

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 the United States to overcome oppression and injustice. In 2020, National SDOP entered into partnership with the projects below. Projects included those 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

South Sudan Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, received a \$15,000 grant for its South Sudanese group members seeking to acquire proficiency in English to navigate their new culture and share their heritage with their children. They hope in this way for their struggle to find work, access services and secure housing to be realized.

Little Lumpy's Center, Cleveland, OH, received a \$15,000 grant for its project that will provide income and serve as a printing resource for underserved groups. The members of the collaborative own and make the decisions as a group. They will use the funding to establish the printing company.

North Flint Food Market Coop, Flint, MI, was awarded a \$15,000 grant to tackle the problem of a food desert in its community by creating a community-owned food cooperative. The community residents will be the driving force behind creating food security and increasing access to healthy food in their community.

Living Well United, LeRoy, IL, was awarded a \$15,000 grant for the group to renovate a building to become a senior wellness center. The group hopes this will reduce social isolation, promote healthy lifestyles, and serve as a resource and a hub for social interaction. Long term change will include the creation of a safe space for seniors that will provide resources and recreation that permits seniors to age in place in their communities.

Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA), Chicago, IL received a \$15,000 grant to tackle gentrification in its community through amongst other efforts a pilot long-term affordable home ownership program. The project will work with partners to develop a Community Land Trust utilizing existing housing stock. It will also conduct outreach to help its group members and other families facing foreclosure, high energy costs and property taxes by connecting them to resources.

Contact Center, Cincinnati, OH, was awarded a \$15,000 grant for the project to organize for improved and accessible health care coverage for its members including substance abuse treatment and mental health care if needed.

Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, Philadelphia, PA, was awarded a \$15,000 grant. The project is a 20-week youth program to meet the intersectional needs of young people in the poorest neighborhoods of Philadelphia, to build leadership, community, and organizing skills. This project also provides a safe space for healing, recreation, creative self-expression, supportive community, and mentorship.

Dismas House of Massachusetts, Worcester, MA, was awarded a \$12,500 grant for a project to reform the local social security office so that it is more responsive to clients as well as reduce the costs to inmate families for phone calls to inmates.

Refugees Helping Refugees, Rochester, NY, was awarded a \$15,000 grant for this group of refugee women and men from 20 different countries learning how to sew, knit, and crochet clothing, make silk screen shirts, jewelry and other crafts professionally. The items are sold at local markets, festivals, and on Etsy (global online market).

Put People First! PA, Philadelphia, PA, was awarded a \$15,000 grant for its project that supports its ongoing work of advocating for healthcare for its membership and all Pennsylvanians.

New Jersey Parents' Caucus, Succasunna, NY, was awarded \$14,400 grant for a project that seeks to develop leadership skills and instruct families comprised of parents and children on resources available for their special needs children.

Organización Boricúa de Agricultura Ecológica de Puerto Rico, received a \$15,000 grant to enable the group to offer its membership and others the tools to know how to reduce hunger, poverty and produce sustainable and healthy food. Group members seek to develop further the capacity to strengthen the organization's operational infrastructure and to use part of the funds for operations and maintenance of the collective. In addition, the organization seeks to use the funds towards programmatic goals that benefit its membership and the general public through educational and training activities.

Koinonia Farm, Americus, GA, received a \$15,000 grant for its project that will involve the bakery manager undergoing training in inventory, budgeting, and management. Funding will also be used to provide part-time employment to area residents and will support the ongoing life and work at Koinonia.

Project Nu Beginning Re-Entry, Irmo, SC, was awarded a \$15,000 grant for the group to expand its children of incarcerated parents mentoring program. The project will focus on disrupting the school to prison pipeline system in school District One in Columbia SC. It will work towards reunifying the family structure, empowering the children,

enhancing public safety in the communities and helping parents along with their children to become productive law-abiding citizens.

Atlanta Agricultural Alliance (AAA), Atlanta, GA received a \$15,000 grant for its growers to effectively change how food was produced, marketed and delivered in their community. They came together to address the need for food security, health and self-sustainability as well as the needs for their community.

Proyecto Pastoral, Los Angeles, CA, received a \$16,000 grant for its Promesa Network to address needs developed in reaction to the current immigration policy. They seek to mobilize, educate and protect themselves and their immigrant community through distributing Know Your Rights and Family Preparedness information, providing support during ICE arrest/raids and mobilizing residents to advocate for just immigration policies.

Bakuumba Botik Co-Op, San Diego, CA, received a \$16,000 grant for its retail co-op project situated in the Encanto neighborhood of SE San Diego, with a 16% African American population. The group's mission is to empower itself and others. The physical space of the co-op provides stalls for 12 vendor-members, who offer a variety of goods and services, they plan to upgrade the venue by adding class and performance space as well as a small herb garden in a small courtyard behind the store. Their vision is to create a community hub, arts venue and small business incubator.

National Day Laborer Organizing Network, Pasadena, CA, received a \$16,000 grant for its radio communication project formed by Hispanic day laborers in the Pasadena area. The idea of the group arose from the need to raise general awareness about the barriers and injustices existing in the Jornalera community (discrimination, labor abuse, wage theft, etc.).

Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, Sacramento, CA, was awarded a \$16,000 grant for leadership development and organizing. The group will also work on campaigns addressing the criminalization of homelessness, for example, camping and sweeping ordinances, educating and generating support from the public about issues of homelessness.

Caridad Gardens, Las Vegas, NV, received a \$15,000 grant to enable this group of formerly homeless veterans who have banded together to seek to empower themselves through job skills training and mental/emotional wellness programs. Group members receive training on how to grow and market its crops. The gardeners each receive a small stipend for growing produce that is used by the group and sold to local restaurants.

MID COUNCIL (SYNOD & PRESBYTERY) SDOP PROJECTS

Detroit Presbytery

The CASOE Group, Detroit, MI, was awarded a \$9,666 grant to create an online store for the purpose of generating revenue through the sale of tee shirts and specialty arts items. The store will have an online portal for customers to order standard items or request specialty items. With the Covid Stay-At-Home order, CASOE could no longer produce live stage performances which generated revenue from ticket sales, vendors, concession stand, raffle tickets and the sales of CASOE memorabilia. This income generating project was forced to shut down its physical store amid the Covid-19 pandemic but has transitioned to a virtual platform.

Detroit Presbytery, Detroit, MI, Administrative Funds Request, \$1,074.08.

Chicago Presbytery

Alliance for Community Services, Chicago, IL, received a \$4,500 grant to enable it to organize its project members and other community residents around issues of systemic and policy roots of inequities. Project members will also educate themselves on the above issues so they can advocate better for themselves.

Minnesota Valleys Presbytery

Hikmah Youth Enrichment Program, St. Peter, MN, was awarded a \$5,400 grant to assist primarily immigrant students and their families in improving the student's academic support, job preparedness and housing advocacy. The money from this grant would be used to hire 2 teachers to facilitate student learning at Hikmah. Currently, Hikmah relies primarily on volunteer tutors, however the number of volunteers varies greatly throughout the year and not all volunteers have a strong background in education. This grant will go towards hiring people who the students can consistently rely on for help and who have been educated in how to effectively teach students from diverse backgrounds.

Minnesota Valleys Presbytery SDOP Committee, Willmar, MN, Administrative Funds Request, \$566.93

Northern Waters Presbytery

Life House, Duluth, MN, was awarded a grant of \$2,385.01 for a project involving low-income youth and young adults. The funds will help the youth/young adults with developing skills that would increase their employment capacity.

Scioto Valley Presbytery

Franklin County Youth Council, Columbus, OH, was awarded a \$3,000 grant for a virtual youth movement that involves Middle and High School students. During this event they will share the history of the Franklin County Youth Council and host three different workshops. The workshop discussion will include Financial Literacy & Generational Wealth, Using Media Effectively and Academic Success/Surviving Covid-19 in addition to helping build a sense of community amongst themselves. The grant will be used to cover the cost of advertising, facilitator's training, and incentives for the youth facilitators.

Franklin County Workers Benefit Council, Columbus, OH, was awarded a \$4,990 grant to assist its project members and other community residents with leadership training/developing leadership skills. The group has also been involved with educating itself so it can advocate for itself on issues such as housing and evictions exacerbated by the pandemic and the resulting economic downturn. Group members have also been involved in advocating against utility shutoffs.

Scioto Valley Presbytery, Columbus, OH, Administrative Funds Request, \$924.42

Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Harweyn Somali Women Support, Minneapolis, MN, received a \$5,000 grant to assist the group members in collectively dealing with domestic violence issues. The women experience severe economic, social and mental health disparities that prevent them from seeking help when experiencing domestic violence.

Western Reserve Presbytery

Barkwill Buzz, Cleveland, OH, received a grant for \$1,500 for a project focused on increasing the group's capacity to grow many pollinator friendly flowers inside, outside, and in the community to make foraging easy for the honeybees. This income generating project will help with providing an income to project members and thereby improving their standard of living.

Regent Community Garden, Cleveland, OH, was awarded a grant for \$3058.39. The funds will enable the project members to further develop the gardening skills needed to manage the property well in order to increase productivity and to also purchase needed gardening tools. Project members through growing their own food aim to eat more healthy food and thus improve their health.

Hudson River Presbytery

Ulster Immigrant Defense Network, Kingston, NY, received a \$3,500 grant to assist undocumented migrants or immigrants who are awaiting asylum hearings. The SDOP funding will be used to acquire 17 bicycles and helmets for trips to grocery stores, jobs, and doctor visits.

Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson / Education Fund, Poughkeepsie, NY, received \$3,250 grant to enable group members and especially its community organizers to identify Pandemic related needs of group members and community residents who are low-income, elderly and disproportionately people of color. Project members are delivering Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and food to group and community members as well as helping connect them to economic assistance and other resources.

National Capital Presbytery

The Garden Group, Silver Spring Maryland, received a \$16,000 grant for its community gardening project. The group of 17 families has come together to combat food insecurity which has been worsened by Covid 19 by jointly growing food for their family's consumption.

New York City Presbytery

Project Connect, Brooklyn, NY. this network of and for returning citizens (formerly incarcerated persons) and their families of the Church of Gethsemane received a \$1,000 grant. The network seeks to assist their transition back into the community after release.

Age Friendly Central Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY, this project comprised of older adults was awarded a \$1,000 grant. The funding will assist it with publishing costs of its newsletter. The Newsletter shares healthy aging strategies, highlights issues of the day as they relate to aging and provides information on upcoming activities that help the senior residents develop a sense of community.

Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church's Mutual Aid Network, Brooklyn, NY, received a grant for \$2333.68. The network was created at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in New York City to provide specific forms of support throughout the Church community. Assistance has included support for rent and other expenses for members with jobs threatened by or lost because of the Pandemic and food distribution to housebound residents.

Cooperators' Advocacy Project (CAP Masaryk), New York City, NY, the group received a \$1,000 grant to assist it in its food distribution program and training needed to ensure sustainability of productive food purchase and a successful delivery program.

The training will ensure understanding proper nutrition; managing safety standards for Covid-19 and emergency preparedness, which includes CPR American Red Cross Training. All the above are taught by community volunteers except for the Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR Training.

Philadelphia Presbytery

Why Not Prosper, Philadelphia, PA, was awarded a \$7,500 grant for this group of low-income women that seeks to advocate for criminal justice reform especially as it pertains to women. The group members are returning citizens seeking to reenter society.

Southwest Philly Food Pantry, Philadelphia, PA, was awarded a \$7,500 grant to address the problem of food insecurity amongst its members and its community residents. The group consists of low income and elderly members. Covid has exacerbated food insecurity issues.

Pittsburgh Presbytery

Sisters Saving Ourselves Now, New Kensington, PA, was awarded a \$3,600 grant to enable it to carry out its peer to peer mentoring program amongst its members. This group of low-income women who have all been adversely impacted by Covid-19 is seeking to form a network that will help them develop additional skills that can be helpful in their future employment.

Building Relationships in Developing Generational Entrepreneurs (B.R.I.D.G.E.S.), Turtle Creek, PA, received a \$3,600 grant for its project. The intergenerational group of students and families seeks to connect its project members and community residents to schools, events and organizations through technology in this Covid era when communication is primarily virtual/digital.

Pittsburgh Presbytery SDOP Committee, Administrative Funds Request, \$835.21.

Charleston Atlantic Presbytery

Charleston Area Justice Ministry, North Charleston, SC, received a \$3,000 grant to assist it in its community organizing efforts. The group seeks to address systemic problems in its community. Group members will meet, conduct surveys on the most pertinent issues in their community, agree which issues to tackle and further research and then implement possible solutions.

James Presbytery

The James Presbytery, Richmond, VA, Administrative Funds Request, \$703.65

Mid-Kentucky Presbytery

Mindat Community Gardens, Louisville, KY, received a \$4,390 grant for a community gardening project. Project members plan to grow a variety of vegetables for their consumption to supplement what they can afford to buy.

Cascades Presbytery

Pacific Northwest Family Circle, Canby, OR, received a grant for \$11,500 for its Fred Bryant Memorial Healing Fund project. The project supports the health and welfare of people who have lost loved ones to violence. This project will pay for basic living expenses for PNWFC family members and a retreat to deal with the trauma they have experienced.

Cascades Presbytery SDOP Committee, Portland, OR, Administrative Funds Request, \$1,469.56

San Fernando/San Gabriel Presbyteries

Cooperative of Refugee Persons (COOPERE), North Hills, CA, received a \$4,000 grant for the launch of the Cooperative of Refugee Women in order to generate some income. The cooperative provides an opportunity to learn new crafts and tools that will help them create crafts and learn business skills to help generate earnings. Using new business skills, the crafts will generate earnings

SFVRCC Food Distribution Program, North Hills, CA, received a grant of \$494.12 to assist community members that have lost their jobs due to Covid 19 and are now facing housing and food insecurity.

Pacific Presbytery

Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, was awarded a grant for \$5,184.94 to assist the group members in their efforts to further develop their advocacy skills so they can advocate for themselves on immigrant related matters.

COVID-19 PROJECTS (NATIONAL AND MID COUNCIL)

Serve Squad Society, Royal Oak, MI, was awarded a Covid grant of \$1,942 to assist low-income youth and their families impacted by the pandemic with wi-fi access. These youth and their families struggle with lack of wi-fi access which has become a critical need as Covid-19 has resulted in an increasing reliance on Wi-Fi and remote access for distance learning for students and for work for adults.

South Sudanese Foundation, Fargo, ND, was awarded a Covid grant of \$1,945 to hire a Distance Learning Coordinator and a Rapid Response Community Coordinator. The Distance Learning Coordinator will help refugees and immigrant students' access and acclimatize to distance learning and work with students, parents, and teachers to make sure all students have what they need to learn outside of school. The Rapid Response Community Coordinator will keep up with and translate CDC, federal, state, and local announcements, information from medical professionals and information about available resources.

Oakdale Neighbors, Grand Rapids, MI, received a \$1,945 Covid grant to enable the organization to assist its economically disadvantaged residents struggling with the adverse impact of Covid-19. Community residents are wrestling with unemployment and evictions exacerbated by the pandemic.

Wayside Recovery Center, St. Louis Park, MN, was awarded a \$1,943 grant to assist it in keeping its clients and staff safe at its women's and family residential treatment facilities. As winter approaches, behavioral health needs of this community will escalate when isolation increases, encampments are dismantled, and shelters are maxed for capacity making the services of Wayside Recovery Center even more critical.

Prism Economic Development Corporation, Milwaukee, WI, received a \$1,945 Covid grant to help to get meals to food-insecure households and individuals. The organization has forged several partnerships with area food ministries and organizations to obtain donated food in bulk to be used in the preparation of freshly cooked meals. The Covid grant will help with the payroll costs of the community meals coordinator and half the payroll expense of the Kitchen Manager.

Food Depot to Health, South Euclid, OH, was awarded a \$1,945 Covid grant to enable it to purchase materials for indoor and outdoor growing vegetable crops. Their project, Urban Homesteading through Community Caring- Emergikit will provide materials to project members for growing nutrient dense greens such as micro greens including kale, collards, swiss chard, and frequently used culinary herbs. The kits will include a manual and a calendar that includes the module training dates and times. Participants will be enrolled from community groups, afterschool care and senior living buildings.

BECOME, Chicago, IL, a community-based organization that received a \$1,945 Covid grant to help South Shore community residents that have lost their lives, loved ones and jobs and amidst the pandemic. BECOME will host listening forums to hear from community residents about their needs; increase the number of people served through strategic outreach by asking those who have been served if they know of anyone else in the community who has a need related to the pandemic that they need to connect to and sharing community needs with city and state leadership

Solo Saving Our Lost Ones, Detroit, MI, was awarded a \$1,945 Covid grant to a project that will provide "mobile haircuts" for low-income students while practicing social distancing on the school bus. Students that are virtual learning from home will receive a surprise mobile visit from the S.O.L.O team with a haircut, school supplies and incentive of their choice.

Wesley Community Center, Dayton, OH, received a \$1,945 Covid grant to support destruction of PPE supplies including hand sanitizer, disinfecting cleaner, disposable face coverings and cloth face coverings. The center also plans to purchase 3 laptop computers to support the Infant Mortality prevention program.

Domestic Workers United, Brooklyn, NY, received a \$7,500 Covid grant for its project that seeks to continue to provide support to domestic workers during the Pandemic by helping to maintain a sense of community, educating its members, promoting self-advocacy, and improving workers' quality of life through financial coaching and medical/nutritional/mental health consultations. This has included sharing collective knowledge and resources. The project has invited healthcare professionals to share about Covid and related health concerns on some Town Hall Calls. Its Maple Street Community Garden partnership has provided free farm fresh food to workers.

West End Pantry, Kunkletown, PA, was awarded a \$5,000 Covid grant for its volunteer only food pantry that gives free food to low income neighbors. It also provides other resources to families that cannot afford food. Programs include but are not limited to a free bicycle program, new back to school supplies, haircuts, and within the last 2 years a food pantry closet program in every school of the Pleasant Valley District has been established. The elderly are provided winter clothes, flu shots and tax preparation. During the COVID pandemic, the project is focused on food collection and distribution which has intensified.

The Alumni Group (TAG), Wallingford, PA, was awarded a \$7,500 Covid grant for a project focused on finding alternative means of funding as the primary means have been severely restricted due to COVID. Project members are seeking to continue maintaining the Mentoring and Transitional Housing ministry.

Movement for Justice in El Barrio, NY City, NY, was awarded this \$7,500 Covid grant to support it in aiding immigrants in the community that are being adversely impacted by the pandemic. The group will assist other immigrants by amongst other things providing PPE care boxes, meal delivery, distribution of monthly MetroCards, grocery certificates and a bilingual Covid-19 emergency telephone hotline.

Multicultural Center for Health / Education and Community Development, Clarkston, GA, was awarded a \$6,875 Covid grant to assist in carrying out its monthly food distribution. Community residents to be helped include refugees, immigrants, and

home bound seniors. The program seeks to improve family stability of the above residents by removing the uncertainty of when or where the next meal will come from.

Familias Unidas en Accion, New Orleans, LA, received a \$6,875 Covid grant to assist it in responding to the harmful impact of the Pandemic by purchasing and distributing boxes of culturally specific food, PPE and basic hygiene supplies to local families. Project members also plan to hire a skilled interpreter/translator who is deeply engaged in the community thus ensuring that their communities have up to date culturally relevant information in their native language.

GAP Ministries of Augusta, Augusta, GA, was awarded a \$6,875 Covid grant to purchase Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and to employ a professional cleaning service. This will allow the organization to continue to provide a safe environment to conduct its programs for area community residents.

Haywood Pathways Center, Waynesville, NC, received a Covid grant of \$6,875 to assist it in providing meals, emergency shelter, short-term housing, and rehabilitative/ services for community residents experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 crisis.

Safe Ground Sacramento, Sacramento, CA, received a \$7,500 Covid grant to help people experiencing homelessness exacerbated by the pandemic. The organization has leased some land and prepared the site with grading and ground covering, accessed water sources and built platforms that hold tents. The group has been able to hire someone to help residents organize, maintain cleanliness and safety and access services in the community. Group members continue to meet with the mayor and city councilmembers, currently working on a shelter crisis ordinance that would allow the tiny house communities to pass zoning ordinances.

Masjidul Taqwa San Diego, CA, received a \$7,500 Covid grant to combat the problem of food insecurity exacerbated by the pandemic. The SDOP funds will help increase the organization's capacity and efficiency and to serve more community residents. MTSD has outgrown its allotted space and the SDOP funds will help with paying for a warehouse to accommodate more food and office space to coordinate their program, and to train staff members.

Indigenous Lifeways, Gallup, NM, received a \$7,500 Covid grant that will enable it to provide Winter Care Packages to Native American elders. They hope to serve 200 seniors with blankets, gloves, scarves, socks, and hats and a first aid kit. Their region experienced an unusually early cold front which has brought urgency to keep their elders warm this coming winter. Most Navajo Nation roads are unpaved which is a primary barrier in obtaining essentials for many elders when the roads are wet.

Urban Fresh Food Collective (UFFC), Seattle, WA, received a \$5,000 Covid grant to help South Park families dealing with food insecurity exacerbated by the pandemic. South Park is considered a food desert and access to fresh food has always been a challenge. UFFC is helping consolidate food distribution efforts. It also helped create flyers and social media communication, set up a bilingual subscription service over text to let families know in real time of food opportunities for pickup and delivery including setting up six food-pantry locations around the neighborhood providing shelf-stable food.

NEO Black Health Coalition, Cleveland, OH, received a \$1,500 Covid grant to purchase healthy fresh and shelf-stable Holiday Meals and beyond for families of disabled children isolated due to disability, economic hardship, and pandemic restrictions.

Project Hope for the Homeless, Painesville, OH, received a \$1,000 Covid grant to assist homeless persons seeking shelter. The homelessness problem has been exacerbated by the Covid pandemic.

The UAFS Nature Academy, Akron, OH, received a \$1,500 Covid grant to help bridge the gap created by the Pandemic for environmental education outreach for area students. The Nature Academy is in Bath Nature Preserve on the edge of the urban-rural interface. The free programs make it possible for local, low-income students to participate and learn about the importance and impact of the environment on their general wellbeing.

Cooperators' Advocacy Project (CAP Masaryk), New York City, NY was awarded a \$700 Covid grant to help fund the organization's youth development training program.

Project Connect, Brooklyn, NY. The Church of Gethsemane, primarily a congregation by, of and for formerly incarcerated members received a \$1,000 Covid grant to help it members struggling with the impact of Covid-19. The funds will primarily help keep the church staff and membership digitally connected in order to continue meeting their spiritual needs and to avoid isolation which negatively impacts mental health.

Age Friendly Central Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY, received a \$1,000 Covid grant. The funds will assist in the publication of a newsletter for older adults living in Central Brooklyn. The newsletter helps keep them emotionally connected, builds a sense of community and helps their mental state made fragile by the isolation due to Covid 19 that they are experiencing.

Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church's Mutual Aid Network, Brooklyn, NY, received a \$1300 Covid grant. The funds will help group members struggling with the impact of Covid-19. The grant will help members who have lost their jobs with pay rent and go towards food distribution.

Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Gardena, CA, received a \$5,000 Covid grant. The project is by and for a group of low-income people that have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Per Aspera Ad Astra Outreach Community, San Bernardino, CA was awarded a \$5,000 Covid grant to assist persons experiencing homelessness.

INTERNATIONAL SDOP PROJECTS

The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA), Ciudad, Guatemala, an intermediary partner in Guatemala was awarded a grant of \$37,500. It will use SDOP criteria to fund projects in Guatemala.

Colonense International Performing Arts Foundation (FAECI), Colon, Panama, received a \$15,000 grant for its project that works with primarily Afro-Panamanian youth who are street artists (performing at stoplights, often homeless and at-risk). The project seeks to provide stability, training, mentorship and support for those who may be addicted to alcohol and/or drugs. To provide sustainability for the future, project members plan amongst other efforts to launch a small bakery and café to sell baked goods locally. They also plan to create crafts from recycled materials to sell to tourists, launch a line of printed t-shirts, and start a mobile kiosk.

Interchurch Center for Theological and Social Studies (CIEETS), Managua, Nicaragua, an intermediary partner in Nicaragua was awarded a grant of \$37,500. It will use SDOP criteria to fund projects in Nicaragua.

Group of Women of Value received a \$17,000 grant for its catering service project which provides high quality products at affordable prices and provides employment and training to group members. The \$17,000 additional funds are to buy a food truck to allow them to continue with their services.

Chilibre women's training center, Gonzalillo Community Organization and Women's Meeting Space, Panama City, Panama, received a \$15,000 grant for creating family gardens and a community nursery that initially provides food supplies for 75 people, with future plans of reaching 300 people. In addition to self-consumption, the group intends to sell the surplus of the harvest to generate income that covers the basic needs of the workers (health permits, a fixed position and administrative procedures will be necessary). The funds allow the group to apply new knowledge, learn a profession and participate in leisure as a therapy. This is very useful in current times when there are still restrictions due to the COVID quarantine.

Centro de Solidaridad Para el Desarrollo de la Mujer, Inc. (CE-MUJER), Santo Domingo, DR was awarded a \$25,000 grant. This is an intermediary partner committed to

improving the quality of life of those living in economically poor communities by assisting in their empowerment through self-management, education, training in technical skills, income generation, health and public politics with influence on both the national and local level.

Presbyterian Church in Rwanda, Rwanda was awarded a \$25,000 grant. The funds will help with agricultural projects, handicrafts projects, water supply and electricity, etc. using SDOP guidelines.

United Producers of Valle San Miguel, Toabre, Panama received a \$13,381 grant. The funds will be used to purchase supplies, equipment, and plots of land to increase production plantain and a variety of vegetables to increase food security for the people involved in the project, and to generate income to sustain production in the long-term.

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