

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 2021, 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

Midwest Region

African Immigrant and Minority Services (AIMS), Fargo, ND, \$10,000. This low-income group is comprised of recent West African immigrants who encounter numerous problems including financial, education, job security and fitting into the society of their new country. They have joined to form a mentoring group and are using outside professionals and their own experiences to nurture and support each other.

Community Treehouse Center Detroit, MI, \$15,000 This intergenerational financial empowerment project brings together youth and seniors to understand how wealth is built and maintained. Members hope to build wealth and seniors to rethink their budgets so as to be able to age in place financially. The interaction reduces social isolation among seniors and also builds unity in the community.

Warriors on Wheels of Metropolitan Detroit, MI, \$15,000. These low-income group members comprised of people with physical disabilities came together to create a project focused on grocery shopping and grocery delivery by and for its members. Group members will also offer assistance with light housekeeping and personal care to their fellow project members.

Circles INDY/ALICE Ambassadors, Indianapolis, IN, \$14,500. These low-income group members some of whom have disabilities seek to obtain and provide advanced training for getting out of poverty with the goal of eliminating generational poverty, through skills development.

Action Aid Program, Fargo, ND, \$10,000. The group consists of members of the African immigrant community who have been victimized by their partners but fear that reporting the abuser would endanger their relationship with jail time, loss of income, etc. The Covid 19 crisis has put the community in closer contact with the abuser and

has made the intervention process more difficult. Group members provide a supportive environment for each other.

The CASOE Group, Detroit, MI, \$15,000. These low-income youth have come together to work on a project focused on the performing arts virtually and that also creates/sells art to generate ongoing revenue for the group.

The CASOE Group/CASOE Work Truck, Detroit, MI, \$10,000. SDOP funds will be used to purchase a truck to be used in hauling the group's merchandise and equipment ex. tent, tables and chairs during promotional and marketing events. These events bring profits, new and repeat customers and help drive online traffic to the group's virtual store. Using the truck instead of group member's personal vehicles will result in transporting more merchandise for outdoor events and increased sales and income for group members.

Franklin County Workers Benefit Council, Columbus, OH, \$10,000. The 12 members of this low-income group seek to empower themselves with knowledge necessary to prevent utility disruption in their homes. They also seek to acquire advocacy skills through enhanced training to avoid shut offs, to advocate against fraudulent charges and policy changes that negatively impact low-income renters and homeowners and to advocate for affordable payment plans.

La Conexion/Avanzando!, Bowling Green, OH, \$15,000. The group, made up of Latinos, some undocumented, seeks to empower themselves through training on issues such as how to establish a credit history, pay taxes, navigate the legal system, get health care especially during pregnancy and walk the path to citizenship. They have secured the cooperation of local and state authorities and agencies.

Northeast Region

Healthy Planet Cleaning Cooperative, Central Falls, RI, \$15,000. This low-income group is comprised of members seeking training and equipment to facilitate the growth of their Cooperative.

Youth As Resources, Baltimore, MD, \$15,000. This youth led project defines issues affecting them and other youth and develops strategies to address those issues. Issues for 2021 year included mental health trauma, disability awareness and inclusion, and school police accountability.

New York State Youth Leadership Council (NYSYLC)/Immigrant Access to Higher Education - Phase 2, NYC, NY, \$15,000. This group is comprised of mostly undocumented youth seeking to attend or complete higher education but facing numerous obstacles. Their project aims to increase their access and that of other

undocumented youth to higher education thereby increasing their access to better employment opportunities.

DC Girls' Coalition/Youth Advisory Board, Washington, DC, \$15,000. This is an advocacy project by youth and young adults between the ages of 12-24 years. They plan to hold trainings for themselves and other young people to develop skills and to host town halls, meetings with elected officials and other activities.

South Region

Afghan Cattle Cooperative (ACC), Bristow, VA, \$18,400. Project members will raise and sell cattle to improve the lives of their families within the cooperative who are currently living below the poverty level. Funding will be used to purchase and sell herds of cattle for breeding and to supplement income because women cannot work outside of the farm due to language barriers. ACC members will contribute their time and skills to raising livestock and teaching their children animal husbandry and related life skills.

West Region

Cultivate South Park, Seattle, WA, \$15,000. This project consists of artists, community organizers, activists and youth seeking to establish and resource a community space to conduct classes and activities for the youth and other group members that are in need of connection and healing. They also plan to use the space to host initiatives that will lead to increased access to economic opportunity.

Navajo Nation Breastfeeding Coalition, Window Rock, AZ, \$15,000. This Native American group is using funding for training scholarships, requiring 500 to 1000 clinical hours, to cover fees for the International Board-Certified Lactations Consultant (IBCLC) training and exam.

Daisy C.H.A.I.N., Eugene, OR, \$15,000. These low-income Blacks, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) women are creating their new careers to provide free-of-cost doula and lactation support and education to birthing families.

Grassroots Leadership/Mujeres Luchadores, Austin, TX, \$15,000. SDOP funds will support the organizing of Mujeres Luchadores, including upcoming protests, strategy retreats, and economic development opportunities. In addition, part of the grant would go towards some stipends and staffing funding needs for members who take on leadership roles.

Community Preparatory School/Amani Community Gardens of Encanto, San Diego, CA, \$15,000. These project members are seeking to alleviate food insecurity for themselves and other community residents through a community garden. Low-income residents will have an opportunity to grow and sell produce to generate income for

themselves and increase the availability of fresh organic produce to the Encanto Community. SDOP funds will be used for completion of the fencing around 3.5+ acres, solar powered security camera's including installation, grading, rainwater collection barrels, building out of a composting bin and an area for beehives.

MID COUNCIL (SYNOD & PRESBYTERY) SDOP PROJECTS

Chicago Presbytery

The Gathering Chicago/The Healing Racism #Refresh Retreat Series 2022, Chicago, IL, \$5,000. The Collective will offer a series of virtual and in-person Healing Racism Refresh Retreats for 2022. The retreat series will be intentionally intergenerational with the following goals: Providing an atmosphere of retreat and refreshment for those committed to and interested in healing racism in their own communities, churches and contexts; Building relationships and community across cultures and geographic locations and encouraging future partnerships and collaborations; Providing outlets and skill building in healing racism, healing racism trauma and encouraging cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary teams to develop strategies together in healing racism.

Alliance for Community Services, Chicago, IL, \$5,000. The Alliance is made up of, and led by, people with disabilities (PWDs), low-income families, seniors and public employees that provide public services. Its core mission is to bring together consumers of public services (Medicaid, disability services, SNAP, ESL, etc.) with public service workers (caseworkers, caregivers, teachers) as peers, to learn from each other and improve access to service that meet human needs. The SDOP grant will be used to support organizing and leadership development and to increase accessibility.

Minnesota Valleys Presbytery

First Lutheran Church/Sharing Seeds, Worthington, MN, \$4,500. This project focuses on alleviating food insecurity amongst immigrant students.

Northern Waters Presbytery

Healthy Alliances Matter for All DBA Health Equity Northland/St. Mark Giving Garden, Duluth, MN, \$4,000. Members of this garden/food access project seek to alleviate their food insecurity and a range of emotional, mental, spiritual, and cultural health needs at the individual and communal levels by becoming a resource for themselves and for the wider community. Success will be measured by food grown and given, community connection, skills developed, and level of engagement in the visioning process.

Scioto Valley Presbytery

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship/New Neighbors Bakers & Makers, Hilliard, OH, \$2,590. The program is to help refugees, and/or immigrant women to practice their English, interact with the local community, and start businesses. These potential entrepreneurs make homemade bakery products and offer them for sale to help themselves in their pursuit of economic equity.

Franklin County Workers Benefit Council/SWAP COVID-19 Response, Columbus, OH, \$1,850. The grant will be used to train advocates so that project members can articulate the concerns and needs of fellow low-income service workers to medical professionals. Additional project members will also be able to join the speakers bureau for speaking engagements with churches, schools and other organizations needing to enlist bilingual organizers. Group members also hope to increase the percentage vaccinated from low-income, minority and immigrant communities in central Ohio.

Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Charity Cares Initiative/Community and Family Intervention, Fargo, ND, \$11,000. The Community and Family Intervention project focuses on women within and outside the group that are facing or going through domestic violence and seeking to move out of the domestic violence situation as well attain self-sufficiency. A further focus of the group is working with community youth within and outside the project to achieve a positive lifestyle.

United Liberians Association of ND/Family Self Sufficiency, Fargo, ND, \$12,000. Group members seek to make each family that is part of the project financially self-sufficient by assisting them in obtaining full-time jobs. Project members will help each other with job applications; transportation both to job interviews and when hired for a few months. Group members also seek to assist single mothers that are part of the project and those outside it in pursuing employment and working with the state regarding childcare services.

Rural Kids Development Alliance/PPLies Food Pantry, Fargo, ND, \$11,300. Group members seek to alleviate their food insecurity through this food pantry project. The project provides nutritional resources, hygienic supplies and hydration equipment.

Western Reserve Presbytery

A Life of Hope Outreach, Cleveland, OH, \$ 1,397.45. This is a capacity building project initiated by and benefitting a group of 5 low-income members.

Kim Cares/Barkwill Buzz, Cleveland, OH, \$ 1,940. The project is an urban garden/apiary. Group members have created a pollinators paradise with an emphasis on the

honeybee and installed over a thousand new plants for the sole purpose of feeding the pollinators. Creating a space for the honeybees also includes providing a consistent water source. The group has been able to add rain barrels for the collection of rainwater and to partner with the Northeast Ohio Sewer district to host workshops on rain barrel installation and use. It would like to add to these efforts, a water feature made specifically with the honeybee in mind and would apply the SDOP grant to this effort. Creating consistent water sources for the honeybees is necessary. Their goal is for the Barkwill Buzz to become an approved Apiary and to profit from the selling of local honey and products. Group members all own the bees and have plans to create other honey products.

Hudson River Presbytery

Ulster Immigrant Defense Network/Beds for Newly Arrived Immigrants, Kingston, NY, \$1,715.88. The group was formed to provide a network of welcome, safety, and support to each other and their immigrant neighbors and friends in Ulster County, regardless of immigration status. Part of what project members plan to do includes purchasing additional beds.

Individuals Making Positive Advancements in their Communities Together, Inc. (IMPACT)/Newburgh Rise and Ride, Newburgh, NY, \$1,715.88. The project seeks to encourage bicycling safely in the City of Newburgh. This is a new program known as Rise and Ride Newburgh which is working on building momentum for getting their group members and other community residents to safely ride bicycles in Newburgh.

New York City Presbytery

Pratt Towers Community Space/Family Seating for Intergenerational Outdoor Space, Brooklyn, NY, \$1,000. The project's aim is revitalizing a dilapidated area into an environmentally sustainable, year-round multipurpose space for the 326 families residing in the multi-cultural cooperative. This effort will also help improve resident's quality of life by promoting community among individuals and safe access to fresh outdoor air for its seniors. Young families will also have a place to host family gatherings and build community as the repurposed area will have a table as well as seating for 4-8 family members.

Age Friendly Central Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY, \$1,000. The SDOP grant will support the publishing cost, in particular the printing of Third Chapter Living the official publication of Age Friendly Central Brooklyn, Inc., (formerly known as Age Friendly Bedford-Stuyvesant & Crown Heights). The publication is a monthly newsletter for older adults living in Central Brooklyn.

Philadelphia Presbytery

Sisters With A Goal/Why Not Prosper, Philadelphia, PA, \$3,600. Sisters With A Goal (SWAG) is a community of formerly incarcerated women who have graduated from Why Not Prosper. Their 8 founding graduates lead SWAG and its social justice arm.

SW Philly Urban Farm Expansion/ The Common Place, Philadelphia, PA, \$3,600. The project consists of 2 gardens where produce is grown and sourced for the group's food pantry. One of the 2 gardens, Bunny's Garden was started by group members to address food justice issues in the community. As community members became more familiar with Bunny's Garden and its food pantry, the group has acquired new members and together they now plan to clean up and establish an additional garden. The new garden along with Bunny's Garden, will help to provide produce for their food pantry. The group as well as community members will benefit from this project through garden and nutrition education, community greenspace/beautification, and food distribution and affordable sales.

Pittsburgh Presbytery

E. A. J Cleaning Services/Sparkling View, Pittsburgh, PA, \$2,550. The cleaning service project was established by a group of people of color that are disproportionately impacted by the economic downturn. The funds will be used to assist group members in improving their marketing and accounting skills, dress more professionally, and increase their capacity by turning into a more successful small business. As the client base is built out, the group will have more work and can then involve and train youth in their community.

Blossom Floral Shop/Floral Reconstruction, Pittsburgh, PA, \$2,550. This project is an economic empowerment and inter-generational training program initiated by a consortium of low-income family members. Grant monies will be used to facilitate the transition to a more mobile form of business operating out of the home. Business training as appropriate will be open to project members and other low-income community residents.

Pittsburgh Presbytery SDOP Committee, Administrative Funds Request, \$510.87.

Charleston Atlantic Presbytery

Mackay Presbyterian Mission, North Charleston, SC, \$2,026. This project will assist immigrants from Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Columbia, and Argentina in their struggles with their English language barrier. The vast majority live in poverty and have no medical insurance. The grant will be used to assist with educating, providing counseling, meeting space and meals, getting the community vaccinated, and spiritual care.

James Presbytery

Community Empowerment for Energy Wellness and Conservation, Petersburg, VA, \$3,092.22. The project is designed to empower and educate low-income family members by assisting them to implement conservative changes and reduce utility costs in the future.

Mid-Kentucky Presbytery

New Hope International/ Farming project, Louisville, KY, \$3,233.97. Refugee women formed this group to produce organic food to support their families. The funding money will be used for purchasing the tools, transportation, and additional supplies.

New Hope Presbytery

The Carrying Place/Life Skills Workshop, Cary, NC, \$4,998.88. This is a capacity building project with a focus on work skills development and training. Project members will identify and help support themselves and other community residents in determining desired professional training or certification programs that would result in better-paying employment that offers a livable wage.

Redwoods, San Francisco, San Jose Presbyteries

SeaGoat Farm/SeaGoat Farmstand, McKinleyville, CA, \$9,000. The farming project to enable people to grow their own healthy food, sell the surplus produce, eggs and offer a venue for other local artisans and food trucks to sell their products. The Farm provides access to locally grown healthy foods, opportunities to gather/exercise in the garden, learn about the environment, network with small businesses, and to rebuild community.

San Fernando/San Gabriel Presbyteries

Colectivo Plants, North Hills, CA, \$3,000. These group members from the North Hills community revive damaged plants donated to North Valley Caring Services. Project members sell the plants and share all earnings amongst themselves. Colectivo Plant group members fall under the impoverished line and Colectivo Plants have infused modest revenue into households that are impoverished.

Pacific Presbytery

Los Angeles Black Worker Center/Labor Law Competency Training, Los Angeles, CA, \$4,711.83. This project seeks to provide training by creating an educational video that will be used to provide employers Labor Law competency in conjunction with cultural competency trainings to help group members and other employees facing various

forms of discrimination, retaliation, wage theft, harassment, sexual harassment, safety and micro-aggressions in the workplace. The LA Black Worker Center's Worker Justice Organizing Committee will own and control this project by seeking out videographers, photographers, advertisement platforms, writers, renting a space, and managing the overall vision of this project. Additionally, its members will be in the video. Current group members encounter some forms of discrimination including retaliation, wage theft, and harassment at their jobs.

COVID-19 PROJECTS (NATIONAL AND MID COUNCIL)

Somali Community Link, Columbus, OH, \$2917. The COVID-19 funds will assist this low-income group comprised of Somali immigrants seeking to obtain and pay for professional direction and guidance in obtaining opportunities at the federal, state, county, and city levels. Group members plan to use the grant to increase their capacity in entrepreneurship and business development skills. They also plan to utilize the grant to pay for educational events that will further increase their capacity.

IowaWINS/Food Pantry Extension, Mt. Pleasant, IA, \$2,917. The COVID-19 grant will make it possible for the church to assist community residents dealing with mental health challenges exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

New Community Church/Healing Circles, Kansas City, MO, \$2,916. The COVID-19 grant will make it possible for the church to assist community residents dealing with mental health challenges exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

West End Pantry/Holiday Food Purchase for Families in need, Kunkletown, PA, \$4,375. This group wants to utilize this COVID-19 grant to continue to provide food in a safe fashion to those in need and to those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Church of Gethsemane/Gethsemane Congregational Supports, Brooklyn, NY, \$4,375. The congregation hopes to increase its capacity in meeting the needs of its members through the COVID-19 grant it received. Congregation members will prepare food packages, have monetary assistance and provide metro cards. They will establish a special appointment time for each member in need to come to the church and receive a food package, monetary assistance, and metro cards.

Daughters of Sarah/COVID-19 Relief, Milton, NY, \$4,375. The COVID-19 funds will be used for groceries, gas, transportation to get vaccinated as well as to pick up and drop off groceries, travel to Dr's appointments and purchase COVID-19 personal protective equipment such as masks, sanitizers, and gloves.

Intersection of Change, Baltimore, MD, \$4,375. The COVID-19 funds will be used to recoup lost revenue lost due to the ongoing pandemic. The funds will help continue the employment of returning citizens, sustain workforce development programming, and

avoid disruption to the organization's work of providing healthy and affordable produce to its community in effort to counter food insecurity.

Zulu Connection/The Better Family Life Project, New Orleans, LA, \$4,375. The group plans to use the SDOP COVID-19 funds with assisting residents severely impacted by the pandemic. This will be achieved through its range of human services that help families increase their capacity.

West Jupiter Community Group/Senior Citizen Program, Jupiter, FL, \$4,375. This COVID-19 grant will make it possible for this group of senior citizens to improve their wellness education which will include a training session about wellness, access to health screening, food distribution and socialization. Many of them live alone, are without transportation or are housebound, struggle to make ends meet and live below the federal poverty line. They feel lonely, vulnerable, and disconnected which created a sense of helplessness and depression. Health education and testing are critical, however COVID-19 fears limited their access to healthcare as many did not attend regular testing for health concerns or register for vaccinations.

East New York Community Land Trust/Tax Lien Sale Outreach and Organizing, Brooklyn, NY, \$2,124. This project is located in an area with some of the highest COVID-19 infection and death rates in New York City. The shutdown of non-essential businesses has economically devastated this community. Almost a third of the community's workforce is employed in the service sector which has been hit hard by the pandemic. Additionally, the December 2021 tax lien sale will have an unusual and devastating impact on the communities of East New York and Brownville because residents have already been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The SDOP grant will help alleviate some of the above difficulties for the group members.

Iglesia de la Comunidad PCUSA/Food Bank Distribution, Los Angeles, CA, \$1,031.98. The project seeks to assist those in financial hardship in the community of Highland Park and nearby neighborhoods with the distribution of free groceries.

North Valley Caring Services (NVCS)/COVID-19 Resources, North Hills, CA, \$1,500. Funds will be used to provide COVID-19 resources to people experiencing temporary homelessness. Additionally, the SDOP funds will help provide COVID-19 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) such as hand sanitizer and face masks as well as a breakfast program and weekly food pantry.

INTERNATIONAL SDOP PROJECTS

Peasant Network of Native Rice, Peroneme, Panama, \$15,000. The project is aimed at creating a network of rice growers to maintain the integrity and history of the 20 varieties of native rice in the Toabre region. In an effort to sustain the variety of rice, each team representing various communities will produce at least five varieties.

Bakery and Refreshment Shop “The Great Blessing”, Panama City, Panama, \$15,000. This community group decided to get together and develop a project where all members demonstrate their bakery skills and knowledge to improve their income and grow as a group.

El Espino Agro Entrepreneurs/Agricultural project, Cocle, Panama, \$15,000. The grant will be used to purchase equipment, tools, and seeds to produce crops for the participating families and for sale if there is a surplus of crops.

United Peasants of Banazo/Agricultural Production Project, Cocle, Panama, \$15,000. The project is to improve the production of the family’s food and to be able to sell their products in the market. The selected products are plantain, corn, rice, and coffee. The group will also breed quails. The above efforts will help both feed their families and sell the extra produce to supplement their income.

Panama Women’s Committee/Entrepreneurs of El Chorillo, Panama City, Panama, \$15,000. This project will establish a physical space with equipment where women entrepreneurs will be trained for self-employment, business planning, and gender awareness.

Western Mopan Farmers Cooperative Society Limited/Cover Structure Project, Cayo District, Belize, \$19,575. The project’s main goal is to produce agricultural commodities in a controlled environment, i.e., covered structures and secondly to supply the San Ignacio Market with a wide assortment of fresh agricultural commodities.

Sandy Beach Women’s Cooperative/House of Wátina Garifuna Cultural Heritage Museum, Hopkins Village, Belize, \$14,381. This community-based cultural heritage museum on the site of the Sandy Beach Women’s Cooperative seeks to provide both in-person and virtual lessons on Garifuna history and culture.

Civil Society for Poverty Eradication (CISCOPE), Abuja, Nigeria, \$11,000. The project is aimed at strengthening the livelihood activities of 200 affected farmers. The farmers will obtain recovery and livelihood starter packs and agricultural processing machines in order to add value to their farm produce and thus increase their income and reduce the cost of labor within the local farmer cooperative groups. It will further support 200 vulnerable female headed households, lactating mothers and the elderly with food and non-food items. The project will also build the capacity of 60 community leaders who

are gate keepers; ward councilors who are political leaders; youth and women groups on how to develop a contingency plan and community development plan. Additionally, 8 monthly sessions and an advocacy radio program 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.

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