, made up of domestic workers, some undocumented, is seeking through education and training to implement changes both within the group and outside using policy changes for better lives for themselves. As a group they will learn how to secure a better future through their training.

Direct Action for Rights and Equality, Inc. (DARE), Providence, RI, received a \$15,000 grant. Direct Action for Rights & Equality (DARE) was founded in 1986 by low-income individuals in Rhode Island to address the blight of mass incarceration devastating Black, Brown, and low-income communities. The members of DARE believe they must be at the forefront of addressing the above issues. Over the years, members have led and won campaigns to include "Ban the Box" (increasing opportunities for people with convictions to compete for jobs), unshackle pregnant prisoners, create oversight in the Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI), and create greater access to public housing for people with records.

Beyond the Bars/Decarcerate Miami, Miami, FL, received a \$15,000 grant for the group members are building a worker-driven center in Miami Gardens to advocate for good jobs for formerly incarcerated workers. The grant will be used to support the start-up of this center, including hosting workshops on labor rights with formerly incarcerated workers, popular education trainings on labor and criminal justice issues, canvassing and outreach within the Miami Gardens community, training on wage theft and OSHA violations and how to seek out to help with filing claims, as well as hosting large public meetings where workers with records can discuss the issues they have experienced in a workshop setting.

Center Pole, Garryowen, MT, received a \$23,750 grant for the group members' mission is to promote knowledge, justice, sovereignty, opportunity, and economic empowerment in reservation communities and to protect and preserve indigenous ways and beliefs. They are focused on attaining food sovereignty/sustainability, environmental justice, and community development and are based on the Crow Indian Reservation in southeastern Montana. They seek to improve their livelihood and that of other families living in poverty that are part of the reservation community. They will all benefit directly from the project.

Coalition of Concerned Medical Professionals, Sacramento, CA, was awarded a grant of \$15,000 to a volunteer association of health professionals, educators, students, business leaders, clergy, and concerned citizens who come together to address and meet the needs of low-income workers and their families who have been denied access to preventive medical care. The committee will collect information on the obstacles that members face, such as language, transportation, and affordability of recommended medical services. The committee will inform and instruct its members on effective ways to communicate healthcare needs to healthcare providers and

explain ways to receive follow-up tests, nutritious food, utility advocacy, and legal assistance. They will learn ways to publicize and promote the program in low-income neighborhoods and will learn to do presentations to promote the need for more volunteers for the medical sessions. The committee members will participate in speaking to people in various low-income neighborhoods to both publicize and share the preventive health care benefits that are offered. Committee members will participate as medical advocates and will be with individuals when volunteer medical professionals are providing medical services.

MID COUNCIL (SYNOD & PRESBYTERY) SDOP PROJECTS

Detroit Presbytery

The Price Project/The Price of Financial Literacy, Detroit, MI, was awarded a \$2,451 grant. Project (PFLP) is committed to providing programs that are designed to empower individuals and families to achieve financial wellness, which includes education, tools, and resources to help them manage their finances effectively. We strive to make financial literacy accessible to underserved populations in order to promote equitable financial opportunities for members of our community. Our program's curriculum and learning tools will cover aspects of personal finances, such as budgeting, insurance planning, savings and checking, retirement planning, and life skills giving individuals the foundation needed to make informed financial decisions. The SDOP grant will assist with acquiring materials/supplies, various curricula, and learning tools needed for the program to operate and run successfully. The participants will benefit from the project by learning how to understand money management, saving for the future, building/maintaining credit, entrepreneurship, investing, and building generational wealth.

Griffin Gardens/Community and Wellness Space, Detroit, MI, was awarded a \$2,451 grant to support the efforts of the Griffin Gardens Community and Wellness Space, located on the northwest side of Detroit, which operates from June-September of each year. Griffin Gardens annually offers a variety of classes, workshops, resources, and activities that educate, support, and provide mental and physical healing to people who live in the immediate community and the surrounding areas. Prior to its creation, the site was once 3 beautiful homes that, over time, became neglected, demolished, and then sat as vacant lots. Since its creation in 2020, Griffin Gardens has grown into a beautiful 3 lot garden that has added beauty, boasting over 200 different plant species to the physical landscape of the neighborhood but also providing an environment for the city's natural habitat and pollinators to live. Through this growing landscape, people in the community have a space to come to and feel at peace, an escape from the city life, and learn about healthy herbs and veggies that they too can grow and use right in their own backyard as well as learning about different plants and how

important they are to our environment.as learning about different plants and how important they are to our environment.

Today Is The Day/Urban Garden, Detroit, MI, was awarded \$2,451. Today Is The Day Urban Garden (TITDUG) will be a community space developed by Today Is The Day Inc. (TITD) community members and non-profit organizations. Today Is The Day Inc. (TITD) will provide opportunities to address health, financial literacy, community building, recreation, and neighborhood beautification. TITD will be situated on one vacant lot purchased by Today Is The Day Inc. (TITD). It will provide a gathering green space for relaxation and tranquility and will address and combat food insecurity by providing access to fresh fruits and vegetables. TITDUG will provide outreach programs for educational learning and skills development. TITDUG will also assist through programming with self-management, job readiness, health and nutrition awareness, training in technical skills, and income generation by understanding how wealth is built and maintained. TITD participants will all build, create, and maintain a website and social media platform to invite and promote space for young adults, community building, and assist with neighborhood beautification.

Sandy's Land/Butterfly Garden and Black Doll Museum, Detroit, MI, was awarded a \$2,451 grant for the Community garden to supply food to locals and provide books and dolls to underprivileged children.

Chicago Presbytery

Arise Chicago/Domestic Workers Academy, Chicago, IL, received a \$3,500 grant to a worker rights organization that educates, organizes, and develops the leadership of low-paid immigrant workers. Workers most often approach Arise when their rights have been violated on the job. Arise Chicago then invites workers to a Worker Rights

Workshop to learn their rights and how to act. Then, it invites participants to join as members. Workers join to launch workplace campaigns and to access ongoing education and leadership development, and to join a workers' movement supporting each other's campaigns. One large part of Arise Chicago's membership is domestic workers—home cleaners, nannies, and home care workers. Group members, as domestic workers, are often not paid well and do not have benefits like health insurance, retirement, or even paid sick or vacation time; this makes it very hard to have financial security, save money, or plan for the future. They wanted to create an official school for domestic workers to increase their skills and help make their job a more respected profession. They did a survey with more domestic worker members to decide on the most useful classes and worked on designing a curriculum. Then, they worked with the University of Illinois at Chicago's School of Public Health (as Arise has long-term relationships with the University) to review and certify their curriculum.

The Arise Chicago Domestic Worker Academy is an exciting new training and leadership development program that was imagined and created by Arise domestic worker leaders! Before the pandemic, Arise offered Green Cleaning Infant & Child Development training and CPR certification to home cleaners and nannies. Workers received a certificate of completion for training and a CPR certificate from a licensed trainer. Such certifications were helpful for workers to find new jobs or ask for raises. COVID hit domestic workers hard. Most of our members lost the majority of all their clients in a matter of weeks or days. Many do not have the same number of clients as before the pandemic. Now is a critical time to provide training and certification as more households are once again hiring more workers back. SDOP funds would help purchase needed training materials, including green cleaning supplies, aprons, gloves, materials for nanny and eldercare equipment and activities, and to print our new elder care training booklet.

Alliance for Community Services, Chicago, IL, received a \$4,853.84 grant for project members who comprised of and led by people with disabilities (PWDs), low-income families, seniors, frontline public services employees, and current/former nursing facility residents. Members learn from each other, identify their needs, and campaign together for dignity, respect, and improved services. Group members benefit directly from their advocacy – as do many others that the issues affect. Billions of public dollars are allocated for health, education, and welfare with little or no input from those directly affected. By organizing, we can have a voice in these policies—either private (managed care, nursing facilities) or public (community colleges, public aid)—that directly affect our lives. The Alliance Steering Committee, which consists of all group members and constituents, makes all organizational policy and campaign decisions, and carries out most of the campaign activities. Members of the member organizations (all made up of and led by constituents) have input through regular meetings and forums.

Northern Waters Presbytery

YWCA Duluth/Gender Equity Project, Duluth, MN, was awarded a grant of \$5,000 to provide support and program facilitation with YWI Duluth Cabinet members. The YWI MN Cabinet will build leadership, advocacy, and social action skills, engage in community building, and lead a youth-adult partnership to ensure YWI MN is grounded in the lived experiences and expertise of young women and communities the Cabinet represents. Participants will determine the goals and activities of the Cabinet within three key areas: safety, economic opportunity, and leadership. They will make decisions about the project and their work within it. YWCA Duluth will facilitate, support, and guide.

The SDOP grant will support meetings and activities by providing funds for transportation for participants and staff, including a trip to the Twin Cities, food and beverages for Cabinet meetings, customized t-shirts and sweatshirts for participants, and other supplies that will support participation.

Northern Plains Presbytery

New Roots Farm Incubator Cooperative/Hatching-out Fund, Moorhead, MN was awarded a grant of \$5,000 to provide disadvantaged farmers with access to land through renting a plot secured by an umbrella lease, coverage by a liability insurance policy, and the shared use of equipment for its members. This grant went directly to the New Roots Farm Incubator Cooperative for distribution to members in the form of a direct grant when they graduate from the incubator. The farmers would make the decisions to allocate the funds. Educational and technical support for New Roots is provided through a 501(c)3 non-profit fiscal sponsor, PRAIRIE (Prairie Rose Agricultural Institute for Research, Innovation, & Education). Advanced training and mentoring opportunities are provided. Training includes business planning, marketing support, and access to a range of equipment and tools that provide possibilities for scaling up their agricultural production. As of 2023, two of the founding farmers began “hatching out” of the incubator. One was able to purchase 12 acres of land using FSA financing. The other is leasing land for his farm business. In meetings this spring, the New Roots farmers who form most of the Cooperative board expressed the wish for funds to be raised for a “hatching out fund” that could support critical start-up needs. “Hatching out” is the phrase that the farmers initiated to describe the process of exiting from the incubation phase of involvement in New Roots for those individuals who are ready to stand under their own farm label. The goal is for this transition to happen after 3-5 years of support by the New Roots Cooperative. At this point, two individuals would be immediately qualified to make a request.

Twin Cities Area Presbytery

Align Minneapolis/Street Voices of Change, Minneapolis, MN, was awarded a grant of \$5,500 for a group of individuals who have current or past personal experiences with

homelessness who come together to build community and make positive changes in the lives of people experiencing homelessness and the systems that contribute to and keep people in homelessness. SVoC empowers people to invest in each other to build a loving community that recognizes the trauma of homelessness and seeks to restore dignity in every aspect of the experience. SVoC allows individuals to build self-worth and power as a collective and provides supportive community to people who often feel invisible, forgotten, and marginalized. The group, supported administratively by Align Minneapolis, has twice-weekly meetings hosted by two of Align Minneapolis member congregations. Meetings are open to all who have lived experiences of homelessness, and members (also called attendees) are reflective of the general population of people experiencing homelessness in Minneapolis, with a majority people of color and more men than women. Within the meetings, people who are experiencing homelessness can find connection to the peers and to resources, including to the Streets to Housing team (this team meets with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness after each Street Voices of Change meeting and provides housing case management and access to housing resources). During SVoC meetings, the groups identify topics important to them and goals which are often addressing systemic inequities and unjust systems, then strategize and work together to meet goals and create meaningful change. Current goals include providing ongoing feedback to the local county (Hennepin County) which oversees housing case management teams and the homeless shelter contracts, supporting a campaign for a state-level Constitutional Amendment for Housing to ensure access to housing for all residents, increasing access to free and low-cost laundry, developing an awareness campaign so people experiencing homelessness feel empowered and dignified and can access the resources they need, and creating a permanent safe and welcoming space for people experiencing homelessness to gain footing and progress on their housing journey. Members of SVoC are provided opportunities for training including facilitation training, community organizing training, public speaking training and other skill-building workshops. SVoC members are often called on to provide expertise and help others to understand more about the experience of homelessness; members participate in advisory groups including the Heading Home Hennepin Executive Committee, research related to health disparities in the homeless community, focus groups on Hennepin County's work, and external speaking engagements in a variety of settings such as Align member congregations, government organizations, and legislative rallies. The SDOP grant funding will be used to support ongoing meeting attendance through providing transportation assistance so members can attend meetings (bus tokens), food for SVoC special events and monthly Leadership Meetings, SVoC branded t-shirts for members to wear to meetings, to events in the community and while doing outreach, and compensation for the two co-facilitators of each meeting.

Burnsville High School (BHS)/Student Affinity Groups / Diversity - Inclusion - Belonging Council (DIBC), Burnsville, MN, was awarded a \$5,500 grant for Burnsville High School students who is looking for community resources and support in order to: celebrate who they are as individuals, help educate BHS students about their diverse school and the traditions and attributes of each affinity group, empower BHS students,

and give them leadership skill-building opportunities that their higher education and community partners are asking them to have upon graduation.

Scioto Valley Presbytery

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship / New Neighbors Bakers & Makers, Hilliard, OH, was awarded a \$9,061.29 grant. Farmers Market: Through the "Taste of Peace" Bakers and Makers (TOPBM) as participants have been building a stronger community. Most of us are new to the U.S., having immigrated from Iraq, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Sudan, and elsewhere. We are potential entrepreneurs who make homemade baked goods and offer them for sale, which helps us pursue economic equity in our community. We go to the Hilliard Farmer's Market to practice our English, interact with the local community, and do business. Our events include: hosting quarterly dinner events entitled "Taste of Peace" inviting the community at large to come and experience food from one of our refugee family's country of origin with the three-fold purpose: 1) to introduce our refugee family to the local community and give them an opportunity to hear their story as well as enjoy their local cuisine; 2) to help raise awareness of the plight of refugees in their home countries and the difficulties that they have had relocating to the United States; and, 3) to give our group members a wider sphere of influence to market our food. Each person attending the event purchases a ticket for \$20 for the event program which includes a meal made by one of our refugee members. All the proceeds then go entirely to the individual refugee family featured at the dinner. In turn, the people attending have an opportunity to hear about the family's country of origin and the problems they are currently experiencing in their country. This also informs the local people about some of the difficulties we, as a refugee population, have experienced during our stay in the United States. It is our dream that in the future, we can expand the program to include a local restaurant and/or food truck for local events.

Western Reserve Presbytery

Regent Community Garden/Making Connections in Regent Community Garden, Cleveland, OH, received a grant for \$1,500 for a group who is making a comeback from some years of disrepair. They have been focusing on ameliorating some of the toxins in their soil and need to keep up with regular/expected property maintenance. They also have a hoop house that has been repaired from damage but has been without proper irrigation for 2 years. The group would also like to increase the diversity of crops/cover crops/bushes/trees to expand their garden capacity.

Royal Priesthood lifestyle brand/Cultivated Soil Learning Co-Op, Cleveland, OH, received a grant for \$3,500 for the group seeks to establish a learning cooperative that educates children of all ability levels, reflects families' spiritual beliefs, and honors their heritage. Collectively, they have diverse work experiences. They believe their collective experiences, connection to local resources, and dedication to the vision are what will

bring them success. The members will work to design the curriculum, prepare for events, plan activities, and develop a fundraising plan and marketing.

New Hope Presbytery

Fairview Community Watch/Dorothy N. Johnson Community Center Launch: Strengthening the Fairview Community, Hillsborough, NC was awarded a \$6,807.14 grant to the project that is a part of an effort by the Fairview Community Watch (FCW) to open the Dorothy N. Johnson Community Center to the Fairview Community. Although the FCW has leased a building, has made long-range plans for program development, and has funding sources for furniture, supplies, and services, the community center is not fully open. This SDOP grant would provide the much-needed funds to support a part-time Center Assistant whose main job would be maintaining regular hours at the center and promoting consistent communication between the FCW and the Fairview Community.

Charleston Atlantic Presbytery

Lowcountry Food Bank/Backpack Buddies Weekend Hunger Relief Program, North Charleston, SC, was awarded a \$3,500 grant to support the Backpack Buddies program, the first step in improving short-term and long-term outcomes among children experiencing or at risk of experiencing hunger. Since 2006, the Backpack Buddies program helped to alleviate weekend hunger among food-insecure school children by distributing backpacks full of nutritious and kid-friendly food during the school year.

Into the Mouths of Babes/The Filling Station/Weekend Snack Bags, Orangeburg, SC, was awarded a \$3,500 grant to this project that is focused on supporting a weekend Snack Bag program. The program will distribute 1,200 snack bags weekly to elementary school students lacking food security.

Wallingford Presbyterian Church/ Senior Ministry's Stock the Pantry mission, Charleston, SC was awarded a \$3,500 grant to the Stock the Pantry Mission, which will distribute food to those who have difficulty purchasing enough food items, nutritional food items, and meats to avoid hunger. Being that it is no cost, the savings from 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.

Pittsburgh Presbytery

Rams in the Bush/Precious Memories, Pittsburgh, PA, was awarded a \$5,427 grant. The Precious Memories project is comprised primarily of low-income African American female caregivers and advocates. Each project team member is impacted by or interacts with individuals suffering from memory loss, cognitive decline, Dementia, or Alzheimer's disease. Members either know someone with the disease or have direct experience caring for a loved one or family member and the challenges associated with

obtaining assistance and ensuring the quality of life. All members of the Precious Memories Project Team equally share ownership, decision-making, and control. Everyone has a say and will benefit directly from all activities undertaken to increase knowledge and understanding, including disease-specific awareness training; understanding terminology and care plans; identifying affordable health care/ insurance options; pinpointing governmental, legal, and financial resources; how to advocate, as well as other activities are undertaken. We believe the Precious Memories Project will help members gain greater confidence in using their voices to work toward positive changes in health care and within legislative bodies. There is a great need for culturally sensitive information about memory loss, cognitive decline, Dementia, and Alzheimer's disease. SDOP funds will be used to assist with online/ in-person meetings, training, and workshops; online access fees; materials; and supplies. Precious Memories training will specifically cover disease-specific terminology and awareness training, understanding of available resources, developing a plan to navigate the health care system, and effective advocating and supporting. All training and workshops will be made available to individuals within vulnerable, underserved communities who desire to increase knowledge and understanding.

Pittsburgh Presbytery, Pittsburgh, PA, Administrative Funds Request, \$603.64.

James Presbytery

United to Empower (UTE)/Empowering Young Leaders (Sussex County), Surry, VA, received a \$7,000 grant for the project's focus includes funding a youth leadership development, job/college readiness, and peer mentorship program in Sussex County, Virginia. It will cover the cost of student stipends, supplies, incentives, facility rent, transportation, technology (Zoom), equipment, and community service activities. Group members will attend monthly meetings and activities to increase their skills, engage with caring adult role models, learn about local governmental functions, and participate in workshops that include goal setting, career planning, financial literacy, character building, and soft skills training. They will gain real work experience that can be used for acquiring future employment and going to post-secondary schooling. Group members will obtain a stipend for their participation. They will also gain training opportunities paid for through the grant while contributing back to their county. Each group participant will be expected to provide at least 50 hours of community service to the project. They will earn while they learn but will also learn by giving back to help their peers, younger youth, the elderly, and other disadvantaged individuals in need. They will also participate in community service learning. Group members will demonstrate their learning by public speaking, creating resumes, and organizing digital portfolios.

The James Presbytery, Richmond, VA, Administrative Funds Request, \$565.06.

Mid-Kentucky Presbytery

New Hope International/Farming, Louisville, KY, received a \$5,000 grant for the group members to expand their farming projects by getting new land and introducing new crops. The appropriate/needed seeds are not easy to get because they are unavailable in Kentucky; they are planning to obtain them from Iowa or Africa.

Redwoods, San Francisco, San Jose Presbyteries

Centro del Pueblo Movimiento Indigena Migrante/Sanctuary Gardens, Arcata, CA, received a \$7,000 grant to address pressing issues such as food insecurity and limited access to fresh, culturally relevant foods within the Latinx and indigenous migrant community of Humboldt County. It offers access to fresh, nutritious produce, fosters cultural preservation, empowers individuals to share their traditions, and enhances community resilience.

Pacific Presbytery

Southern California Community Empowerment Corporation/Mothers Organized for Peace and Healing: Winter P.R.O.M. (Parents Restoring, Overcoming & Maintaining), Los Angeles, CA, was awarded a grant for \$5,000. In South Los Angeles, thousands of families and parents are currently struggling to cope with the death of one or more of their children (varying ages) who have had their lives taken due to community violence (gun, gang, and domestic). These parents have little to no access to quality victim-families care and healing spaces. These families have come together to mitigate the long-term effects of this kind of trauma. Their winter healing gathering is an opportunity to give access to over 100 victim families for care, support, and healing space. Their collaboration of Mothers of Murdered Youth and Young Adults understands first-hand how vital access to care and healing practices are in these untimely traumatic deaths.

rural Oregon and Washington. Two indigenous experts from Southeast Washington will facilitate this discussion on the topic.

Cascades Presbytery

WeX Voter Outreach/WeX Community Building Circle, Warm Springs, OR, received a \$7,500 grant for to hold a cross-cultural community-building dialogue on the Native American Reservation in the rural community of Warm Springs, Oregon. The WeX cross-cultural dialogue model is grounded in an Indigenous worldview and centers on community members of color. This dialogue will include approximately 10 community members of color and 10 white ally community members. At least 5 - 7 participants will be volunteer members or partners of WeX Voter Outreach who have been trained in dialogue, and 5-7 will represent local faith communities in Central Oregon and

Southeast Washington. Participants will be referred and screened by WeX and selected based on their willingness to demonstrate understanding of previous work on, and ability to advance understanding of the extent of the continued damage caused by the Doctrine of Discovery and willingness to work to reverse this damage. The group plans to include church leaders, lay allies, and Indigenous community members from

San Fernando, San Gabriel Presbyteries

Gabrieleno (Tongva) Band of Mission Indians/Federal Recognition Preparation, San Gabriel, CA, received a \$5,000 grant for document preparation to prepare the tribe for submission of Federal Recognition. Once federal recognition is achieved, tribal members will benefit from education, housing, and resources for healing generational trauma.

INTERNATIONAL SDOP PROJECTS

The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA), Guatemala City, Guatemala, an intermediary partner in Guatemala, was awarded a grant of \$32,500. CEDEPCA is an intermediary partner in Guatemala . They will use SDOP criteria to fund projects in Guatemala.

The Small School/Uniting dreams, Chame, Panama, received a \$15,000 grant to design and preparation of germination stations at group members' houses. The stations will be for fruit, vegetable, and medicinal seeds, taking advantage of the seeds from products consumed at home. Group members have a collective vision to support themselves and their communities from the adverse impact of COVID-19 and the prohibitive cost of living due to the current world situation. The women's heads of household are the project implementers. Part of the project's mission is to guarantee food security for themselves and their community and generate income for their families. This project would benefit low-income families struggling with poverty.

Women Group of Boca La Caja/Sowing Hope, Panama City, Panama, received a \$15,000 grant for low-income group members are seeking financing to help them create a catering service that helps them become micro-enterprises and purchase all the necessary equipment. The project will guarantee an income and improve the participants' quality of life, their families, and the community. They will be able to offer catering services for various events.

Buena Vista Women Group/Forging Future, Colon, Panama, received a \$15,000 grant to impact the economic mobility of group members in their efforts to achieve economic self-sufficiency. It is a business that can be passed down through generations, thereby helping people overcome poverty and build generational wealth.

The Blessing, Las Tablas, Panama, was awarded a \$15,000 grant for the low-income group members are seeking to improve their economic status by creating a kitchen with sufficient equipment to produce food items they can sell. This is an extremely impoverished community with little to no employment opportunities. Group members are creating their own source of employment for themselves and hopefully generations to come.

Nuevo Belen Community/Sustainable energy for the Wounaan community, Darien Province, Panama, was awarded a \$15,700 grant to install solar energy through solar panels in community residents' homes. Solar power will enhance residents' communication since they will be able to charge their mobile phones. Solar power will also be made available for lighting public sidewalks in areas such as the river, community house, health care center, and the ends of each sidewalk.

Boca de Tucue Agro-Entrepreneurs, Boca de Tucue, Panama received a \$15,000 to enable the group to raise 2,000 chickens to be distributed among members. This food will help improve diets compromised by significant poverty. The project also includes raising corn and other vegetables and a reforestation component.

Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication (CISCOPE), Abuja, Nigeria, received a \$20,000 grant for the project that is aimed at strengthening the livelihood of 200 affected farmers and vulnerable female-headed households, lactating mothers, and the elderly with food and non-food items. The farmers will obtain recovery and livelihood starter packs and agricultural processing machines in order to add value to their farm produce, thus increasing their income and reducing labor costs within the local farmer cooperative groups. Additionally, 8 monthly sessions and advocacy radio programs will be held on one of the widely listened-to radio stations in the state. Issues of flooding and preparedness, early warning and mitigation strategies, and better ways of flood management and resilience building will be discussed.

JAAR of Nazareth, Darien, Panama, received a \$15,000 grant to provide solar light to improve the quality of life.

JAAR of Boca de Tigre, Darien, Panama, received a \$15,000 grant to provide solar light to improve the quality of life.

Peasant coordinator for life and land, Colon, Panama, received a \$15,000 grant to increase their agricultural production to feed their families and sell the produce. They plan to do so by producing honey and panela scraped from sugar cane. They also plan to raise broiler chickens for consumption and sale. They will also grow cassava, bananas, corn, and beans to sell to supplement their income.

CINEP, Chilibre, Panama, received a \$15,000 grant to install water reserve tanks for these low-income community residents. They will also work on adjusting the cultivation house: construction of stairs, railing, and a screen and the purchase of a rainwater collection tank. The water will be provided to the chickens they are raising. They will also build a structure for raising chickens for reproduction, which will then be sold for additional income.

CIEETS, Managua, Nicaragua, received a \$32,500 grant for CIEETS as an intermediary partner in Nicaragua . They will use SDOP criteria to fund projects in Nicaragua.

Find out more about the ongoing work of the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) at pcusa.org/sdop/